

**CHS 246**  
**Women's Roles and Family Health**  
**Spring Quarter, 2005**

**Tuesday & Thursday 3:00 – 4:50 pm**  
**Room 41-235 CHS**

Instructors:	Dr. Joanne Leslie	Dr. Paula Tavrow
Office Hours:	Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00	Wednesday 1:30 - 3:30
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**Course Description**

Women's multiple roles, shaped by their socioeconomic and cultural milieu, have profound implications for their own health, as well as for their families. In the last three decades, dramatic changes in women's social and economic roles have occurred. This course will provide students with an opportunity to examine in detail how the evolving roles of women and other contextual factors have affected women's and families' health—both domestically and internationally. Following a lifecycle approach, each stage of women's lives will be analyzed to determine how societal demands and expectations influence their physical, mental and reproductive health. Readings will include recent research findings and programmatic interventions. Students will learn how to develop research proposals on key socioeconomic forces that affect women's health. By the end of the course, students will be able to assess critically the health effects associated with women's roles, and appreciate how these effects can be mediated by households, communities and national policies.

**Readings**

Most assigned readings can be found in the Course Reader, which is available for purchase from Course Reader Material, 1141 Westwood Boulevard, (310) 443-3303. Other readings will be distributed in class or put on reserve in the Biomed Library.

### **Grading**

It is expected that all students will attend and participate actively in all classes. Most years we are fortunate to have a range of geographic and disciplinary backgrounds represented among the students taking the class. Students are encouraged to draw on their personal and professional knowledge and experience during the discussions, in addition to the assigned readings.

Since the format of the course relies heavily on informed class discussion, students should come having completed *all* the readings for that day. There will be two small writing assignments. A one hour in-class midterm will be held on May 10th.

As a final assignment, all students will write a research proposal on some aspect of the relationship between women's roles and their own health or the health of their families. Midway through the course we will spend part of a class session discussing research proposals. An outline for the proposal will be distributed at that time. You are encouraged to meet with one of the instructors to discuss your idea before beginning to work seriously on your proposal. You will be expected to present the proposal to the class and obtain feedback. Your final written research proposal is due at the last class.

Your grade will be determined as follows:

- 15% class participation
- 10% two small writing assignments
- 25% midterm
- 50% research proposal

## Class Topics and Assigned Readings

April 5

### **Introduction and Overview of Course**

#### **Women's Multiple Roles and Rights**

Writing assignment #1 distributed (One woman's multiple roles)

#### **Readings**

- Leslie J. "Women's Lives and Women's Health: Using Social Science to Promote Better Health for Women." *Journal of Women's Health* 1992, 1(4): 307-318.
- Sen A. "Women's Agency and Social Change" in *Development as Freedom*. New York, NY: Anchor Books, 1999, 189-203.
- Cook R. "Gender, Health, and Human Rights." In *Health and Human Rights*. Eds: Mann J, Gruskin S, Grodin M, Annas G. New York, NY: Routledge, 1999, 253-264.

April 7

### **Women's Health Issues and Disparities**

#### **Readings**

- Tinker A. "Women's Health: the Unfinished Agenda." *International Journal of Gynaecology and Obstetrics* 2000 Jul;70(1):149-58.
- Buvinic M et al. "Gender Differentials in Health: Summary Review and Emerging Issues." Forthcoming chapter in second edition of *Disease Control Priorities in the Developing World*. 2005: 1-39.
- Moss N. "Socioeconomic Inequalities in Women's Health." In *Women and Health*. Eds. M. Goldman and M. Hatch; New York: Academic Press, 2000, 541-562.
- Bradford J, White J. "Lesbian Health Research." In *Women and Health*. Eds. M. Goldman and M. Hatch; New York: Academic Press, 2000, 64-78.

