



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

John Henning Schumann, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics
Section of General Internal Medicine
Human Rights Program Advisory Board

5841 South Maryland Avenue
MC 3051
Chicago, Illinois 60637
(773) 834-3247
(773) 834-3950 FAX

Health & Human Rights (H&HR)

HMRT 21400

MEDC 60405

John Henning Schumann, MD
Spring Quarter 2007

Office Hours Thursdays, 2-4pm CLI-325B (in the hospital W of Ellis Ave.) by appointment—you can sign up by emailing Danielle Clay for a slot at dclay@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu

Class: Mondays, 3-4:50, Pick 16

Discussion Sections: Wednesdays, 2-3 Pick 104 and 3-4 in Cobb 116

This course will attempt to define health and health care in the context of human rights theory and practice. Does a “right to health” include a “right to health care?” We will delineate health care financing in the United States and compare these systems with those of other nations. We will explore specific issues of health and medical practice as they interface in areas of global conflict: torture, landmines, and poverty. Readings and discussions will explore social determinants of health: housing, educational institutions, employment, and the fraying of social safety nets. We will study vulnerable populations: foster children, refugees, and the mentally ill. Lastly, does a right to health include a right to pharmaceuticals? What does the big business of drug research and marketing mean for our own country and the world?

Texts:

Required:

Weekly articles on course Chalk site—under *Course Documents*: all documents will be weblinked or scanned for you. These, along with the books below, will serve as sources of discussion for Section on Wednesdays. Our outside speakers (see schedule) will send articles that will be posted prior to their Monday lectures.

Books, listed below, are available under HMRT 21400 at Sem Co-op Bookstore 5757 S. University.

Perspectives on Health and Human Rights, Gruskin et al., eds., Routledge, 2005

Oath Betrayed, Miles, Random House 2006

Pathologies of Power, Farmer, Univ. Calif. Press, 2003

The Truth about the Drug Companies, Angell, Random House 2004

Recommended:

Weekly articles, listed on Chalk under *Course Documents*: I will separate required articles from those that are of more general interest or backgrounders.

Mountains Beyond Mountains, Kidder, Random House, 2003

Assignments and Grading:

1. Write a 750 word op-ed piece or letter to the editor of a newspaper or journal. I will give you examples and more specific guidelines for the assignment in the coming weeks. Due at **5pm, April 20th Pick 105. (25%)**
2. An in-class writing assignment (60 minutes), analyzing a health or health care-related issue through a “human rights framework” to take place on **May 7th. (20%)**
3. A final paper (2500 word maximum), topics/instructions to be given at the end of class April 23rd. Paper due **5pm, June 4th in Pick 105. (40%)**

Attendance: students missing section on more than one occasion (note-no sections on March 28th or May 30th) will be marked down a ½ letter grade per section.

Class participation: **(15%)**

Course Schedule:

March 26—Introduction, Scope of Course, Health/Health Care/Human Rights--Definitions

April 2—Who pays for health care in the U.S. and why does it matter?

April 9—Preston Reynolds, MD, PhD (Senior Scholar, MacLean Ethics Center) Narratives of Physician Advocacy—The stories of the Campaign to Ban Landmines and Physician Documentation of Torture

April 16 TBD

April 23 –Jamie Kalven –Chicago Public Housing: “The Plan for Transformation” and its unintended consequences

April 30—Are we in mortal peril? Where does the truth lay with regard to drugs and development?

May 7—first half, in class writing assignment—second half—Linking *Pathologies of Power* to broader contexts

May 14—Ben Wolf (ACLU-Chicago) Rights of the Vulnerable—Legal advocacy for Illinois Foster Children

May 21—Mark Heyrman (Law School) The Mentally Ill and the Criminal Justice System

May 28—Memorial Day—No Class