Soc 8590:
Work, Health, and Well-Being
Fall 2004
11:45-2:15 Mondays
Room: 1114 SST

Instructor
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Office Hours:
1123 SST
Mondays: 10:00 - 11:00
Tuesdays: 10:00-11:00

Course Description and Goals:
This class introduces perspectives on the life course in relation to work, mental and physical health, and gender. We focus on three broad themes. The first theme is that occupational and organizational structures and interactions around work promote health and illness. The second theme is that this is a dynamic, recursive process, producing and reproducing disparities in health and health-related resources. The third theme is that the work-health interface, the social organization of work and of health-care, and strategic patterns of self-care vary across time and culture. Specific goals are:

- To introduce major theories and perspectives on health and work over the life course. This introduction will draw from life course sociology, life span psychology, and the epidemiology of health and illness.
- To review research evidence on work and health, including mental health.
- To demonstrate ways epidemiologists, sociologists, and psychologists measure well-being, mental disorder, psychological distress, chronic and acute illness onset, life events and chronic difficulties, daily hassles, social support and social integration, and coping and appraisal of stressors.
- To discuss major methodological and theoretical challenges in this area of research.
- To lay out important “next steps” in developing a work, health, and well-being research agenda.

Class participants will gain a broad overview of the topic area, as well as the challenges introduced by incorporating the life course (as time, structure, and context) into the study of work and the mental and physical well-being of men and women. The life course reflects the complex interplay between:

- *Biological time*, including physical and cognitive development and age-related health trajectories;
• **Biographical time**, involving social and institutional clocks, career paths, role entries, and pathways and exits, along with changes in resources, risks, and relationships—all of which relate to health;

• **Subjective time**, identity, motivation, and cognitive assessments as people move into and through educational, occupational, family, community and retirement pathways – in shifting social contexts and in tandem with significant others;

• **Institutional time**, including public and organizational clocks, as well as policy regimes related to norms of timing, sequencing, and duration of role entries, exits, and trajectories -- the social organization of age, gender, health-related behaviors, and health care;

• **Historical time**, including demographic, organizational, economic, and cultural change, unanticipated events, the environment, and the links between *individuals* and *institutions* as they play out in historical and organizational contexts.

**Course Requirements:**
Class participants will read and discuss the required materials in light of the course goals as well as whatever expertise they may bring to this class. Participants will actively engage in this spirit of inquiry, including leading the discussion from time to time. Other expectations:

• Write and present a paper providing either a *broad overview* or investigating a *specific* substantive *topic* (This could be the investigation of specific occupational or organizational career paths, their relationship to stress or other outcomes; a literature review of a particular health-related construct, theory, moderator or mediator); or a *broader macro-level focus* on the social construction and policy development of health behaviors, health-related institutional arrangements, health inequalities, and/or the culture around health risks, behaviors, and definitions. There will be three graded assignments related to this paper:
  1. a short literature review paper (10-15 pages) on a topic related to your final project,
  2. an oral presentation on your final project,
  3. the final written project.

• Provide written and oral feedback to at least one other student.

• Participants will also be evaluated on weekly class discussion participation.
Course Plan:

Week 1
Monday, September 13th
Concepts and Definitions: Work, Health, and Well-Being
1. Introduction to the course.
2. What is the distinction between the terms "life course" and "life span"?
3. What do we mean by "work"? "health"?

Readings:


Week 2
Monday, September 20th
Historical Contexts: The Changing Nature of Work, The Changing Infrastructure of Health


**Week 3**  
**Monday, September 27**

**Establishing the Phenomenon: Work, Health, and Well-Being, and the Life Course**

Available at [www.JSTOR.org](http://www.JSTOR.org) --may have to enter through library web site.


Available at [www.JSTOR.org](http://www.JSTOR.org) --may have to enter through library web site.

Available at [www.JSTOR.org](http://www.JSTOR.org) --may have to enter through library web site.

