





- Zimmerman, “Health care as a gendered system” and “Men, women, health and illness”
  - Lesley Doyal, “What makes women sick” (introduction)
  
- Sept 9 Historical introduction to women’s health and health care**
  - Weisman, *Women’s Health Care*, Chapt. 1-2
  - Ratcliff, Chapt. 1-2
 Key concepts in women’s health: medicalization
  
- Sept 16 No class. Field assignment: mass media**
  
- Sept 23 Beauty and/or health**
  - *Beauty Myth* (Intro, Work and Violence chapters)  
discussion leader
  - Ratcliff, Chapt. 8
  - Ehrenreich and English, “Sexual Politics of Sickness”  
discussion leader
  
- Sept 30 Sex and reproductive health**
  - Ratcliff, Chapt. 11-14 - discussion leaders
 Video: “Fire Eyes” (female circumcision/genital mutilation)  
(comment paper)
  
- Oct 7 AIDS, gender dominance and inequality**
  - Ratcliff, Chapt. 5 – discussion leader:
  - (AIDS) Selection from *Gena Corea, The Invisible Epidemic*  
discussion leader
 Video: forced sex workers (comment paper)
  
- Oct 14 Patterns of health care use and delivery issues**
  - Weisman, Chapt 3-4Integrative paper due
  
- Oct 21 Chronic diseases and aging**
  - Ratcliff, Chapt. 7, 9-10
  - Paula Lantz and Karen Booth, “The Social Construction of the Breast Cancer Epidemic”  
discussion leader

- Oct 28 Paid and unpaid care work**  
□Ratcliff, *Chapt. 4*  
□Zimmerman, “*The Impact of Care Work on Mothers in Contrasting Welfare Regimes: U.S. and Finland*” and Litt and Zimmerman, “*Global Perspectives on Gender and Care Work*”  
Guest speaker: Husband and wife caregivers in Alzheimer’s Disease
- Nov 4 Women as health care consumers—activism, organization and policy**  
□Weisman, *Women’s Health Care, Chapt. 4-5* - discussion leaders  
□Thomas and Zimmerman, “*Hospital-Sponsored Women’s Health Centers*”
- Nov 11, 18, Dec 3, 10 Group presentations**  
Class papers due at the beginning of class on December 10

### **Class paper guidelines**

Due: December 10, 2003

Length: 20 pages excluding bibliography

Topic: Any women’s health or health care topic, subject to instructor approval

Your paper should include the following:

- 1) A brief description of the medical nature of the problem, including the prognosis—that is, the likelihood of recovery, the chances of death or disability, etc—and the medical consequences for those affected. If your paper concerns a health issue rather than a specific disease or condition, then you will be expected to discuss the origins of the issue and the various considerations and arguments involved with it.
- 2) Some indication of the causes and risk factors, if known.
- 3) Overall rates of frequency for the disease in the U.S. and some discussion of whether there are differences depending on age, race, socio-economic status and gender. You can find some of this information at the National Center for Health Statistics website: [www.cdc.gov/nchs/data](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data).
- 4) Information on whether all women have access to health care for this condition or problem. *Each paper should include the social/political issues connected to this*

*health problem and specifically address the issue of gender inequalities in health care. Does gender inequality affect the causes, prevention, diagnosis, treatment/rehabilitation and research concerning this problem or condition? If you are writing about an issue, then how does gender inequality affect this issue?*

- 5) Your bibliography should go beyond the required and recommended readings for this course. Part of your grade will reflect your efforts to research your topic. At the same time, you will be expected to integrate relevant course readings into your paper.
- 6) Paper format and style should conform to the departmental guidelines attached to your course syllabus