Syllabus

Issues in Public Health in Israeli Society - 3032

Last update 10-05-2015

HU Credits: 3

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Social Work

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Rebecca Feinstein

Coordinator Email: Rebecca.Feinstein@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Staff:
Rebecca Feinstein
Course/Module description:
The study of public health in Israel and worldwide is both fascinating and exciting, especially because it is constantly in transformation and offers a window into larger social, political, and economic changes in Israel. This course is an introduction to the public health system of Israel and an examination of central health issues confronting Israeli society today. We will first cover the evolution and advancement of public and general health services from the time before Israel became a state until the present. More specifically, we will explore how the Israeli public health care system developed in parallel with nation-building efforts, beginning in pre-1948 Palestine and after statehood was established; the health impacts of the different waves of immigration to Israel; the implementation of the Universal Health Insurance Act of 1994; and the influence of neoliberalism on current health and health care services. In addition to viewing health care through history and path dependency, the course will present a conceptual and topical overview of the sociology of health, illness, and health care in Israel while using a social determinants of health perspective.

The course is divided into week-long units that address particular social determinants of health in Israel (i.e. ethnicity, citizenship, religion, income inequality, education, geography, and age) and the way they influence certain issues (i.e. war, terrorism, mental health, alternative medicine, disability, the politicization and medicalization of family planning, medical ethics, and human rights). Each determinant and issue will be investigated through the following four dimensions: 1) Providers and patients—the impact of culture, roles, and relationships; 2) social factors in health, illness, and health care (including correlates of health, health disparities, and factors impacting access to care); 3) the organization of health care delivery systems, and associated patient outcomes; and 4) social meanings and experiences of illness.

Course/Module aims:
- To investigate how the history of health care in Israel reflects Israel's social history since the early 20th century to the present, with an emphasis on the how different social movements have influenced the development of health care systems.
- To define the social determinants of health and how they influence health and health care in Israel.
- To examine central Israeli public health issues through a social determinants of health perspective and explore their specific implications on social inequality.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge about of Israel's health care system and its historical development alongside the state's larger social, political, and economic development.
- Define the social determinants of health and how they contribute to health disparities in Israel.
- Demonstrate knowledge about the central public health issues in Israeli society and how they can be understood through the social determinants of health perspective.
- Explore a public health issue of your interest and conduct preliminary research on the topic through literature review, in-person interviews, and participant observations.

Attendance requirements(%):

10

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: 1. Class attendance and participation (10% of final grade). Our meetings will include both lecture, discussion, and field trips. Active participation in class sessions is central to learning in this course. You are expected to contribute in positive ways (that is, adding to the discussion in a relevant, concise, and reflective manner), which also requires that you be present in class. Please inform me in advance by email if you will not be attending class.

Course/Module Content:

Course outline and readings

Week 1, Sessions 1-2: Course overview and an introduction to public health in Israel and the social determinants of health perspective.

Week 2: The history and politics of health care in Israel.

Session 3: British Mandate in pre-1948 Palestine: Early public health problems and the early development of a health care system.

Session 4: Development of the Israeli Health care system 1948-present, the 1995 National Health Law, implications of public vs. private health care

Week 3: Health trends and disparities in Israel. How does Israeli health compare to world health?

Sessions 5-6: Major public health issues, disparities Israeli health facts and statistics, social causes and risk factors.
Week 4: Circles of Exclusion: Who is included and who is not?

Sessions 7-8: How Israeli society includes and excludes people from the health care system and the health care disparities created by exclusion - foreign workers, refugees, and non-citizens

Week 5, Sessions 9-10: Culture, Ethnicity, and Religion

Week 6: Trauma and recovery.