[http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/toc/psych/52/1;jsessionid=jmhLnnNLLNq3b](http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/toc/psych/52/1;jsessionid=jmhLnnNLLNq3b)

**Week 4**  
**Monday, October 4**

**The Health Gradient: What is it? What Does it Mean?**

Homepage—click on “Tables of Contents and Abstracts” on the right hand side of the page—then search by volume.

Available at [www.JSTOR.org](http://www.JSTOR.org) --may have to enter through library web site.


Available at www.JSTOR.org --may have to enter through library web site.


http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=JournalURL&_cdi=5925&_auth=y&_acct=C000032378&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=616288&md5=a7b4c269bca25ce68b9982a641ad25a

This is the current Social Science and Medicine page, in the search box at the top, put “Siegrist, Johannes” in the subject line and hit “search this journal” The article will be the second one that comes up.


http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=JournalURL&_cdi=5925&_auth=y&_acct=C000032378&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=616288&md5=a7b4c269bca25ce68b9982a641ad25a

This is the current Social Science and Medicine page, in the search box at the top, put “John Warren” in the subject line and hit “search this journal” The article will be the first one that comes up.

Tentative Title and Paragraph Description of your Project Due

Week 5
Monday, October 11th
Are there “Good” and “Bad” Jobs?


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Available at www.JSTOR.org --may have to enter through library web site.


This is the current Social Science and Medicine page, in the search box at the top, put “Grzywacz, Joseph” in the subject line and hit “search this journal” The article will be the first one that comes up.


(M Copy in box).


From Ingenta—may have to enter from library web site.

http://www.ingenta.com/isis/browsing/TOC/ingenta;jsessionid=2dc5i01u2ontn.cresco?issue=pubinfobike://els/02779536/2003/00000056/00000002

The article is #6—click “Science Direct”—when the next link opens, click on “view pdf” over in the box on the right.

Week 6

Monday, October 18th

**Conditions at Work: What Matters? What Can be Changed?**


From Ingenta—may have to enter from library web site


The article is #9—click “science direct” then, at the next web page, click on “science direct” again, at the next page, click “pdf” in the green box on the right.


Available at www.JSTOR.org —may have to enter through library web site.


http://www.kluweronline.com/issn/0303-8300/current

you will have to search backward using the “previous issue” button. The article is in June 2004, Volume 67, Issue 1-2

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**Week 7**
Monday, October 25th

**Job Strain and Latitude: Direct or Interaction Effects? Contingencies?**
http://www.apa.org/journals/ocp/past.html

Click on “psychARTICLES Direct” then search “Bosma, Hans” and hit enter, it will be the first article that comes up.

http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=JournalURL&_cdi=5925&_auth=y&_acct=C000032378&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=616288&md5=a7b4c269bcba25ce68b9982a641ad25a&chunk=x

This is the current Social Science and Medicine page, in the search box at the top, put “Elovianio, Marko” in the subject line and hit “search this journal” The article will be the first one that comes up.

http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/abstract/107581929/ABSTRACT

http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=JournalURL&_cdi=5925&_auth=y&_acct=C000032378&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=616288&md5=a7b4c269bcba25ce68b9982a641ad25a

This is the current Social Science and Medicine page, in the search box at the top, put “Bobak, Martin” in the subject line and hit “search this journal” The article will be the first one that comes up.

Week 8  
Monday, November 1st  
Health Pathways and Gender: Why the Gaps?  
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[http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=JournalURL&_cdi=5925&_auth=y&_acct=C000032378&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=616288&md5=a7b4c269bcba25ce68b9982a641ad25a](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=JournalURL&_cdi=5925&_auth=y&_acct=C000032378&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=616288&md5=a7b4c269bcba25ce68b9982a641ad25a)  
This is the current Social Science and Medicine page, in the search box at the top, put “Chandola, Tarani” in the subject line and hit “search this journal” The article will be the second one that comes up.