April 12

### **Gender Preference, Gender Discrimination and Young Girls' Health**

Writing assignment #1 due

#### **Readings**

- Croll E. *Endangered Daughters: Discrimination and Development in Asia*. London and New York: Routledge, 2000: 70-105.
- Buchmann C. "Family Structure, Parental Perceptions, and Child Labor in Kenya: What Factors Determine Who is Enrolled in School?" *Social Forces*, 2000, 78 (4): 1349-79.
- UNICEF. *State of the World's Children*, 2004: 83-89.

April 14      **Gender Roles and Adolescent Well-Being**

**Readings**

- Basow SA, Rubin, LR. “Gender Influences on Development.” In *Beyond Appearance: A New Look at Adolescent Girls*. Eds. N. Johnson, M. Roberts, J. Worrell. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association 1999: 25-52.
- Eisenberg ME, Neumark-Sztainer D, Story M, Perry C. “The Role of Social Norms and Friends' Influences on Unhealthy Weight-Control Behaviors among Adolescent Girls.” *Social Science and Medicine* 2005 Mar;60(6):1165-73.
- Denmark, FL. “Enhancing the Development of Adolescent Girls.” In *Beyond Appearance: A New Look at Adolescent Girls*. Eds. N. Johnson, M. Roberts, J. Worrell. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association 1999: 377-404.

April 19      **Gender Roles and Adolescent Reproductive Health**

**Readings**

- Bohmer L, Kirumira EK. “Socio-Economic Context and the Sexual Behavior of Ugandan Out of School Youth.” *Culture, Health & Sexuality* 2000, 2(3): 269-285.
- Tolman, DL. “Female Adolescent Sexuality in Relational Context: Beyond Sexual Decision-Making.” In *Beyond Appearance: A New Look at Adolescent Girls*. Eds. N. Johnson, M. Roberts, J. Worrell. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association 1999: 227-246.
- Silverman JG, Raj A, Mucci LA, Hathaway JE. “Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality.” *JAMA*. 2001 Aug 1;286(5):572-9.
- Driscoll A, Brindis C, Biggs A, Valderrama T. *Priorities, Progress and Promise: A Chartbook on Latino Adolescent Reproductive Health*. University of California, San Francisco, 2004. Chapters 6-7: 46-62.      **<To be distributed separately.>**

April 21      **Motherhood Roles, Women’s Work and Children’s Health**

**Readings**

- Buxton, J. “The Myth of the Earthmother, the Perfect Family, and the End of Crime,” in *Ending the Mother War: Starting the Workplace Revolution*. London, UK: Macmillan Pubs, 1998, 137-166.
- Ukwuani FA, Suchindran CM. Implications of women's work for child nutritional status in sub-Saharan Africa: a case study of Nigeria. *Social Science and Medicine* 2003 May; 56(10):2109-21.

- Thairu L. "Infant Feeding Options for Mothers with HIV – Using Women's Insights to Guide Policy." *Nutrition and HIV/AIDS*, ACC/SCN Nutrition Policy Paper , 2001, No. 20: 63-69.
- Wamani H, Tylleskar T, Astrom AN, Tumwine JK, Peterson S. Mothers' education but not fathers' education, household assets or land ownership is the best predictor of child health inequalities in rural Uganda. *International Journal of Equity in Health* 2004 Oct 13;3(1):9-17.

April 26

### **Early Marriage and Early Motherhood Roles**

Writing assignment #2 distributed

#### **Readings**

- Buvinic M, Valenzuela JP, Molina T, Gonzalez E. "The Fortunes of Adolescent Mothers and Their Children: The Transmission of Poverty in Santiago, Chile," *Population and Development Review* 1992, 18(2): 269-297.
- Mikhail, SLB. "Childhood Marriage and Child Prostitution: Two Forms of Sexual Exploitation." *Gender and Development*, Mar 2002, 10(1): 43-49.
- Luker, K. *Dubious Conceptions: The Politics of Teenage Pregnancy*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1996: 134-174.
- Clark, S. "Early Marriage and HIV Risks in Sub-Saharan Africa." *Studies in Family Planning* 2004; 35 (3): 149-60.

