

# GEOGRAPHY OF HEALTH CARE

GEOG 438/SOC 478  
Fall, 2016  
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*The microbe is nothing; the terrain everything*  
L. Pasteur, on his death bed

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%)
2. Lead class discussion (5%)
3. 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>

**Important Dates:**

Aug 30	Reading Response #1 (May; Kearns)
Sept 8	Reading Response #2 (Collins, Kearns & Barnett)
Sept 15	Group Project Presentations
Sept 22	Reading Response #3 (Dear; Wang, Rosenberg & Lo)
Sept 29	GIS Lab #1
Oct 6	GIS Lab #2
Oct 13	Term paper topic due
Oct 18	Reading Response #4 (Cartier, Cutchin)
Oct. 20	NO CLASS
Oct 27	EXAM
Nov. 3	Reading Response #5 (Sampson & Gifford; Wilton)
Nov 10	Reading Response #6 (Mayer, Tedesco)
Nov. 17	Reading Response #7 (Curtis; Oven)
Nov 29, Dec 1, Dec 6	Final Paper Presentations

**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**

Murray C. et. al. (2005) Eight Americas: Investigating mortality disparities across races, counties, and race-counties in the United States. *PLoS Medicine*, 3(9), e260

Silva A, Whitman S, Margellos H, Ansell D (2001) "Evaluating Chicago's Success in Reaching the Healthy People 2000 Goal of Reducing Health Disparities" *Public Health Reports*, 116(5):484-94

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

+\* J. May (1950) "Medical geography: Its methods and objectives." *Geographical Review*. Skim pp. 11-34 (PDF pages 4-27)

+\*Kearns, R. (1993) "Place and health: Towards a reformed medical geography," *Professional Geographer* 45.

**09/1 Global Health Transitions**

\* Martens, P. (2002). Health transitions in a globalizing world: towards more sustained health? *Futures*, 34(7), 635-648

Omran A. (1970) The epidemiological transition: a theory of the epidemiology of population change. *Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly*, 49:509-538.

**09/6 Health Care Systems**

\*Curtis, S. and A. Tabet (1996) *Health and Societies*, New York: Halsted Press. pp. 104-124

Barnett, JR (1999). Hollowing out the state? Some observations on the restructuring of hospital services in New Zealand. *Area*, 31(3): 259-270.

Brown L. (2003) Comparing health systems in four countries: Lesson for the US" *AJPH*, 93(1) 200

Bambra, C. (2011) Health inequalities and welfare state regimes: theoretical insights on a public health 'puzzle'. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 65:740-45.

**09/8 Political Economy of Health Care – Reading Response #2**

+\* Sandy, L., Bodenheimer, T. Pawlson, G., Starfield, B. (2009). The political economy of U.S. primary care. *Health Affairs*, 28(4):1137-1144.

+\*Kearns R, Barnett JR (2000) "Happy Meals" in the Starship Enterprise: interpreting a moral geography of health care consumption. *Health & Place*, 6:81-93.

Colliins, T. (2003). Globalization, global health, and access to healthcare. *International Journal of Health Planning and Management*, 18:97-104.

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

Johnston R., Crooks V, Snyder J., Kingsbury P. (2010). What is known about the effects of medical tourism in destination and origin countries? *Int J for Equity in Health*, 9:24.

Crone R. (2009) Flat medicine? Exploring trends in the globalization of health care. *Academic Medicine*, 83(2), 117-122.

Crooks VA et. al. (2011). Promoting medical tourism to India: Messages, images and the marketing of patient travel. *Social Science & Medicine*, 726-32.

**09/15 Group Project Presentations**

**09/20 Spatial Organization of Health Services**

Ricketts, T. C. (2010). Chapter 27: Accessing health care. In T. Brown, S. McLafferty & G. Moon, A *Companion to Health and Medical Geography*. pp. 521-539, Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell

Rosenberg M W and Hanlon N T, 1996, Access and utilization: A continuum of health service environments, *Social Science and Medicine* 43: 975-984

**9/22 Geographies of Access – Reading Response #3**

- +\*Dear, M. (1977) Locational factors in the demand for mental health care,” *Economic Geography*, 53(3):223-240.
- +\* Wang, L., Rosenberg, M., Lo, L. (2008) Ethnicity and utilization of family physicians: A case study of Mainland Chinese immigrants in Toronto, Canada. *Social Science & Medicine*, 67:1410-1422.

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

- \*Shaw, M., Dorling, D. (2004) Who cares in England and Wales? The Positive Care Law: cross-sectional study. *British Journal of General Practice*, 54:899-903.
- Pearce J., Witten K., Hiscock, R, and Blakely, T. (2006) Are socially-disadvantaged neighbourhoods deprived of health-related community resources?. *International Journal of Epidemiology*, 36:348-355.

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

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

- \*Gatrell, AC & Elliott, S. (2015) *Geographies of Health: An Introduction, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*, Chapter 8, “Inequalities in the Utilization of Health Services”, pp. 214-238.
- Higgs G. (2006) Measuring potential access to primary healthcare services. *Professional Geographer*, 58(3), 294-306.
- Luo W., Wang F. (2003) Measures of spatial accessibility to health care in a GIS environment: Synthesis and a case study in the Chicago region. *Environment & Planning B*, 30, 865-884.
- McLafferty, S. (2003) GIS and Health care. *Annual Reviews of Public Health*, 24:25-42.

