

York University Winter 2017 - HLTH 5030 Health & Politics



**Professor
Claudia Chaufan, MD, PhD**

York University, Graduate Program in Health
Winter 2017, HLTH 5030 – Health & Politics

Professor: Claudia Chaufan

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Office: HNES 420, before/after class or by app.

Days/Time: Fridays 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Location: TBA

*“Oh love, they keep telling me that I have the right to sing, but they took away my guitar;
They keep telling me that I have the right to love, but they killed my child;
They keep telling me that I have the right to shop in the market, but they took away my land;
Oh love, but they also keep telling me that I should not shout, hate or steal;
These, I should not do.”*

Translated from an old Spanish folk song

In *The Economic and Political Determinants of Human (Including Health) Rights*

Vicente Navarro, *Int. J. of Health Services* (1978), 8 (1): p. 145

Course description

In the *Nicomachean Ethics* Aristotle argued that an assessment of individual ethics, i.e., concepts of right and wrong conduct, necessarily led into an assessment of politics, i.e., a philosophy of human affairs that a community needs to be committed to human welfare. Over 2000 years later, Rudolf Virchow, one of the founders of public health, asserted that politics is medicine on a large-scale. However, research and debate on how political forces shape public policy and subsequently the health of populations are limited. This course aims at addressing this gap, by analyzing how politics broadly understood, and its expression through social institutions, public policy, and professional practice, shape the health and quality of life of populations at local, national, and global levels. Topics will include a history and analysis of neoliberal globalization and key social actors and institutions in this history, theories of development and underdevelopment, the influence of political traditions on national health systems, and the meaning and importance of conceptions democracy as they are relevant to human health.

Course learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Define health-relevant concepts (e.g., development) and analyze the political dynamics underlying the relationship between these concepts and health outcomes
- Trace the historical trajectory of neoliberal globalization and its impact on health outcomes, especially health inequalities, in developed and underdeveloped countries
- Discuss the role of private/corporate interests in the orientation of health policy at the local, national, and global levels, and the implication of this role for health equity
- Evaluate the ideological role of the dominant narrative in the normalization of health inequalities and develop tools of critical analysis to unpack this narrative
- Articulate steps to take as scholars, citizens, and activists towards greater health equity
- Communicate successfully orally and in writing on health policy matters

Course organization

The course will be organized as a seminar. Our discussions will aim at teasing out, and debating the merits and weaknesses of, the theses, arguments, and assumptions in the readings of the day as they relate to the theme (s) of each meeting. I will open the session with brief introductory lectures laying the framework of these themes. We will dedicate the remaining class period to analyze and discuss the implications and applications of weekly readings. During the first week, students will sign up to lead discussion. The syllabus includes questions to orient your reading. We will complement discussions with critical film and media analyses, and guest speakers.

Course requirements

Because the quality of the learning experience will depend almost entirely on the preparation and participation of students, course requirements are designed to reflect the importance of students' contributions. They include careful and critical reading, excellent attendance, active in-class participation, facilitation and summaries of readings (emailed the night prior to the meeting), and one research project/paper on the topic of the students' choice.

Course readings

Most readings will be available online on the course Moodle website. Inexpensive copies of the only required book, *No-Nonsense Guide to Globalization*, 2010 ed., can be purchased online. In preparation for the course, I strongly recommend that you read *The Value of Nothing*, by Raj Patel, available at the bookstore, which provides a very readable yet intellectually sophisticated introduction to neoliberal globalization and an excellent background to our course. This is especially important if you have little or no background in political economy, although it should also serve as a good refresher to students with experience and background in this discipline.