April 28

### **Women's Work and Women's Physical Health**

#### **Readings**

- Browner C, Leslie J. "Women, Work, and Household Health in the Context of Development." In Sargent CF, Brettell CB, *Gender and Health: An International Perspective*. Prentice-Hall, 1996: 260-77.
- Ahmad-Nia S. "Women's Work and Health in Iran: A Comparison of Working and Non-Working Mothers." *Social Science and Medicine* 2002, 54:753-765.
- Lahelma E, Arber S, Kivela K, Roos E. "Multiple Roles and Health among British and Finnish Women: The Influence of Socioeconomic Circumstances." *Social Science and Medicine* 2002, 54: 727-740.
- Swanson B, Becker A. "Women's Health in the Workplace." In K. Allen and J. Phillips, *Women's Health Across the Lifespan*. Lippencott: Philadelphia, 1997, 489-511.

May 3      **Women's Sex Work, Gender Roles and Health**

**Readings**

- Vanwesenbeeck, I. “Another Decade of Social Scientific Work on Sex Work: A Review of Research 1990-2000.” *Annual Review of Sex Research*. Vol 12, 2001: 242-289.
- Castaneda X, Ortiz V, Allen B, Garcia C, Hernandez-Avila M. “Sex Masks: The Double Life of Female Commercial Sex Workers in Mexico City,” *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* 20, 1996:229-247.
- Elmore-Meegan M, Conroy RM, Agala CB. “Sex Workers in Kenya, Numbers of Clients and Associated Risks: An Exploratory Survey.” *Reprod Health Matters*. 2004 May;12(23):50-7.

May 5      **Women's Work and Women's Mental Health**

Writing assignment #2 due

**Readings**

- Barnett RC. “Women and Multiple Roles: Myths and Reality.” *Harvard Review of Psychiatry* 2004, 12(3): 158-164.
- Warner J. “Mommy Madness.” *Newsweek*, February 21, 2005, 42-49.
- Rivera R, Torres MI, Carré FJ. “Role Burdens: The Impact of Employment and Family Responsibilities on the Health Status of Latino Women,” *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* 1997, 8(1):99-113.
- Maclean H, Glynn K, Ansara D. “Multiple Roles and Women's Mental Health in Canada.” *BMC Womens Health*. 2004 Aug 25; 4 Suppl 1:S3, 1-9.

May 10      **Midterm**

**Designing a research proposal**

Guidelines for final paper will be distributed

**Reading**

- Gross R, Karyadi D, Sastroamidjojo S, Schultink W. “Guidelines for the Development of Research Proposals Following a Structured, Holistic Approach for a Research Proposal (SHARP),” *Food and Nutrition Bulletin* 1998, 19(3):268-282.

May 12      **Women's Roles, Domestic Violence and Health**

**Readings**

- Heise L, Ellsberg M, Gottmoeller M. “A Global Overview of Gender-Based Violence.” *International Journal of Gynaecology and Obstetrics*. 2002 Sep;78 Suppl 1:S5-14.
- McNutt LA, Carlson BE, Persaud M, Postmus J. “Cumulative Abuse Experiences, Physical Health and Health Behaviors.” *Annals of Epidemiol* 2002 Feb;12(2):123-30.
- Velzeboer M, Ellsberg M, Arcas CC, Garcia-Moreno C. *Violence Against Women: The Health Sector Responds*, chapters 1, 2 and 3. Pan American Health Organization, 2003: 1-25.
- Amoakohone MI. “Violence Against Women in Ghana: A Look at Women's Perceptions and Review of Policy and Social Responses.” *Social Science and Medicine* 2004, 59: 2373-2385.