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

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

- Guagliardo M, Ronzio C, Cheung I, Chacko E, Joseph J (2005) Physician accessibility: An urban case study of pediatric providers, *Health and Place*, 10(3):273-283.
- Hernandez D, Rossel, C. (2015) Inequality and access to social services in Latin America: Space-time constraints of child health checkups and prenatal care in Montevideo. *Journal of Transport Geography*, 44:24-32.
- Mao, L. & Nekorchuk, D. (2013). Measuring spatial accessibility to healthcare for populations with multiple transportation modes. *Health and Place*, 24, 115–122.
- Wang, L. & Roisman, D. (2011) Modeling spatial accessibility of immigrants to culturally diverse family physicians. *Professional Geographer*, 63:73-91.
- Wang, F. (2012) Measurement, optimization, and impact of healthcare accessibility: a methodological review. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 102:1104-1112.

**10/13 Term Paper Topic Due  
Restructuring of Health Services in the U.S.**

- Dear M, Wolch, J. (1988) *Landscapes of Despair: From Deinstitutionalization to Homelessness*. Princeton University Press.
- Hossler, P. (2013) The privatization of the Milwaukee Clinical Campus: A case for geographic approaches to medical services. *Geoforum*, 49: 81-90.
- Metrauz, S. et. al. (2012) Geographic access to and availability of community resources for persons diagnosed with severe mental illness in Philadelphia, USA. *Health & Place*, 18:621-629.

**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.
- +\*Cutchin M. (1997) Physician retention in rural communities: the perspective of experiential place integration, *Health and Place*, 3(1):25-41
- Tempalski, B., Friedman, R., Keem, M., Cooper, H., Friedman, S. (2007). NIMBY localism and national inequitable exclusion alliances: The case of syringe exchange programs in the US. *Geoforum*, 38, 1250-63.

**10/20 NO CLASS**

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

- Brown, T., Bell M. (2008) Imperial or postcolonial governance? Dissecting the genealogy of a global public health strategy. *Social Science & Medicine*, 67:1571-79.
- Dummer, T. (2008) Health geography: supporting public health policy and planning. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 178:1177-80.
- Shortt, N., Pearce J, Mitchell R., Smith KE (2016) Taking health geography out of the academy: Measuring academic impact. *Social Science & Medicine*, (in press)

**10/27 EXAM**

**11/1 Therapeutic Landscapes**

- Gesler W. (1992) Therapeutic landscapes: Medical issues in light of the new cultural geography. *Social Science and Medicine*, 34(7):735-746
- Curtis, S. et. al. (2009) New spaces of inpatient care for people with mental illness: A complex 'rebirth' of the clinic? *Health & Place*, 15:340-348.
- Milligan, C. (2014) Geographies of care. Cockerham, W, Dingwall, R. & Quah, S. *The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Health, Illness, Behavior, and Society*, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition.

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

- +\*Wilton, R. (1996) "Diminished worlds? The geography of everyday life with HIV/AIDS," *Health and Place*, 2, 69-84.
- +\*Sampson R. & Gifford S. (2010) Place-making, settlement and well-being: the therapeutic landscapes of recently arrived youth with refugee backgrounds. *Health & Place*, 18(1), 116-131

**11/8 Infectious Diseases Pandemics**

- Connolly M. Gayser M., Ryan M. Salama P., Spiegel P., Heymann D. (2004) Communicable diseases in complex emergencies: impact and challenges. *Lancet*, 364:1974-1983.
- Farmer, P. (1996) Social inequalities and emerging infectious diseases. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, 2(4), 259-
- Ali, S.H. & Kiel, R. (2006). Global cities and the spread of infectious disease: The case of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in Toronto, Canada. *Urban Studies*, 43, 491-509
- Warren, A., Bell, M., Budd, L. (2010). Airports, localities and disease: Representations of global travel during the H1N1 pandemic. *Health & Place*, 16, 727-735.

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

- +\*Mayer, J. (2000) "Geography, ecology and emerging infectious diseases," *Social Science and Medicine*, 50, 937-952.
- +\*Tedesco C., Ruiz M., McLafferty S (2010) Mosquito politics: Local vector control policies and the spread of West Nile Virus in the Chicago region. *Health & Place*, 16(6), 1188-1196.

**11/15 Infectious Disease Eradication vs Control**

- \*Barrett, S. 2004. Eradication versus control: The economics of global infectious disease politics. *WHO Bulletin* 82, 9 (September): 683-688.
- Kamadjeu, R. (2009) Tracking the polio virus down the Congo River: a case study on the use of Google Earth in public health planning and mapping. *International Journal of Health Geographics*, 8:4.

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

- +\*Curtis A., Mills J., Leitner M. (2007) Katrina and vulnerability: The geography of stress. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 18, 315-330.
- +\* Oven KJ, Curtis SE, et. al. (2012) Climate change and health and social care: Defining future hazard, vulnerability and risk for infrastructure systems supporting older people's health care in England. *Applied Geography*, 13, 16-24.

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