Course assignments

Summarizing and facilitating discussion of required readings – In our first meeting students will sign up to facilitate the discussion of a selection of readings, no fewer than two times during the term. This means that each meeting between 2 and 4 students will facilitate discussion. Student-led discussions should bring out the main themes in the readings. Facilitators should use these themes to formulate and present to the class one or more questions about the material to stimulate, and guide, discussion. Facilitators will write summary/analyses and questions on the readings they are responsible for (no more than one half-page per reading) and email them to me no later than 8 am on Wednesday (if at all possible the evening before). Presentations should last 5 to 10 minutes, depending on the number of readings, leaving about 1 ½ hour for discussion. We will spend the remaining class time with critical film analyses, guest lectures, and peer review sessions on students' research projects.

Course participants are responsible for:

- Facilitators: they will open the session with a brief presentation that lays out how the readings relate to the intersection of health and politics. They will also prepare a 1-page handout summarizing key points and email it to me by 9 am of the day of class meeting, so that I can print copies for everyone (or else bring enough copies for everyone).
- Other students: they should prepare at least two questions on at least one reading, and be prepared to actively contribute to the discussion.
- Professor: she will keep everyone on task, monitor the time allotted to each activity, provide clarification, and enrich/expand/redirect the discussion when appropriate.

Research prospectus-- Around the sixth week, you will submit a two-page prospectus/proposal of your research project, including a working title, a research question or hypotheses, a brief background on the issue, one or two lines on its potential implications for health policy and equity, and a tentative list of at least 3 sources that can provide information on the topic. You should also make clear, even if tentatively, how the topic is relevant to the connection between health and politics. I will provide an outline to prepare this prospectus.

Final presentation - In 15-20 min. (typical for most professional conferences) you will lay out your topic, research question, relationship to health and politics, findings, and practice, policy and equity implications. The method of presentation (e.g., PowerPoint) is not relevant to the grade, but quality in terms of clarity, theoretical depth, and relevance to health and politics will bear upon your grade.

Research project/paper -- You will conduct a research project and write a paper addressing the political dynamics underlying a topic of your choice with potential for publication in a refereed journal, or related to your Major Research Paper or doctoral dissertation. We will devote class time to discuss this project, select a research topic and question, and peer-edit drafts. Evaluation will be based on the depth and quality of the research and on the insight you demonstrate as you connect your project to the themes of the seminar and its learning objectives. Please use 12-point font, 2-line spacing, 1" page margins, and APA referencing style (no fewer than 10 references, at least five from course readings). Edit with care. Use spell and grammar check, page numbers and a stapler.

Course evaluation

Evaluation will be based on: 1) Completion of all reading assignments by the day of the meeting, attendance and overall participation; 2) Research project/paper; 3) Submitting all work on time

Attendance and participation: 10%

Leading discussion & summary of readings: 20% total

Presentation: 10%

Research project/paper: 60%

Accommodation: If you require special accommodations due to disability please let me know during the first week.

Course schedule (schematic)

Unit 1

History and Political Architecture of Health, Health Policy and Health Inequalities

Week 1 – Introduction to health, policy, and politics

Week 2 – Health, politics, and neoliberal globalization: History and major institutions

Week 3 – Health, politics, and the financial and fiscal crisis: The case of Greece

Week 4 – Health, politics, and development: The making and unmaking of (under) development.

Unit 2

The Privatization of Health

Week 5 – Health, politics, and the private sector: Philanthrocapitalism, foundations, and NGOism

Week 6 – Health, politics, and private influences in public health institutions: Public-private partnerships (PPPs) and the privatization of health policy

Week 7 – Health, politics, and trade policy: NAFTA, TPP, and other trade agreements

Unit 3

The Politics of Health and Healthcare Reform

Week 8 – The politics of health care reform in the United States and its relevance to Canada

Unit 4

The Politics of Health Beyond Healthcare

Week 9 – The politics of mining and its implications for health

Week 10 – The politics of climate change and its implications for health

Unit 5

National Case Studies in Health and Resistance. Democratizing Health

Week 11 – The case of Latin America – Politics of health in Cuba, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Honduras and their relevance to Canada.

