

Economics 340: The Economics of Health
Fall 2019
Tuesday and Thursday 10:00-11:15
Mochmer Hall E-10
Prof. Lawrence King
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Office: 216 Gordon Hall
Office hours: Thursday 11:30-1:00 by appointment

This course applies the theories and methods of heterodox economics and comparative political economy to the analysis of population health. The grade will be based on:

Class participation and attendance: 25%
Final exam: 30%
Research paper 1: 25%
Research paper 2: 15%
Presentation based on paper 1 and 2: 5%

Each unexcused absence after the first two will result in an automatic 1% off your final grade.

The final exam will be short-answer based and open-book.

Please do not use computers or phones in class (you can plead for an exception if you take notes on the computer).

All materials are available if you click on the “Reserves” icon on the course’s Moodle page.

Prior to each class you will be given a list of questions you should think about while you do the week’s reading. Please try to write down answers to these questions and bring them to class as they will be used during discussion.

Research paper 1:

The research paper must be on an “industrial epidemic.” In this paper you must compare the activity of the tobacco industry with another major industry that has also had a major negative impact on public health. You can choose one of four industries associated with major health crises facing us today: (1) prescription opioid makers and the opioid epidemic; (2) alcohol producers and deaths and poor health resulting from alcohol; (3) Big sugar (the sugar producers/soft-drink/snack food and breakfast cereal industries) and the epidemic of obesity and diabetes; or (4) gun manufacturers and gun deaths. You may choose another “industrial epidemic” with the instructor’s permission. The research papers should be approximately 10 double-spaced pages not counting sources, and you may have additional endnotes and appendices. Papers must have at least 20 academic sources such as scientific journals. A book chapter counts as one source and must have an independent citation. The citations can be in any form, but for journal articles they must list all authors, the title, the journal name (and volume and issue number if they apply), and page numbers. Books require name, year, publisher, and

publisher's location. Book chapters should also provide the title of the chapter and the pages of the chapter. In-depth investigative reports seven pages or longer by journalists are also acceptable, and should be cited like journal articles. Web-based only cites should include the author of the work, the title of the source in quotation marks, the web site name in italics, the publisher, the posting date, and the date of access. All data/evidence presented in the paper must be cited, and that citation must have a page number so that the reader can easily check the original source (for web sources, provide a paragraph number if there are no page numbers). Improper citations will result in deductions from the research paper's grade, and the student must redo all citations in the proper form in order to receive any grade for the paper. Pdfs of 20 sources must be uploaded to the Moodle page. If you are using a hardcopy, you must scan the article or book chapter to make a pdf. All pages of the research paper must be numbered. Students must upload a copy of the paper to Moodle by class time on November 12. In addition, a hardcopy must be brought to class on the same day (unstapled papers will not be accepted).

For information about the tobacco industry **you must read and cite:**

Proctor, Robert. *The Golden Holocaust: Origins of the Cigarette Catastrophe and the Case for Abolition*. 2012 University of California Press. Pp. 1-23, 49-55, 289-339.

Research paper 2:

Propose a policy response (which can consist of one or more policies) to the public health problems discussed in your first research paper. This paper should be up to 5 double spaced pages, and include 10 citations. All of the directions for research paper 1 also apply to research paper 2. The paper must be uploaded to Moodle and a hard copy brought class on December 5th.

Presentation:

Students must create a power point presentation summarizing research papers 1 and 2. This presentation must present data describing the public health problem and propose and justify a policy solution. The presentation must be no more than 4 slides. Presentations are due December 5th. Everyone enrolled in the class will review each presentation, ranking them on a 5-point scale (5 = the best score). The student whose presentation receives the highest score will receive 5% extra-credit. The four runner ups will receive 2% points of extra-credit.

Additional extra-credit assignments will be made available to the entire class.

September 3: Introduction: Economics, Political Economy and Health

September 5: What is modern capitalism?

Ha-Joon Chang, "From Pin to PIN" & "Leviathan or the Philosopher King?" in *Economics: The User's Guide*, Pelican, 2014. Pp. 23-34 & 375-403. ([Download](#) for first chapter, [Download](#) for second chapter)

September 10: Capitalist development and population health

Angus Deaton. *The Great Escape: health, wealth, and the origins of inequality*. Pp.59-100. ([Download](#))

September 12: Corporations and population health

Prior to class watch “The Corporation” (2003). Directors: Mark Achbar and Jennifer Abbot. Write a 1page double-spaced summary and comment, due via Moodle by class time. This will be part of your participation grade. ([Available online](#))

September 17: Social determinants of disease

In-class video: Unnatural Causes, episode 1: “In Sickness and in Wealth”

Williams et al. (2016). “Understanding Associations Among Race, Socioeconomic Status, and Health: Patterns and Prospects.” *Health Psychology* Vol. 35, No.4, 407-411. ([Download](#))