[http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=JournalURL&_cdi=5925&_auth=y&_acct=C000032378&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=616288&md5=a7b4c269bcba25ce68b9982a641ad25a](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=JournalURL&_cdi=5925&_auth=y&_acct=C000032378&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=616288&md5=a7b4c269bcba25ce68b9982a641ad25a)  
This is the current Social Science and Medicine page, in the search box at the top, put “Klumb, Petra” in the subject line and hit “search this journal” The article will be the second one that comes up.


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Week 9
Monday, November 8th

Roles, Role Changes, and Well-Being: Can We Capture Lives and Health on a Moving Platform of Change?

http://www.apa.org/journals/psp/past.html

click on “psychARTICLES Direct” then search “Barnett, Rosalind C” and hit enter, it will be the third article that comes up.

http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/jhome/4691

On the right, put in the volume number (18) and the first page number (253) then hit “go”

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Available at www.JSTOR.org --may have to enter through library web site.

http://www.bc.edu/centers/crr/public_wor_2002.shtml

Available at www.JSTOR.org --may have to enter through library web site.
**Week 10**  
**Monday, November 15th**  

**Work-Family Conflict and Spillover**


From Ingenta—may have to enter from library web site  
[http://www.ingenta.com/journals/browse/sage/j264?mode=direct](http://www.ingenta.com/journals/browse/sage/j264?mode=direct)

(Copy in box).


Available at [www.JSTOR.org](http://www.JSTOR.org) --may have to enter through library web site.

(Copy in box).

Click on “psychARTICLES Direct” then search “Thomas, Linda Thiede” and hit enter, it will be the first article that comes up.

**Week 11**  
**Monday, November 22nd**  

**Multiple Roles, Moderators, and Mechanisms**

Click on “psychARTICLES Direct” then search “Bolger, Niall” and hit enter, it will be the third article that comes up.

[http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/abstract/102528500/ABSTRACT](http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/abstract/102528500/ABSTRACT)  

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Click on “psychARTICLES Direct” then search “Greenhaus, Jeffrey H.” and hit enter, it will be the first article that comes up.


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**Week 12**

**Monday, November 29th**

**Interventions?**


Click on “science direct” then click on “pdf” in the box on the right


Click on “science direct” then click on “pdf” in the box on the right

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**Project Presentations**
Week 13
Monday December 6th
The Long Arm of the Job
http://thorax.bmjournals.com/cgi/reprint/54/4/357
(Copy in box).
http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/AJS/journal/issues/v107n1/050215/050215.web.pdf
From Ingenta—may have to enter through library web site 

Project Presentations

Final Project Due

Week 14
Monday December 13th
Project Presentations and Review
Useful Web References:
AFL-CIO: www.aflcio.org
American Society of Training and Development: www.astd.org
Americans United for Affirmative Action: www.auaaa.org
American with Disabilities Act: www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm
Census Bureau Homepage: www.census.gov
http://www.census.gov/hhes/income/earnings/call1mboth.html
http://www.census.gov/hhes/income/earnings/
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: www.cbpp.org
Centers for Disease Control www.cdc.gov/
EconData.net: Your Guide to Regional Economic Data: www.econdata.net
Economic Policy Institute: www.epinet.org
Employee Benefit Research Institute: www.ebri.org
Income Page: www.census.gov/hhes/www/income.html
Juggling Work and Family: www.pbs.org/workfamily
National Center for Health Statistics: www.cdc.gov/nchs/
National Institute of Health www.nih.gov/
National Institute on Aging www.nia.nih.gov/
NewWork News: www.newwork.com
OECD publications scheduled for release from November 2003 through January 2004:
http://www.oecdwash.org/PUBS/BOOKS/RP041/rp041cov.htm
Population Reference Bureau: www.prb.org
Progressive Policy Institute (work, family, and community): www.ppionline.org
Project on Global Working Families: www.hsph.harvard.edu/globalworkingfamilies
Public Agenda www.publicagenda.com
School-to-work: www.stw.ed.gov
SLOAN Work and Family Network Literature Database:
http://library.bc.edu:4545/ALEPH/-/start/bcl03
Workers with Disabilities: www.worksupport.com