Week 12 – Conceptions of democracy and the politics of health. Student presentations.
Conclusions

Course schedule (detailed)

UNIT 1	
History and Political Architecture of Health, Health Policy and Health Inequalities	
Week 1	Introduction to health, policy and politics
Issues / questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Why is politics relevant to health?➤ How does politics influence health policy?➤ What do we mean by “health is socially determined” and what is political about this determination?➤ How is the politics of health relevant to social justice?➤ Why care?	
Required readings <p>Navarro, V., <i>The World Health Situation</i>. International Journal of Health Services, 2004. 34(1): p. 1-10.</p> <p>Waitzkin, H., <i>The social origins of illness: A neglected history</i>. International Journal of Health Services, 1981. 11(77-103).</p> <p>Allende, S., <i>Chile's Medical-Social Reality (excerpts)</i>. Social Medicine, 2006 (1939). 1 (3): p. 151-155.</p> <p>Engels, F., <i>The Condition of the Working Class in England</i>. Am J Public Health, 2003. 93 (8): p. 1246-1249.</p>	
Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Introduction of course participants, objectives, material, readings and requirements.➤ Discussion of potential research projects/term papers.➤ Students sign on to lead discussion	
Recommended readings <p>Bambra, C., D. Fox, and A. Scott-Samuel, Towards a politics of health. Health Promotion International, 2005. 20(2): p. 187-193.</p> <p>Sigerist, H. E. (1941, 1996). "Health." Journal of Public Health Policy 17(2): 204-234.</p> <p>Frank, J.P., <i>The People's Misery: Mother of Diseases, and Address, Delivered in 1790 by Johann Peter Frank, Translated from the Latin, with an Introduction by Henry Sigerist (1941)</i>. 2003 (1790), ProQuest Information and Learning Company: John Hopkins University Press. p. 81-100.</p> <p>Aristotle (350 BCE). "Politics." The Internet Classic Archives (Translated by Benjamin Jowett): http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.html.</p>	

Week 2	Health, politics, and neoliberal globalization: History and major institutions
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Issues / questions

- What is globalization? What is the dominant narrative concerning its meaning and origins? What are some challenges to this narrative?
- What is the relationship between (neoliberal) globalization and capitalism as an economic system?
- What are the Bretton Woods institutions? How do they shape the power dynamics underlying the distribution of the social determinants of health, locally, nationally, and globally? How are they related to the historical roots of neoliberal globalization?
- How are all these issues related to the politics of health?

Required readings.

Navarro, V. (1999). "Health and Equity in the World in the Era of "Globalization". International Journal of Health Services 29(2): 215-226.

Elwood, W., *The no-nonsense guide to globalization (new edition)*. No-Nonsense Guides, ed. C. Brazier. 2010, Oxford: New Internationalist.

Speaking Truth to Power: Understanding the Dominant Narrative
(<http://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/speaking-truth-to-power-understanding-the-dominant-animal-eating-narrative-for-veganempowerment-and-social-transformation/>)

FAIR, How to Detect Bias in the News Media. Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting, nd: p. <http://fair.org/take-action-now/media-activism-kit/how-to-detect-bias-in-news-media/>.

Activities

- Critical film analysis: Thomas Friedman's Three Eras of Globalization

Recommended readings

Navarro, V., Neoliberalism as a Class Ideology; or, the Political Causes of the Growth of Inequalities. International Journal of Health Services, 2007. 37(1): p. 47-62.

Engler, M. (2008). "The World Is Not Flat." Z Communications: <https://zcomm.org/znetarticle/the-world-is-not-flat-by-mark-engler/>

Hahnel, R. (2005). "What Mainstream Economists Won't Tell You About Neoliberal Globalization." Speech delivered as the Keynote Address at the Socialist Studies launch ceremony

Panitch, L. and S. Gindin (2009). "The Current Crisis: A Socialist Perspective." Studies in Political Economy 83(Spring): 7 – 31.

Becker, R. (2012). The Myth of Democracy and the Rule of the Banks. San Francisco, PSL Publications.& Video version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHqXkcsaEhU>

van Dijk, T. A. (1993). "Principles of Critical Discourse Analysis." Discourse & Society 4(2): 249-283.

