Two very powerful social institutions, Medicine and the Media have grown in prominence both apart, as well as alongside, one another in the US particularly as of late. Just think of the numerous television series and special feature films dedicated to physicians, addiction disorders, forensic pathology and even the numerous doctor-directed self-help shows set in an “almost” clinical talk show format. No matter whether in television, newsprint, documentaries, feature films or radio programs, it is clear the language of all that is medical is pervasive and persuasive both on a pure informational level as well as for our own entertainment. This seminar will create, I hope, a dialogue about the development of these institutions as mingled, as well as the consequences to the culture so clearly shaped with and by them. I expect the seminar to be highly influenced by the discussions each week and therefore, I have decided to create an open (working) syllabus to encourage as much “student shaping” as possible. For one reason, that being that so many students get their “news,” medical and otherwise, from the Internet, it is important to have discussions on how you, the student, “see” the news that is medical, through your own media experiences.

Course Goals:
Students will develop both critical thinking and analytical skills by way of their understanding a sociological perspective in both Media and Medicine. As a result of regular, in-depth discussion, students will become comfortable in expressing and presenting ideas in a small group of peers and most importantly, will become acquainted with the more expanded notions of how these two social institutions function and oftentimes, malfunction. One of the key intentions of the course is to help students to see the dynamic processes that social institutions surely play in their lives and certainly, culturally, over time.

Course Requirements:
Students are expected to be present for the class meetings each week. Students who miss more than two meetings will not pass the course. There will be several readings that will be provided in class and may be available (as well) on Blackboard.

Students will view, read and discuss various materials (from the media) that will be presented in class as well as required from outside of class. I will expect you to cull many media resources on your own. Student participation is critical to the seminar and therefore will count positively to the final grade.

At the conclusion of the seminar, students will be expected to write a five-page essay on one of the topics presented—which will be letter graded.

HDV Program Attendance Requirement: HDV Students are required to attend at least one (1) HDV Academic Event and one (1) HDV Social Event during the Spring Semester. Reminders about upcoming events will be sent via email and posted on the HDV Facebook HDV Program Attendance Requirement: HDV Students are required to attend at least one (1) HDV Academic Event and one (1) HDV Social Event during the Spring Semester. Reminders about upcoming
events will be sent via email and posted on the HDV Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/hdvcares Students can also check the HDV website for event updates and information: http://ucolleges.stonybrook.edu/hdv. HDV Students are also required to attend the Spring Commons Day Event being held on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 and the HDV End of Year Celebration on Thursday, May 1, 2014

**Academic Integrity Statement:** Each student must pursue his or her own academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person’s work as your own is always wrong. Any suspected instance of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Judiciary website at: http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/

**Special Considerations:**
If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, room 128 (631.632.6748). They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. Students with any other special needs are encouraged to discuss them with me in advance of course requirements. https://web.stonybrook.edu/newfaculty/StudentResources/Pages/DisabilitySupportServices.aspx.

**Critical Incident Management:** Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of University Community Standards any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students’ ability to learn.

**Syllabus**

**First class:** Thursday, Jan 30th
Orientation
1) How do the Media and Medicine influence one another and more importantly, influence us? How is Medicine filtered as information and entertainment?

2) Create a working list of the media sites (and topics) to be reviewed

Week 2, Feb 6th
What is Medicalization?

Are we as a culture obsessed with all things medical—and digitalized information?

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Weeks 3-7
We will be discussing topics and reviewing films that include:
Health Care Reform—why does health care really cost so much?
Is there really such a thing as an Obesity epidemic?
Can Americans really accept Addiction as a disease?
Why do we have increasing rates of mental illness in the US and at the same time, appear to not view it as seriously as we do physical (medical) illness—as evidenced by our failure to pay for treatment and the care of the mentally ill in the ways we need to given its seriousness?

(We may also discuss the rise in Autism and other diseases “on the rise” as time permits)
Last Day of class Thursday, March 12th

The written assignment (details to be discussed in class) is due by the last day of classes for the term (May 9th) However, it is strongly encouraged that you hand in the assignment within two weeks of our last meeting.

Additional items (perhaps) of interest to students:

The following link refers you to the Academic Policies and Regulations section of the on-line Undergraduate Bulletin:
http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/policies_expectations/min_instructional_student_resp.php

The following link is a brief guide to 'Student Success Resources' that are available on our campus: https://ucolleges.stonybrook.edu/links/academic-success-resources.pdf.

Academic Success and Tutoring Center: http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_success/

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