

„Gesundheit!“: Health, Normalcy, and the Good Life in Science, Medicine and Society

During this course, we will pose the question, if the common understanding of health and sickness, or our conception of what it means to live a good and normal life in modern information and knowledge societies can be taken for granted.

We will face the critical disposition that such concepts are products of a complex web of ideas that are just as much constructed by society as they are by biomedical science. Moreover, we will try and understand how ambiguous scientific ideas and metaphors become part of society, and how social groups determine the course of biomedical sciences.

Topics

1. The Birth of Biomedicine between Jurisprudence and Philosophy: The step from Galen and Hippocrates to Bichat and Kant
2. Darwin and Medicine: Social Hygiene and Eugenics
3. Hospital or Laboratory: The Definition of Normal Functions
4. The Medicalization of Society
5. How Real is the Digital Man? From Patient Data to Actual People
6. Is it me or my drugs?
7. My Syndrome and Me: Mental Health and Childhood
8. Without Alternatives? Complementary Medicines.
9. Health and Environment
10. Modern Medicine, Biopsychosocial Model and the Historian's/Philosopher's Challenges

Requirements

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| a. Participation (Class and Blog) | 20% |
| b. Five Encyclopedia Entries (4-5 Pages each) | 25% |
| c. Research Paper (ca.20 Pages) | 30% |
| d. Mini-Ethnography as a Photo Essay/ Video documentary
or present a Health Policy Speech or Flyer with documentation | 25% |

Some Literature Suggestions:

- Bynum, William. *The History of Medicine*. Oxford UP, 2008.
- Conrad, Peter. *The Medicalization of Society*. Johns Hopkins UP, 2007.
- Degrandpre, Richard. *The Cult of Pharmacology*. Duke UP, 2008.
- Duffy, John. *The Sanitarians*. Illinois UP, 1990.
- Foucault, Michel. *The Birth of the Clinic*. Routledge, 1989.
- Harrington, Anne. *The Cure Within*. Norton, 2008.
- Keune, Hans, Kopnina, Helen, eds. *Health and Environment*. Nova Science
- Kevles, Daniel. *In the Name of Eugenics*. Penguin, 1986.
- Knight, David. *The Making of Modern Science*. Polity, 2009
- Kuriyama, Shigehisa, *The Expressiveness of the Body*, Zone Books, 2002.
- Latour, Bruno. "How To talk about the body." in: *Body&Society* 2004.
- Pickstone, John. *Ways of Knowing*. Manchester UP, 2006.
- Rose, Nikolas. *The Politics of Life Itself*. Princeton UP, 2006.
- Ruse, Michael. *The Evolution-Creation Struggle*. Harvard UP, 2005.