Issues / questions

- What are “austerity policies”? What are their effects on health? What are the arguments in support of such policies? What institutions have promoted and implemented them?
- What is the dominant narrative concerning sovereign debt? What is the role of the Bretton Woods and European Union institutions in the creation of sovereign debt? Who borrows, and for what? Who pays? How do “economic hitmen” relate to this process?
- What are dominant or establishment views about the case of Greece? Who challenges these views? How do these opposing views illustrate the relationship between health and politics?

Required readings

BBC 2012, Eurozone Crisis Explained. <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-17549970>

New York Times 2016. Greece's Debt Crisis Explained.

http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/business/international/greece-debt-crisis-euro.html?_r=0

McNamara, Kathleen 2015. A Less Perfect Union: Europe after the Greek Debt Crisis, Foreign Affairs, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/print/1114907>

Kentikelenis, A., M. Karanikolos, A. Reeves, M. McKee and D. Stuckler (2014). "Greece's health crisis: from austerity to denialism." *The Lancet* 383(9918): 748-753.

Navarro, V. (2012). "The Crisis and Fiscal Policies in the Peripheral Countries of the Eurozone." *International Journal of Health Services* 42(1): 1-7.

Hudson, M. 2016, *The Financial Invasion of Greece*, Counterpunch.

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2016/05/24/the-financial-invasion-of-greece/>

Craig Roberts, P. 2016, *The Looting Stage of Capitalism & Greece Must Leave the Eurozone to Regain Its Sovereignty*, Counterpunch & Truth-out.

Reading selection on the EU and Brexit

[John Perkins, Confessions of an economic hitman](#) (video clip, 25 min.)

Chomsky, N. (1997). "What Makes Mainstream Media Mainstream."

Activities

- Critical film analysis: *Sovereign Debt: A Modern Greek Tragedy*

Recommended readings

Klein, N. (2007). *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*. New York, Picador.

George, S., *A Fate Worse Than Debt*. (1994): Penguin Books.

Commission for the Abolition of Illegitimate Debt <http://cadtm.org/English>

Week 4	Health, politics, and development: The making and unmaking of (under) development
<p>Issues / questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is “development”? What is the dominant narrative about development? What reasons and evidence support this narrative? Which social institutions /actors sustain it? Which ones challenge it and what resources do they draw from? ➤ What is the political dynamics underlying contrasting conceptions of development? ➤ What are the implications of contrasting conceptions of development for health and equity? ➤ What does Pilger mean by “other means” and why is he justified (or not) in using this metaphor? 	
<p>Required readings</p> <p>United Nations (2015). "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."</p> <p>Rostow, W. W. (1959). "The Stages of Economic Growth." <i>The Economic History Review</i> 12(1): 1-16.</p> <p>Rodney, W., Some questions on development. What is development? What is underdevelopment? In <i>How Europe Underdeveloped Africa</i>. 1973, Washington D.C.: Howard University Press.</p> <p>Gunder Frank, A. (1966). "The Development of Underdevelopment." <i>Monthly Review</i> 18(4): 17 – 31</p> <p>Escobar, A., Power and Visibility: Development and the Invention and Management of the Third World. <i>Cultural Anthropology</i>, 1988. 3(4): p. 428-443.</p> <p>Navarro, V. (2000). "Development and Quality of Life: A Critique of Amartya Sen's Development as Freedom." <i>International Journal of Health Services</i> 30(4): 661-674.</p> <p>War by other means, John Pilger, (video clip, 20 min. version)</p>	
<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Critical film analysis: 1) Brief interviews of Sebastian Mallaby, author of <i>The World's Banker</i> and columnist for the <i>Washington Post</i>, from <i>Globalization 101.org</i>; 2) Why are some countries rich and others poor?; 3) Jeffrey Sachs and Angelina Jolie on development and health 	
<p>Recommended readings</p> <p>Joshi, S. (2005). "Theories of development: Modernization vs. Dependency." <i>Infochange</i></p> <p>Black, M., <i>The no-nonsense guide to international development</i>. No-Nonsense Guides, ed. T. Wells. 2007, Oxford: New Internationalist.</p>	

UNIT 2

The Privatization of Health

Week 5 Health, politics, and the private sector: Philanthrocapitalism, foundations, and NGOs

Issues / questions

- What is the dominant narrative concerning the influences of private wealth on public affairs? What are the arguments underlying this narrative? What are the blind spots in these arguments?
- What is philanthrocapitalism and what sets it apart from traditional philanthropy? What is NGOism? What are the arguments supporting the legitimizing role of NGOs? What is civil society? How was this concept originally conceived and what do critics propose as its contemporary role? What would a radical reinterpretation of the concept of civil society involve?
- How does the role of private wealth on policy illustrate the interplay between politics and health?

Required readings.

Kristof, N., Bill Gates and Creative Capitalism, The New York Times, June 27, 2008.

Bishop, M., The Business of Giving, The Economist, February 23, 2006.

Gates, B., Address to the World Health Assembly, 2005 & The Next Epidemic – Lessons from Ebola, New England Journal of Medicine, 2015 (372) 15: 1381 – 1384

Civil Society Team Latin America and the Caribbean Region (2007). "Empowering the poor and Promoting Accountability in Latin America and the Caribbean Region." World Bank Policy Research Working Paper (33812):

Birn, A.-E. (2014). "Philanthrocapitalism, Past and Present: The Rockefeller Foundation, the Gates Foundation, and the Setting(s) of the International/Global Health Agenda." **12**(1): 1-27.

Roelofs, J. (2007). "Foundations and Collaboration." Critical Sociology **33**(3): 479-504.

Roy, A. (2014). "The NGOization of Resistance." Massalijn September 4.

Petras, J. (1999). "Imperialism and NGOs in Latin America." Journal of Contemp. Asia, **29**(4): 429– 440.

Meiksins Wood, E. (1990). "The Uses and Abuses of Civil Society." Socialist Register 26: 60 – 84.

Activities

- Critical film analysis: Selection from Rx for survival – PBS series

Recommended readings

Feldman, B. (2007). "Report from the Field: Left Media and Left Think Tanks — Foundation-Managed Protest?" Critical Sociology **33**(3): 427-446.

Can Gyrca, E. (2015). "The Nonprofit Corporate Complex: An Integral Component in Driving Force of Imperialism in the Face of Monopoly Finance Capitalism." Monthly review April: 37 – 53.

Hearn, J. (2001). "The 'uses and abuses' of civil society in Africa." Rev. of African Pol Econ. **28**(87):43-53.

Carnegie, A. (1889). "The Gospel of Wealth." http://www.otaulc.com/text/carnegie_wealth.pdf

Week 6	Health, politics, and private influences in public health institutions: Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and the privatization of health policy
<p>Issues / questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is the dominant narrative concerning public-private partnerships? What are the arguments in its favor and the blind spots in these arguments? What alternatives are left examined? ➤ What would democratic governance of public health institutions, at the local, national, and global level look like? How is governance hindered by public-private partnerships? What Canadian examples illustrate this issue? ➤ How does the study of PPPs illustrate the politics of health policy? 	
<p>Required readings.</p> <p>WHO (2008). "Closing the gap in a generation: Health equity through action on the social determinants of health -- Executive Summary."</p> <p>UNICEF (2015). "Levels and trends in child malnutrition: Key findings of the 2015 edition." & (1987). "Annual Report: Adjustment with a Human Face."</p> <p>Global Health Watch (2005, 2011), The World Health Organization and the Commission of the Social Determinants of Health</p> <p>Global Health Watch (2005, 2011), UNICEF and the Medicalization of Childhood Malnutrition</p> <p>Navarro, V. (2009). "What we mean by the Social Determinants of Health." <i>International Journal of Health Services</i> 39(3): 423-441.</p> <p>Escudero, J. C. (2008). "What is Said, What is Silenced, What is Obscured: The Report of the Commission on the Social Determinants of Health." <i>Social Medicine</i> 4(3): 183 - 186.</p>	
<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Peer review of research prospectus 	
<p>Recommended readings</p> <p>Lopez Orellano, O., J. C. Escudero and L. Dary Carmona (2008). "Social Determinants of Health: Perspective of the ALAMES Working Group on Social Determinants." <i>Social Medicine</i> 3(4): 253-264.</p> <p>Lenzer, J. (2015). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Protecting the private good?</p>	

