The terrain may not be "everything", but it is a critical determinant of human health worldwide. The social and natural environments in which we live -- including housing, transportation, climate, and environmental pollution -- have profound effects on health, as do the availability and accessibility of health care services. This course examines the complex geographies of health care and the methods of mapping, spatial analysis and qualitative inquiry that are used in understanding and analyzing the uneven geographic distributions of health care services, access, utilization and policies. We will explore geographic inequalities in health care worldwide; the geographic distribution and maldistribution of health services, the impacts of health service locations on access and utilization, the political economy of health care, how place environments affect health and well-being, and the provision of services to address specific kinds of health issues (infectious, chronic, environmental) in specific places.

READINGS

All required readings are on the Compass web site for the class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Undergrads:
1. Midterm Exam (15%)
2. Term Paper and Presentation (25%)
3. GIS Labs (2) (10% each)
4. Group Project (5%)
5. Six Reading Responses (30%)
6. Class Participation and attendance (5%)

Grads:
1. Midterm Exam (15%)
2. Term Paper and Presentation (30%)
3. Lead class discussion (5%)
4. GIS Labs (2) (5% each)
4. Group Project (5%)
6. Six Reading Responses (30%)
7. Class Participation and attendance (5%)

This class involves a mixture of lectures, in-class discussions, and other activities. A midterm exam will be held in-class during the semester. There will be NO final exam. All students are required to prepare a term paper which is due on the scheduled final exam date, and communicate the term paper to the class in a 5-10 minute presentation. I will post and discuss guidelines for the term paper in the next few weeks.
**Reading Responses**: Reading responses are a key component of the class. For each designated class period, you will read the two assigned articles before class and write a short (up to 1 page in length) commentary on the articles. These responses will be due by 10 PM on the day before the class meeting and should be posted on the COMPASS web site for the class. Responses should not just summarize the main points of the readings. You might compare and contrast a theme in the two articles; or discuss an idea, question, or contradiction that emerges from the readings with which you agree or disagree. The response should demonstrate your understanding of themes, methods, and arguments in the articles, not just specific facts. Your responses will be available on Compass so that other students can read them before class. On the class day, a graduate student(s) will lead the discussion of the readings. Note that only 6 of the 7 reading responses count towards your grade. you can skip one or drop your lowest score.

**Class Policies**:

- Participation and attendance are important. This is your class! Your comments, input and experiences are important in developing our shared understandings of the course material. Also, some class sessions involve labs, writing assignments, and other activities. If you miss a class and have a valid excuse as indicated by a note from the Dean of Students, you can make up any missed in-class activities for credit.
- Academic honesty is expected at all times. Plagiarism and academic misconduct will be handled according to university policies. For more information on plagiarism see: [http://www.library.illinois.edu/learn/research/academicintegrity.html](http://www.library.illinois.edu/learn/research/academicintegrity.html)

**Important Dates**:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 30</td>
<td>Reading Response #1 (May; Kearns)</td>
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<td>Sept 8</td>
<td>Reading Response #2 (Collins, Kearns &amp; Barnett)</td>
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<td>Sept 15</td>
<td>Group Project Presentations</td>
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<td>Sept 22</td>
<td>Reading Response #3 (Dear; Wang, Rosenberg &amp; Lo)</td>
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<td>Sept 29</td>
<td>GIS Lab #1</td>
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<td>Oct 6</td>
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<td>Oct 13</td>
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<td>Oct 18</td>
<td>Reading Response #4 (Cartier, Cutchin)</td>
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<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
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<td>Oct 27</td>
<td>EXAM</td>
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<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>Reading Response #5 (Sampson &amp; Gifford; Wilton)</td>
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<td>Nov 10</td>
<td>Reading Response #6 (Mayer, Tedesco)</td>
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<td>Nov. 17</td>
<td>Reading Response #7 (Curtis; Oven)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 29, Dec 1, Dec 6</td>
<td>Final Paper Presentations</td>
</tr>
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**COURSE TOPICS AND READINGS**

* = Required Readings  
+ = Reading Response

**08/23**  
Introduction: Geographies of Health and Health Care

**08/25**  
Health Inequalities and Socio-Environmental Determinants


08/30 Health, Place and Space  
Reading Response #1

09/01 Global Health Transitions

09/06 Health Care Systems

09/08 Political Economy of Health Care – Reading Response #2

09/13 Globalization of Health Care: Global flows of providers and consumers

09/15 Group Project Presentations

09/20 Spatial Organization of Health Services

9/22 Geographies of Access – Reading Response #3

3


9/27 **Territorial Justice and Health Care Availability**


9/29 **GIS Lab #1 – Mapping Service Needs and Availability**

10/4 **Access to Health Care: Potential and Realized**


10/6 **GIS Lab #2 – Analyzing Spatial Accessibility to Health Services**

10/11 **Spatial Access: New measures and approaches**


10/13 **Term Paper Topic Due**

**Restructuring of Health Services in the U.S.**


10/18 Place and Health Care Inequalities in the U.S. – Reading Response #4
+*Cartier C. (2003) From home to hospital and back again: economic restructuring, end of life and the gendered problems of place-switching health services. Social Science and Medicine, 56:2289-2301.

10/20 NO CLASS

10/25 Geographies of Public Health Strategies: Global and Local

10/27 EXAM

11/1 Therapeutic Landscapes

11/3 Therapeutic Landscapes and Everyday Spaces – Reading Response #5

11/8 Infectious Diseases Pandemics
11/10 Ecologies of Infectious Disease – **Reading Response #6**

11/15 Infectious Disease Eradication vs Control

11/17 Natural Hazards: Public Health Impacts and Response – **Reading Response #7**

11/29, 12/1 and 12/6 Term paper presentations