Reich, M. “Who benefits from racism?” *Journal of Human Resources* Vol. 13, No.4 (1978): 524-544. ([Download](#))

September 19: Ideology and health

Crawford, R. (1977). “You are Dangerous to Your Health: The Ideology and Politics of Victim Blaming.” *International Journal of Health Services*, 7(4), 663–680. ([Download](#))

September 24: Health behavior, choice and addiction

In class video: Dan Ariely. 2008. “Are we in control of our own decisions?” TED Talk. https://www.ted.com/talks/dan_ariely_asks_are_we_in_control_of_our_own_decisions?language=en#t-1012974

Kelly, M. P., & Barker, M. (2016). “Why is changing health-related behaviour so difficult?” *Public Health*, 136, 109–116. ([Download](#))

Vincent Felitti. 2004. “The Origins of Addiction: Evidence from the Adverse Childhood Experience Study.” Pp. 1-13. ([Download](#))

Bruce K. Alexander and Linda S. Wong. 2010. “The Myth of Drug-Induced Addiction.” ([Link](#))

Marc Lewis. (2018) “Brain Change in Addiction as Learning, Not Disease.” *The New England Journal of Medicine* 379; 16: 1551-1560. ([Download](#))

September 26: The war on drugs

Prior to class watch “The House I Live In” (2012). Director: Eugene Jarecki. Write a 1 page double-spaced summary due via Moodle by class time. This will be part of your participation grade. ([Available online](#))

Johann Hari. 2015. *Chasing the Scream*. “The Spirit of 74” Pp.233-255. Endnotes: 351-353. ([Download](#))

October 1: Capitalism and depression

Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett. 2019. *The Inner Level: How More Equal Societies Reduce Stress, Restore Sanity and Improve Everyone’s Well-Being*. Pp.9-68. Endnotes: 289-296. ([Download](#))

October 3: The addictive industries

Designed for Addiction: How the Tobacco Industry Has Made Cigarettes More Addictive, More Attractive to Kids and Even More Deadly. 2014. Pp.9-36. ([Download](#))

Moss, M. “The Extraordinary Science of Addictive Junk Food.” *The New York Times Magazine*. Feb. 20, 2013. Pp. 1-24. ([Download](#))

Alcohol Advertising and Youth. Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth: John’s Hopkins School of Public Health. ([Link](#))

October 8: The tobacco industry

In-class video: “The Tobacco Conspiracy: The Backroom Deals of a Deadly Industry”. Director: Nadia Collot. 2006.

Proctor, Robert. *The Golden Holocaust: Origins of the Cigarette Catastrophe and the Case for Abolition*. 2012 University of California Press. Pp. 1-23, 49-55, 289-339. ([Download](#))

October 10: The sugar industry

Taubes, G. (2011). “Is sugar toxic?” *New York Times*. ([Download](#))

Taubes, G. “Defending Sugar” in Gary Taubes. *The Case Against Sugar*. 2016. Pp. 144-184. ([Download](#))

October 17: The car industry

Prior to class watch *Taken for a Ride* (1996). Director: Jim Klein. Write a 1 page double-spaced summary and comment, due via Moodle by class time. This will be part of your participation grade. ([Available online](#))

Harper, S., Charters, T. J., & Strumpf, E. C. (2015). “Trends in Socioeconomic Inequalities in Motor Vehicle Accident Deaths in the United States, 1995-2010.” *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 182(7), 606–614. ([Download](#))

Künzli, N., et al. (2003). “Breathless in Los Angeles: the exhausting search for clean air.” *American Journal of Public Health*, 93(9), 1494–1499. ([Download](#))

Clark, N. A., et al. (2009). “Effect of Early Life Exposure to Air Pollution on Development of Childhood Asthma.” *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 118(2), 284–290. ([Download](#))

Kim, J. J., et al. (2004). “Traffic-related Air Pollution near Busy Roads: The East Bay Children’s Respiratory Health Study.” *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, 170(5), 520–526. ([Download](#))

October 22: The pharmaceutical industry

Roy, V. and King, L. (2016) “Betting on hepatitis C: how financial speculation in drug development influences access to medicines.” *BMJ*; i3718 ([Download](#))

Light, D.W. (2010) “Bearing the Risks of Prescription Drugs” & “The Food and Drug Administration: Inadequate Protection from Serious Risk” in *The risks of prescription drugs*. Edited by Donald W. Light. New York: Social Science Research Council. Pp. 1-69. ([Download](#))

October 24: The opioid epidemic

Hadland, et al. (2019) “Association of Pharmaceutical Industry Marketing of Opioid Products With Mortality From Opioid-Related Overdoses” *JAMA Network Open*. 2019;2(1):e186007. ([Download](#))