Week 7	Health, politics, and trade policy: NAFTA, TPP, and other trade agreements
<p>Issues / questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What are trade agreements about? Why are they called “free” trade agreements? Why are they called “trade” agreements? Why are they called “agreements”? Who agrees and to what? ➤ What are the historical roots of most trade agreements in their current form? In which trade agreements is Canada involved or considering becoming involved? ➤ What areas of social life do the provisions within these agreements touch upon? What, specifically, are the areas that might relate to health? ➤ Who wins and who loses in these agreements? How is the politics of health revealed in them? 	
<p>Required readings.</p> <p>Drager, N. and D. P. Fidler (2007). "Foreign policy, trade and health: At the cutting edge of global health diplomacy." <i>Bulletin of the World Health Organization</i> 85(3): 162.</p> <p>Aguilar, J. (2012). "Twenty Years Later, NAFTA Remains a Source of Tension." <i>The New York Times</i> December 7</p> <p>Altman, R. C. and R. N. Haass (April 3, 2015). "Why the Transpacific Partnership Matters."</p> <p>World Trade Organization (2013), 10 things the WTO can do.</p> <p>Global Health Watch (2011), Trade and Health</p> <p>AFL-CIO (March 2014). "NAFTA at 20." http://www.aflcio.org/Issues/Trade/NAFTA/NAFTA-at-20.</p> <p>Sinclair, S. (February 2016). "Major Complications: the TPP and Canadian Health Care."</p>	
<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Critical video analysis: “Trade Benefits Everyone”, University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign 	
<p>Recommended readings</p> <p>Sinclair, S. (2015). "NAFTA Chapter 11 Investor State Disputes." <i>Canadian Centre For Policy Alternatives</i> January:</p> <p>Public Citizen (2015). "TABLE OF FOREIGN INVESTOR-STATE CASES AND CLAIMS UNDER NAFTA AND OTHER U.S. “TRADE” DEAL."</p> <p>Rosnick, D. and D. Baker (2016). "Trade and Jobs: Can We Trust the Models?" <i>Center for Economic and Policy Research</i></p> <p>Global affairs Canada, http://www.international.gc.ca/commerce/index.aspx?lang=eng</p>	

UNIT 3

The Politics of Health and Healthcare Reform

Week 8 **The politics of health care reform in the United States and its implications for Canada**

Issues / questions

- How can healthcare systems contribute to equity? What should the goals of equitable health care systems be? How does the US healthcare system measure up? What are the mainstream explanations of US outcomes? How do they explanations compare to alternative explanations?
- What is a financial architecture of the US health care system? How has it changed after the implementation of the Affordable Care Act of 2010?
- How does Americans' struggle for health justice reveal the interplay between health and politics?

Required readings.

Krugman, P. "Hurray for Obamacare!" New York Times June 25, 2015; and "The Swiss Menace." The New York Times August 16:

Sanger-Katz, M. (2016). "A Single-Payer Plan From Bernie Sanders Would Probably Still Be Expensive." The New York Times May 16:

Mayer, J., E. Gilliam, B. Stabile, S. Ahmed, D. Anderson, C. Chaufan and J. Hager (2016). "Medical System Rant and Response." World Medical & Health Policy 8(1): 107-116.

Chaufan, C. (2016). "What Can US Single-Payer Supporters Learn From the Swiss Rejection of Single Payer?" International Journal of Health Services 46(2): 331-345.

