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You replied on 2021-02-04 00:27.

Hi, Alexi!

Your course was of course approved in the program council today. And people were generally enthusiastic.

Some (including me) had some suggestions or ideas for topics to cover in the course that I was asked to summarize and send you so that you can consider them if you find them relevant. You are of course for the most part free to define the main topics of the course.

My suggestion (added some detail after the meeting):

I miss a historical backdrop explaining how and why population health has improved so much. Keywords here are sanitation, nutrition, housing conditions, hygiene, vaccines, antibiotics etc; essentially a population health perspective on the process of modernization and urbanization. As you know, many of the great advancements in health are not primarily due to medical innovations, but rather policy and social reforms (as you point to in the course description), including sewage systems, housing regulations, the promotion of hand washing, the introduction of the potato (especially in Norway where this reduced the frequency of failing harvests and starvation, and contributed to a shift from husbandry) etc, but also more recent efforts to reduce smoking (or increase condom usage) etc. Particularly relevant here is the classical John Snow study of cholera.

One relevant contribution (in Norwegian) is noted below, but there are many more that may be more suitable.

Alsvik, B. (2005). "Levekår og helse - Eksemplet Kristiania: Sunnhetspoliti i bolig og på torg.", i Larsen m.fl. (red), Helse og Nasjonsbygging, Gyldendal Akademisk, s.39-80. K

*****Thank you for these suggestions, I have now added a suggested Norwegian reference as well as Colgrove (002) article on the McKeown thesis.**

Bjørn's suggestion:

Foucault's study of "bio-power", life-power, or population-power. This is covered in secondary literature on Foucault.

Also, the health systems' contribution to the construction of "stigmatized others"; mental illness, homosexuality etc.

Both of these are topics that can be treated as aspects of health inequalities, and both are covered by Foucault.

The students would be interested in this.

*****Some of the mentioned topics will be covered now in Lecture 2 on "sociologies of Illness and Conceptualizations of Impairment and Disability" which will be lead by Jan Grue.**

Suggestions from programme council representatives (I forgot to note who said what - sorry):

Environment and health [local pollution might be particularly relevant here]

*****This suggestion is taken into account in Lecture 12 where we elaborate on planetary health.**

Critical perspectives on what is defined as health, disease, population etc (see Bjørn's suggestion)

*****Please see the second lecture led by Jan Grue.**

Suggestion from Eirik [submitted after the meeting]:

When I read the course description, I realized that there are some health sociologists who also research inequality in connection with 'death and dying.' How is that process different in different countries, populations, etc. And became curious about whether this is something he intends to address. Will maybe be a slightly different 'camp' but thought I should mention it to you anyway so you can bring it forward as part of the list of input you received in the meeting.

*****This is an excellent suggestion but due to multiple topics covered in this syllabus, it is difficult to introduce it there as of now. Yet, I will have this in mind when revising the syllabus for the next year).**