May 17      **Women's Roles and Sexual Health**

**Readings**

- The Working Group for a New View of Women's Sexual Problems. “A New View of Women's Sexual Problems.” *Women and Therapy* 2002, 3: 1-8.
- Candib LM. “A New View of Women's Sexual Problems—A Family Physician's Response.” *Women and Therapy* 2002, 3: 9-15.
- Ilkcaracan P. “Women, Sexuality, and Social Change in the Middle East and the Magrheb.” *Social Research*, Fall 2002, 69, 3:753-779.
- Yount K. “Like Mother, Like Daughter? Female Genital Cutting in Minia, Egypt.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 2002, 43, 3: 336-358.

May 19      **Women's Roles and HIV/AIDS**

**Readings**

- Turmen T. “Gender and HIV/AIDS.” *Int J Gynaecol Obstet*, 2003 Sep;82(3):411-18.
- Amaro H. “Love, Sex and Power: Considering Women's Realities in HIV Prevention.” *American Psychologist* 1995, 50:437-447.
- Zambrana RE, Cornelius LJ, Boykin SS, Lopez DS. “Latinas and HIV/AIDS Risk Factors: Implications for Harm Reduction Strategies.” *Am J Public Health*. 2004 Jul;94(7):1152-8.

- Takyi BK. "Religion and Women's Health in Ghana: Insights into HIV/AIDS Preventive and Protective Behavior." *Social Science and Medicine* 2003, 56: 1221-1234.
- Nath, MB. "Women's Health and HIV: Experience from a Sex Workers' Project in Calcutta." *Gender and Development*, March 2000, 8(1): 100-108.

May 24

**Women's Roles as Dual Caretakers****Readings**

- Musil C, Schrader S, Mutikani J. "Social Support, Stress, and Special Coping Tasks of Grandmother Caregivers." In Cox C, ed. *To Grandmother's House We Go and Stay: Perspectives on Custodial Grandparents* New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company, 2000, 56-70.
- Olesen VL. "Who Cares? Women as Informal and Formal Caregivers." In Ruzek SB, Olesen VL, Clarke AE, eds. *Women's Health: Complexities and Differences*. Columbus, Ohio: Ohio State University Press, 1997, 397-424.
- Chisholm J. "The Sandwich Generation." *Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless*, 1999, Vol. 8, No. 3: 177-191.

May 26

**Women's Roles and Chronic Diseases, Aging****Readings**

- Hedelin B, Strandmark M. "The Meaning of Mental Health from Elderly Women's Perspectives: A Basis for Health Promotion." *Perspect Psychiatr Care*. 2001 Jan-Mar;37(1):7-14.
- Sarkadi A, Rosenqvist U. "Social Network and Role Demands in Women's Type 2 Diabetes: A Model." *Health Care for Women International* 2002, 23:600-611.
- Jones VY, Estes CL. "Older Women: Income, Retirement and Health." In Ruzek SB, Olesen VL, Clarke AE, eds. *Women's Health: Complexities and Differences*. Columbus, Ohio: Ohio State University Press, 1997, 425-446.
- Derose KP, Duan N, Fox SA. "Women's Receptivity to Church-based Mobile Mammography." *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* 2002, 13(2): 199-213, 2002.

May 31      **Student Presentations on Research Proposals**

June 2      **Student Presentations on Research Proposals**

June 7      **Student Presentations on Research Proposals**

June 9      **Women's Health, Women's Rights and a Vision for the Future**

Final paper due at beginning of class.

**Readings**

- Sinding S. "Health and Hope, Rights and Responsibilities: Action Agenda, Global Roundtable, Countdown 2015." *Reproductive Health Matters* 2004; 12 (24): 154-159.
  
- Kabira WM, Gachukia EW, Mtiangi FO. "The Effect of Women's Role on Health: The Paradox." *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics* 1997, 58:23-24.
  
- Strobino DM, Grason H, Minkovitz C. "Charting a Course for the Future of Women's Health in the United States: Concepts, Findings and Recommendations." *Social Science and Medicine* 2002, 54: 839-848.