Gaffney, A., S. Woolhandler, M. Angell and D. U. Himmelstein (2016). "Moving Forward From the Affordable Care Act to a Single-Payer System." American Journal of Public Health 106(6): 987-988.

Chernomas, R. and I. Hudson (2013). The political economy of US healthcare: the medical industrial complex, in *To Live and Die in America: Class, Power, Health and Healthcare*. Halifax & Winnipeg, Fernwood Publishing

Navarro, V. (1989). "Why Some Countries Have National Health Insurance, Others Have National Health Services, and the U.S. Has Neither." Social Science & Medicine 28(9): 887-898.

Activities

- Critical film analysis: Obama's Deal and the limits of liberal critique

Recommended readings

Holahan, J., L. Clemans-Cope, M. Buettgens, M. Favreault, L. J. Blumberg and S. Ndwandwe (2016). "The Sanders Single-Payer Health Care Plan: The Effect on National Health Expenditures and Federal and Private Spending." Urban Institute

Woolandler, S. and D. Himmelstein (2016). "Doubling Down on Errors: Urban Institute Defends Its Ridiculously High Single Payer Cost Estimates." Huffington Post, May 22

UNIT 4

The Politics of Health beyond Healthcare

Week 9

Mining, politics, and implications for health

Issues / questions

- What is mining policy? What are some of the effects of mining practices on health? Which populations are mostly affected by these practices?
- What is the politics of mining policy? What does mining reveal about the Canadian state?
- How does mining reveal the relationship between politics and health?

Required readings.

Aura Minerals. Inc. (<http://www.auraminerals.com/>)

The Mining Association of Canada (<http://mining.ca/resources/mining-facts>)

Mining Watch Canada (<http://miningwatch.ca/>)

Global Health Watch 3 (2011), Extractive Industries and Health

Gordon, T. and J. R. Webber (2008). "Imperialism and Resistance: Canadian mining companies in Latin America." *Third World Quarterly* 29(1): 63-87.

Saunders, S. (2010). "Mining through Roots." *Counterpunch* July.

Activities

- Critical media analysis

Recommended readings

Gordon, T. (2006). "Canada, Empire and Indigenous People in the Americas." *Socialist Studies* Spring: 47 – 75.

Week 10	Climate, politics, and implications for health
<p>Issues / questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is the evidence for anthropogenic climate change? How do dominant approaches present the problem of climate change? What reasons and evidence do they provide? Which reasons/evidence are discussed less or not at all? ➤ What is the climate policy of the Canadian state? How does climate policy influence health and health inequalities? What are some recognizable Canadian examples on this matter? ➤ How does climate policy reveal the interplay between politics and health? 	
<p>Required readings.</p> <p>Royal Society and US National Academy of Sciences (2014). "Climate Change: Evidence and Causes - An overview from the Royal Society and the US National Academy of Sciences."</p> <p>UNEP (nd). "Climate Change." http://www.unep.org/gc/gc26/factsheet/pdfs/Climate_change.pdf.</p> <p>Global Health Watch 2 (2009), Carbon trading and climate change</p> <p>Angus, I. (2008). "How to Avoid Action on Climate Change: The fine art of greenwash in Canadian politics." <u>Climate and Capitalism</u></p> <p>Klein, N. (2009). "Naomi Klein: To fight climate change we must fight capitalism." <u>Revolucion Alimentaria (blog)</u>: https://revolucionalimentaria.wordpress.com/2015/2005/2012/naomi-klein-to-fight-climate-change-we-must-fight-capitalism/.</p> <p>Fanelli, C. (2013). "Climate Change: 'The Greatest Challenge of Our Time'." <u>Global Research December</u>.</p> <p>Buxton, N. (2015). "The Elephant in Paris – the Military and Greenhouse Gas Emissions." <u>Resilience</u>: http://newint.org/blog/2015/2011/2019/the-military-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions/.</p> <p>Empson, M. (2016). "Why changing our diets won't save the Earth." <u>Climate & Capitalism</u>: http://climateandcapitalism.com/2016/2006/2013/a-diet-of-austerity-class-food-and-climate-change/.</p>	
<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Critical media analysis: Carbon Trading and Climate Change, Paul Krugman vs. James Hansen ➤ Critical policy analysis: What is missing in the Public Health Agency of Canada Climate Change Fact Sheet and the IPCC 2014 Summary for Policymakers? 	
<p>Recommended readings</p> <p>Angus, I. (2016). <u>Facing the Anthropocene: Fossil Capitalism and the Crisis of the Earth System</u>. New York, Monthly Review Press.</p> <p>Climate and Capitalism: An eco-socialist journal, http://climateandcapitalism.com/</p>	

