

Eric Bulakites
Emory University
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Public Health in France: Liberté, Égalité, Santé?

This course begins with an overview of the historical, cultural, and social underpinnings of France's public health system that has come to be regarded as one of the best in the world. Early readings will focus on how the purported values of fair and equal access to healthcare date back to the French Revolution and the founding principles of the French Republic. Students will then study the structure and functioning of France's public health system while developing the technical vocabulary necessary to discuss healthcare.

As part of gaining a deep understanding of the current state of public health in France, we will also analyze recent studies comparing France's healthcare system to that of other nations. Students will also critically analyze whether the system has always equally met the needs of all those residing in France or not. This portion of the course includes a close analysis of healthcare within historically marginalized groups, particularly racial and ethnic minorities, immigrants, women, and LGBTQ individuals. When looking at who has been underserved by the public health system, the class will engage with empirical public health studies as well as fictional films and literature. A central object of study will be authors' and filmmakers' stylistic and narrative strategies for intervening in debates on healthcare and highlighting the inequalities and shortcomings of France's public system.

Through the study of stories of healthcare in marginalized communities, students will analyze to what extent the values of *liberté, égalité, fraternité* are equally applicable to everyone in the domain of *santé*. We will interrogate the degree to which personal stories fit into healthcare professionals' training and practice. One of our central questions will be: when and how are patients able to share their own experiences and who has a responsibility to listen to these narratives?

Week 1: Values and Philosophy

- Article: Kerleau, Monique. "La politique de santé en France. De l'État-providence à l'État-précaution." In: *Économie appliquée*, n°1, Mars 2007. pp. 127-152.

Week 2: Founding Principles, Structure, and Terms

- Article: Borgetto, Michel. "Santé et action sociale : d'hier à aujourd'hui." *Les Tribunes de la santé*, 2013/1 n° 38, 2013. p.29-40.
- Article: "Le système de santé en France." *Centre des liaisons européennes et internationales de sécurité sociale (CLEISS)*.
- Video: "Sais-tu comment est organisé le système de santé français ?"
- Excerpts from: Mourlhon-Dallies and Jacqueline Tolas. *Santé-médecine.com*. CLE International. 2004.

Week 3: The Language of Medicine

- Film: *Toubib*. Dir. Antoine Page, 2024.
- Excerpts from: Mourlhon-Dallies and Jacqueline Tolas. *Santé-médecine.com*. CLE International. 2004.
- Excerpts from: Fassier, Thomas and Solange Talavera-Goy. *Le Français des Médecins*. Presses universitaires de Grenoble. 2023.

Week 4: Systemic Challenges

- Film: *Dans le ventre de l'hôpital*. Dir. Jérôme le Maire. 2016.

- Government Report: “La situation économique et financière des hôpitaux publics”
- Article: Bizard, Frédéric, "Le financement de la santé risque d'imploser"
- Article: “La financiarisation du système de soins n'est pas inéluctable”

Week 5: Comparisons

- Government study: “France : Profil de santé par pays 2023”
- Government study: “Les systèmes de santé dans l'UE - Étude comparative”- p. 69-75
- Article: Pierru, Frédéric. “Comparaison de quatre systèmes de santé : Allemagne, Grande-Bretagne, France, États-Unis.” *La santé, un enjeu de société*, Éditions Sciences Humaines, 2021.
- Article: Jaeggy, Céline. “Vaut-il mieux être malade en France ou aux États-Unis?”

Week 6: Healthcare for immigrants

- Film: *La Permanence*. Dir. Alice Diop, 2016.
- Article: Gosselin, Anne and Matthieu Ichou. “La santé au fil du temps et des générations.” (Excerpts).
- Article: Fanon, Frantz. “Le ‘syndrome Nord-Africain.’” *Esprit* no. 187 (2), 1952, pp. 237–48.

Week 7: Healthcare and Race

- Film: *Bienvenue à Marly Gaumont*. Dir. Julien Rimbaldi, 2016.
- Article: Carde, Estelle. “De l'origine à la santé, quand l'ethnique et la race croisent la classe.”

Week 8: Healthcare and Race

- Book: Kinouani, Guilaine. *La vie en noir: Comment vivre dans une société blanche*. DUNOD, 2022.

Week 9: Women's healthcare

- Comic: Frages, Anne-Laure and Dessin Bast. “Simone Veil : La loi sur l'avortement.” 2020.
- Book : Algrain, Isabelle, ed. *Les femmes, leurs soins, leurs médecins*. Université des Femmes, 2018. (Excerpts)

Week 10: Women's Healthcare

- Book : Ernaux, Annie. *L'événement*. Gallimard, 2000.
- Article : Valenti, Catherine. “1972: Les Procès de Bobigny.” 2022.

Week 11: LGBTQ Healthcare

- Book Chapter: Alessandrin, Arnaud, et al. “Santé LGBT: Introduction.” *Santé LGBT: les minorités de genre et de sexualité face aux soins* (2020).
- Film: *120 Battements par minute*, Dir. Robin Campillo, 2017.

Week 12: Geography and class

- Article: Vigneron, Emmanuel. “Inégalités de santé, inégalités de soins dans les territoires français,” 2013.
- Government report: *L'accès des soins des “migrants” en Île de France*, 2017. (Excerpts).
- Article: Mariette, Audrey and Laure Pitti. “Médecin de première ligne dans un quartier populaire.” 2016.
- Novel: Coven, Francis. *Journal d'un médecin de banlieue*, Editions de La Martinière, 2003.

Week 13: Healthcare in overseas territories and departments

- Article: Poudroux, Mathieu, and Josette Vallée. “Accès aux soins premiers à la Réunion et en Métropole.” *Médecine* 15.7 (2019)
- Article: Carde, Estelle. “Le système de soins français à l'épreuve de l'outre-mer: des inégalités en Guyane.” 2009.