Nosrati et al. (2019). “Economic decline, incarceration, and mortality from drug use disorders in the USA between 1983 and 2014: an observational analysis.” *Lancet Public Health* 4: e326-33. ([Download](#))

Patrick Keefe (2017). “The Family That Built an Empire of Pain.” *The New Yorker*. Oct. 30, 2017. 32 pages. ([Download](#))

October 29: The pharma industry in Africa

Prior to class, watch the film “Fire in the Blood” Director. 2013. Write a 1 page double-spaced summary and comment, due via Moodle at class time. This will be part of your class participation grade. (Available on [Netflix](#))

October 31: Incarceration and Health

Wacquant, L. 2010. “Class, race & hyperincarceration in revanchist America.” *Daedalus* Summer 2010: 74-90. ([Download](#))

Wildeman, C., & Wang, E. A. (2017). “Mass incarceration, public health, and widening inequality in the USA.” *The Lancet*, 389(10077), 1464–1474. ([Download](#))

November 5: Deindustrialization

Barry Bluestone, B. & Harrison, B. *The Deindustrialization of America*. 1982. New York: Basic Books. Pp. 3-24, 111-192. ([Download](#))

November 7: Deindustrialization and health

In class video: from *Unnatural Causes*. Episode 7, “Not just a paycheck”.

Nosrati et al. “The association between income and life expectancy revisited: deindustrialisation, incarceration, and the widening health gap” 2017. *International Journal of Epidemiology*. (11 pages) ([Download](#))

November 12: Financial Crisis and Austerity: Keynes and Minsky

Prior to class watch “Inside Job.” Director: Charles Ferguson. 2010. Write a 1 page double-spaced summary and comment, due via Moodle at class time. This will be part of your class participation grade. (Available on [Amazon](#) and [Vudu](#) from \$2.99 or [YouTube](#) and [iTunes](#) from \$3.99)

Research Paper 1 due.

November 14: Health effects of financial crisis and austerity

Catalano, R. A. 2009. "Health, Medical Care, and Economic Crisis." *New England Journal of Medicine* 360(8):749-51. ([Download](#))

Kentikelenis, A., et al. 2011. "Health effects of financial crisis: omens of a Greek tragedy." *The Lancet* 378(9801):1457-58. ([Download](#))

November 19: The IMF and global health

Kentikelenis, A. “Structural adjustment and health: A conceptual framework and evidence on pathways.” *Social Science and Medicine* (2017). Vol. 187: 296-305. ([Download](#))

Kentikelenis et al. “The International Monetary Fund and the Ebola Outbreak” *Lancet Global Health*, December 22, 2014. ([Download](#))

November 21: Economic liberalization and non-communicable disease in developing countries

Stuckler, D. et al. “Political economy of chronic disease” Chapter 5 in *Sick Societies: Responding to the Global Challenge of Chronic Disease*. (David Stuckler) Oxford University Press. 2011. Pp.136-167. (No download available at present)

Proctor, R. “Globalizing Death” in *The Golden Holocaust: Origins of the Cigarette Catastrophe and the Case for Abolition*. 2012 University of California Press. Pp. 539-549. ([Download](#))

“In Town With Little Water Coca-Cola is Everywhere. So is Diabetes.” Lopez, O and Jacobs, A. NYT. July 14, 2018. ([Link](#))

December 3: The economics of health insurance

Prior to class watch “Sicko” (2007). Director: Michael Moore. Write a 1 page double-spaced summary and comment, due via Moodle at class time. This will be part of your class participation grade. ([Available online](#))

Krugman, P. and Wells, R. “The Health Care Crisis and What to Do About It.” March 23, 2006. *The New York Review of Books*. 10 pages. ([Download](#))

Quadagno, J. 2004. “Why the United States has no national health insurance: stakeholder mobilization against the welfare state, 1945-1996.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. 45 Suppl: 25-44. ([Download](#))

December 5: The Cuban health system

Prior to class watch the documentary *Salud!* 2006. Directed by Connie Field. Write a 1 page double-spaced summary and comment, due via Moodle at class time. This will be part of your class participation grade. ([Available online](#))

Campion, E. W., & Morrissey, S. (2013). “A different model—medical care in Cuba.” *New England Journal of Medicine*, 368(4), 297–299. ([Download](#))

Johann Hari. 2018. *Lost Connections*. “Social Prescribing” Pp. 189-200, endnotes: 297-298. ([Download](#))

Research paper 2 due. Please upload to Moodle and bring a hardcopy to class. Presentations must be uploaded to Moodle.

December 10: Discussion of presentations and conclusion.

Johann Hari. 2018. *Lost Connections*. “Reconnection Three: To Meaningful Work” Pp. 201-210, endnotes 298. ([Download](#))