UNIT 5

National Case studies in health and resistance. Democratizing health

Week 11

Health, politics, and resistance: The case of Latin America – Cuba, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Honduras and their implications for Canada

Issues / questions

- What are the key health issues in each of these case studies? How have political processes shaped population health in all four countries? What are some of the similarities and differences between these countries and how do these differences illustrate the relationship between politics and health?
- What are the differences between the political processes in these countries and those of developed nations such as Canada? What role, if any, has Canada played in the political processes in these countries?
- How does the mainstream media represent processes and current issues in Latin America? What is the problem with these representations?
- How do health issues and population health in the developing world illustrate the interplay between politics and health?

Required readings.

Reading packet on Latin America – background

Reading packet on Latin America – media views

[War on Democracy, John Pilger \(2007\)](#)

Reading packet on Cuba

Reading packet on Venezuela

Reading packet on Bolivia

Reading packet on Honduras

Note: All students will read the reading packet on Latin America and media representations, and screen the documentary War on Democracy by John Pilger. Reading packets on particular countries will be distributed in class to be prepared and presented by different students.

Activities

- Critical media analysis: what’s wrong with Latin America? Views of the mainstream liberal media in Canada and in the United States (Toronto Star and New York Times)

Recommended readings

Galeano, E. (1972/1997). Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent (25 Anniversary Edition), Monthly Review.

Bellamy Foster, J. and R.W. McChesney, *The ‘Left-Wing’ Media?* Monthly Review, 2003. **52**(2).

Issues / questions

- What is democracy? What are the different meanings of democracy and how do different authors in this week's readings discuss these meanings? What is the dominant narrative about democracy and how do alternative accounts challenge this narrative?
- What is the relationship between democracy and health? What are the health and equity implications of different conceptions of democracy? How, if at all, is this relationship illustrated by the topic you chose to investigate for this seminar?
- How is the relationship between politics and health shaped by different conceptions of democracy? Why would all this matter to us?

Required readings

Oja Jay, D. (2015). "Justin Trudeau's charm: A social movement guide to cooptation." Rabble October 2015: rabble.ca/news/2015/2010/justin-trudeaus-charm-social-movement-guide-to-cooptation.

August, A. (2013). "Participatory democracy, liberalism and liberals." CJSF Radio, Simon Fraser University

Kanellis, E. (2000), The Need for a Radical Alternative: An Interview with István Mészáros, Monthly Review, Vol. 81 (8).

Chomsky, N. (1991). "The Struggle for Democracy in a Changed World." Review of African Political Economy 50(12 – 20).

Activities

- Student presentations
- Conclusions

Note: the final draft must be turned in no later than a week from today. If you need an extension, please notify me before the deadline. Late papers will receive 5 points less per day. I may grant exceptions for well documented reasons.

Recommended reading and viewing

Garcia Linera, A. (2016). "Presentation at the School of Social Sciences, Buenos Aires, Argentina (in Spanish, transcription)." El Loro Politico: <http://www.elloropolitico.com/lectures/88/disertacion-de-alvaro-garcia-linera-en-sociales/show>.

[Conversations on the Left. Vicente Navarro: From the underground resistance under Franco to Podemos](#)