SEMINAR OF THE HISTORY OF HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

Spring 2010

Professor Randall Packard

**Course Time:** 1:30-3:30 Tuesdays  
**Location:** Institute of History of Medicine seminar room, 3rd Floor Welch Library

**INTRODUCTION:** The course will examine the impact of colonial and post-colonial development on patterns of sickness, health, and health care in Africa. It will also focus on African responses to changing patterns of health care and disease. Topics include: colonial epidemics; industrialization, urbanization and disease; agrarian transformations, malnutrition and the political economy of famine; sexuality, colonial control and disease; western medicine and the social construction of African identities, African reproductive health and family planning; recession, debt and Africa’s health care crisis; histories of AIDS and malaria in Africa, emerging epidemics of non-communicable disease.

**BOOKS:**


**Course Organization and Requirements**

The seminar will meet once a week on Tuesday from 1:30 to 3:30 pm and discuss the readings assigned for each session. Evaluation will be based on class participation [30%] essays (40%) and on a final take home essay exam [30%].

Graduate students in history and history of medicine will choose a broad theme identified from the course, such as Gender and Health, or Environmental Change and Disease, or Competing concepts of health, disease, and the African body, and construct a reading list from which they will write a 15-20 page historiographic essay.

Public health and medical students will write three 5-page reflective essays. Each will identify and examine issues and questions arising from a week’s readings, including recommended readings.

All students will write a 10-page take home exam at the end of the course.
SYLLABUS:

January 26: Colonialism and Development: An Overview


February 2: Ecological Change and Disease


Recommended:


February 9: Epidemics


K. David Patterson "The Influenza Epidemic of 1918-19 in the Gold Coast"


Maynard Swanson, "The Sanitation Syndrome: Bubonic Plague and Urban Native Policy in the Cape Colony, 1900-1908", *JAH* 18, 3 (1979)

*Recommended:*
Myron Echenberg, *Black Death, White Medicine, Bubonic Plague and the Politics of Public Health in Colonial Senegal*, Heineman, 1992

Howard Philips, *Black October*: the impact of the Spanish Influenza Epidemic of 1918 on South Africa, Pretoria, 1990

**February 16: Peasants, Pastoralists and the Political Economy of Hunger**


Michael Watts, *Silent Violence*, ch. 272-372


*Recommended:*


**February 23: Industrialization, Urbanization, and Disease**
R. M. Packard, *White Plague, Black Labor*, Ch 2-9

*Recommended:*


**March 2: Colonial Medicine and African Bodies**

Meagan Vaughn, *Curing their Ills; Colonial Power and African Illness*, chs. 3, 5, and 6


*Recommended*
Eric Silla, *People are Not the Same: Leprosy and Identity in Twentieth-Century Mali*, Portsmouth, 1998


**March 9: African Therapeutics and Western Biomedicine**

March 16: Spring Break No Class

March 23: Post-Colonial Development and Health

John Iliffe, Africans, 243-270

R. Packard, “Agricultural Development and the Resurgence of Malaria in Swaziland,” Social Science and Medicine, 22, No. 8 (1986), 861-867

Richard Franke and Barbara Chasin, Seeds of Famine, 84-131

Michael Watts, Silent Violence, 466-513


Recommended:
Alex de Waal, Famine that Kills, Dafur, Sudan, Oxford, 2005


March 30: The Historical Determinants of Population Growth in Africa


Ellen E. Foley, Overlaps and Disconnects in Reproductive Health Care: Global Policies,

Recommended:

April 6: Debt, Structural Adjustment and Health Care Reform


B. McPake, et. al., “Informal economic activities of public health workers in Uganda: Implications for quality and accessibility of care,” Social Science and Medicine, 49, 7 (1999), 849-865


April 13: Rolling Back Malaria


R. Packard, Malaria: The Making of a Tropical Disease, Ch. 8 & 9.

Institute of the History of Medicine, “Executive Summary” Saving Lives and Buying Time, Economics of Malaria Drugs in an Age of resistance, National Academies Press, 2001

Recommended:
April 20: AIDS, Causes and Responses


*Recommended:*


April 27: Neglected Epidemics


Kate Travis, “Cancer in Africa: Health Experts Aim to Curb Potential Epidemic,” *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* 99 (15), August 1, 2007: 1146-114

Julie Livingston, “Regarding the Pain of Africans: Making Historical Sense of Ethnography an African Oncology Ward”
May 4: Wrap-Up