Session 11: Casualties of military services, war, and terrorism

Session 12: Emergency preparedness and medical relief in disaster situations

Week 7: Film and online forum discussion - Voices of El Sayed

Session 13: Film - Voices of El-Sayed (2009)

Week 8: Geography and Health

Session 14: The Center vs. the Periphery

Session 15: Field Trip to Bedouin Health Clinic in Rahat, 12:30pm

Week 9, Sessions 16-17: Mental health care

Week 10: Alternative medicine in Israel, fertility, and the and medicalization of family planning

Session 18: Alternative Medicine

Session 19: Fertility and the politicization of family planning

Week 11: Aging, Elder care, and the Filipina.

Session 20: Guest Lecture by Dr. Keren Mazuz, medical anthropologist, Hadassah Academic College

Week 12, Sessions 21-22: Medical Ethics, Human Rights, and Course Conclusion

Required Reading:
Course outline and readings

Week 1: Course overview and an introduction to public health in Israel and the
social determinants of health perspective.

Sessions 1-2:


Week 2: The history and politics of health care in Israel.

Session 3: British Mandate in pre-1948 Palestine: Early public health problems and the early development of a health care system.


Session 4: Development of the Israeli Health care system 1948-present, the 1995 National Health Law, implications of public vs. private health care


Week 3: Health trends and disparities in Israel. How does Israeli health compare to world health?
Sessions 5-6: Major public health issues, disparities Israeli health facts and statistics, social causes and risk factors.


Week 4: Circles of Exclusion: Who is included and who is not?

Sessions 7-8: How Israeli society includes and excludes people from the health care system and the health care disparities created by exclusion — foreign workers, refugees, and non-citizens


Week 5: Culture, Ethnicity, and Religion

Sessions 9-10 Readings

Week 6: Trauma and recovery.

Session 11: Casualties of military services, war, and terrorism

Keren Friedman-Peleg and Yoram Bilu (2011). From PTSD to national trauma: The case of the Israel Trauma Center for Victims of Terror and War. Transcultural Psychiatry, 48, 416-436. (20 pages)
http://www.natal.org.il/english/


Session 12: Emergency preparedness and medical relief in disaster situations


Week 7: Film and online forum discussion – Voices of El Sayed
Session 13: Film

Voices of El-Sayed (2009) / במדבר שבלול
http://www.go2films.com/Health-Disabilities/Voices-from-El-Sayed

Week 8: Geography and Health

Session 14: The Center vs. the Periphery


Session 15: Field Trip to Bedouin Health Clinic in Rahat, 12:30pm


Week 9: Mental health care

Sessions 16-17 Readings


Week 10: Alternative medicine in Israel, fertility, and the medicalization of family planning

Session 18: Alternative Medicine


Week 19: Fertility and the politicization of family planning


Week 11: Aging, Elder care, and the Filipina.

Session 20: Guest Lecture by Dr. Keren Mazuz, medical anthropologist, Hadassah Academic College

Mazuz, K. (2013). The state of the Jewish family: Eldercare as a practice of corporeal symbiosis by Filipina migrant workers (pp 97-111), In Ethnographic Encounters in Israel: Poetics and Ethics of Fieldwork (Ed. F. Markowitz). Bloomington, IN: Indiana

Week 12: Medical Ethics, Human Rights, and Course Conclusion


Additional Reading Material:
None

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 40 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 10 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 40 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 10 %

Additional information:
Attendance and Participation (10% of final grade).
Assignment #1: Take-home, mid-term exam due April 1, 2015 at midnight (40% of final grade). The mid-term exam will consist of both short answer and essay questions about material covered in the reading and lectures during the first half of the semester.
Assignment #2: Online discussion forum for the film Voices of El-Sayed during the week of April 19-26, 2015 (10% of final grade). See attached instructions on page 11 of the syllabus.

Assignment #3: Final paper about a public health issue in Israel of your choice (40% of final grade). Identify a current public health problem or health disparity in Israel. Describe the health problem and its impact on the health of the local people and the larger state. Address the problem through a "social determinants of health" perspective and describe the "upstream" health determinants that may contribute to this "downstream" problem. Describe current interventions that are being used to improve the health problem or disparity. Please use a variety of sources for your paper, including the public health literature, in-person interviews, and participant observations (6-8 pages).