Week 1: August 25

Instructors: Iacopino, Weinstein, Orr

Course introduction: Individual introductions, outline of subjects to be covered, course objectives, student responsibilities, grading, office hours, reading material and explanation of assignments

Case Study and Exercise: Apartheid medicine and South Africa's abridgement of human rights. What lessons may be taken from the health data and the effects of poverty, discrimination, lack of access, and professional collusion in the glaring disparities apparent in race-based vital statistics?

Exercise: What human rights have been violated in South Africa? How do these relate to health?

Readings (for Sessions 1&2):


Week 2: September 1

Instructors: Iacopino, Weinstein, Orr

Case Study and Exercise: We often hear how America has the best system of health care in the world. Yet, we know that 43 million Americans do not have health insurance. How can we incorporate human rights concerns in an analysis of the American system? Does the intersection between health and human rights provide additional support in addressing issues of injustice and inequity?

Exercise: Through discussion of the readings on our domestic health care system, generate a list of those rights that are being abused in America.

Readings:


Week 3: September 8

Instructors: Iacopino, Weinstein, Orr

How does our understanding of human rights and our definitions of human rights abuses compare to the way these are understood internationally? What are the historical and philosophical origins of human rights and how have human rights and humanitarian law developed?

What are the critical international documents that provide the world's framework for monitoring human rights abuses? What are non-derogable rights and what is meant by the interdependence and indivisibility of human rights? How can respect for human rights be enforced?

Readings:


Week 4: September 15

Instructors: Iacopino, Weinstein, Orr, Scheper-Hughes, Beyene (and other African women)

Do the international ideal of human rights represent merely a "western" model? Is it, in fact, another form of cultural imperialism? Do human rights apply to all people for all time? The relativist vs universalist discourse may, in itself, represent a colonialist perspective. Kofi Annan has said it is demeaning to suggest that human rights are not universal. Given that framework, how do we approach the question of female circumcision or lack of education for girls in Afghanistan or foot binding in old China or forced sterilization or abortion?

Readings:

Week 5: September 22
Instructors: Iacopino, Weinstein, Orr

Health and Human Rights. How has ideology shaped our understanding of sickness, health and healing? Is there a natural point of intersection between health and human rights? What is the legal foundation for a right to health and how is it applied in America and overseas?

Readings
- Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion, presented at first International Conference on Health Promotion, Ottawa, 1986.

Week 6: September 29
Instructors: Watts (or Riley or Harris), Iacopino, Weinstein, Orr

Unrealized Economic, Social and Cultural Rights:Overview of the International Covenant. What are the health consequences of development and global monetary policies? What is the extent of poverty, hunger, and overpopulation in the world today? How are these problems interrelated and how do they affect the environment? What is the role of International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. What are the effects of structural adjustment policies on poverty and health? What other models exist for developing countries?

Readings:


**Week 7: October 6**

**Instructors: Stover, Iacopino, Weinstein, Orr (Bosnia/Rwanda Videotapes)**


Health Consequences of Armed Conflicts and Human Rights Violations: What are the immediate and long-term effects of death and disability, destruction of infrastructure, supplies of food and housing and health services? How do the laws of war aim to protect people in times of war? What constitutes medical neutrality?

Health Status of Refugees and Displaced Persons: What are the immediate and long-term health needs triggered by mass migrations of people during armed conflicts? What are the long-term health effects of becoming a refugee?

**Readings**


**Week 8: October 13**

**Instructors: Iacopino, Weinstein, Orr**

Human Rights Violations/Reports from the Field: What is the role of health professionals in documenting the health consequences of conflict and human rights violations? Overview of efforts to document violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including the problem of
genocide, extra-judicial executions, torture, rape, excessive use of force, prison conditions, and chemical weapons.

Methods of Documenting Human Rights Violations: What are the general conditions for a human rights investigation? How can epidemiology and other research methods be applied to the documentation of human rights violence? What forms of evidence should be collected?

Readings

- Swiss, S. and Giller, JE. "Rape as a crime of war, a medical perspective." JAMA, 1993;270:612-615.

Week 9: October 20

Instructors: Iacopino, Weinstein, Orr, Imad, Patsalides

Torture: How is torture defined? What is the scope of its practice and its prevalence among refugees and asylum seekers? What are the physical, psychological, and social health consequences of torture? How can survivors be helped? What are the possible conceptual and clinical limitations of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a diagnosis?

Resettlement and Asylum: What health issues arise in countries of asylum? What factors determine the asylum process and how do refugees integrate into new cultures?

Readings


Week 10: October 27
Instructors: Iacopino, Weinstein, Orr

Human Experimentation: How have people become unwitting participants in human experimentation? How have governments, scientists, and health professionals colluded in the misuse of their own citizenry? How have public health officials participated in human experimentation? Historical examples of this include the eugenics movement, Nazi medicine and the concentration camp experiments, the Tuskegee experiments, human radiation, mind control, and chemical and biological warfare. What is know about the role of health professionals in experiments and torture?

Reading:


Week 11: November 3

Research Paper Proposals and Presentations

Week 12: November 10

Instructors: Iacopino, Weinstein, Orr. (Tape from Bosnia on women and rape)

Health, Women and Children's Rights: What are the rights of the "most vulnerable"? 80% of the world's refugees are women and children; rape as a crime of war became front page news during the 1990's; stories of child soldiers and children as sex slaves also came to the world's attention. What are the long-term consequences of these violations?

Readings


Week 13: November 17

Instructors: Iacopino, Weinstein, Orr, (Danaher)

Environment, Multinationals, Health and Human Rights. What are the effects of industry practice, pollution, and dumping on the health rights of populations? Are a free market and human rights compatible? What is the role of government policy in making trade-offs between growth and health?

Readings


Week 14: November 24

Instructors: Iacopino, Weinstein, Orr (Lipton)

Human Rights and Health policy: How can health professionals assess the impact of health policy on human rights, both on civil and political rights and on the economic, social and cultural rights?

Analysis of the Intersection Between Health Policy and Human Rights: Tobacco, HIV, denial of health care to undocumented immigrants, discrimination against the disabled.

Readings

Week 15: December 1

Instructors: Iacopino, Weinstein, Orr

Truth, Justice and Reconciliation: How can we define truth, justice, and reconciliation? How should perpetrators of human rights abuses be held accountable for their actions? Is there any relationship between justice and reconciliation? What is the role of a truth commission? Does reconciliation affect health?

Orr, Wendy - SA Truth Commission

Reading: