This course will introduce students to historical, epidemiological and sociological perspectives on the impact of corporations on population health. Through in-depth investigations of selected industries, products and practices, students will analyze the changing pathways and mechanisms by which corporate practices influence the health of consumers and workers and of the environment in both the developed and the developing world. The class will also consider public health and other responses to harmful corporate practices. Among the topics to be studied are lead in paint and gasoline, automobiles, tobacco, food and beverages, alcohol and firearms. Students will write a case study of a specific industry or product.

**Course Objectives:**

At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Describe changing political, economic, social and technological influences on corporate practices in the 20th and early 21st centuries,
2. Analyze the impact of various corporate practices on health over time and space,
3. Describe the pathways by which corporate practices such as advertising, product design, retail distribution and pricing influence health and the environment,
4. Compare the health consequences of production and consumption,
5. Describe and critique various methods for assessing health consequences of various industries, companies and products,
6. Discuss the contributions of various disciplinary perspectives to understanding the health impact of corporations, and
7. Analyze and assess the effectiveness of various strategies (e.g., regulation, education, social mobilization, corporate responsibility, etc) in changing corporate practices that influence health.

This course contributes to the following **DPH Program Objectives**

| 1. | Describe the role of social, political, biological, economic, historical, behavioral and environmental factors in health and disease in urban settings and identify opportunities for interventions to improve population health at individual, community, city and policy levels |
| 2. | Apply concepts, theories and methods from two or more disciplines to the study of urban health |
| 3. | Design etiological intervention or policy research studies that contribute to new knowledge about urban health |
| 4. | Demonstrate familiarity with scientific and professional literature and main scientific questions for at least two current public health issues or population groups |
| 5. | Understand the ethical dilemmas posed by many public health issues and apply the highest ethical standards to their own public health research and practice |
Session and Weekly Readings

* Recommended reading; all other readings required.

September 1  Introduction (Nick and Jerry do 15 minutes on an specific industry’s effect on health)

Readings:


September 8 Food

Public Lecture by Marion Nestle

Some of these should be for Marion’s lecture; the rest should be for the online discussion.


September 15 and 22 – No classes –

September 25 (Tuesday Classes Meet on Friday) Online Discussion of Food

September 29 -- History of Corporations and Globalization


5. Chandler, AD Jr., Mazlish B, eds. Leviathans: Multinational Corporations and the New Global History. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2005; (pp. 1-11); chapter 1 (pp. 19, 24-44); Chapter 2 (pp. 45-79); Chapter 3 (pp. 81-103).


October 6 -- Automobiles

Dauvergne, The Shadows of Consumption: Consequences for the Global Environment, Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6 (pp. 33-64).

Markowitz G, Rosner D. Deceit and Denial: The Deadly Politics of Industrial Pollution, Chapters 1 (pp.12-35)


Ladd, B. Autophobia: Love and Hate in the Automobile Age, Intro.; Chapts 1, 2

* Snell B. How General Motors Deliberately Destroyed Public Transit. Available at: http://www.lovearth.net/gmdeliberately_destroyed.htm

* Span G. “Paving the way for Buses—The Great GM Streetcar Conspiracy. Available at: http://www.baycrossings.com/Archives/2003/03_April/paving_the_way_for_buses_the_great_gm_streetcar_conspiracy.htm


Larson C. China’s Ma Jun on the Fight To Clean Up Beijing’s Dirty Air Environment 360, April 2012. http://e360.yale.edu/feature/chinas_ma_jun_on_the_fight_to_clean_up_beijings_dirty_air/2515/


October 13 – Asynchronous class on JM on Lead and other Heavy Metals

Markowitz G, Rosner D. *Deceit and Denial: The Deadly Politics of Industrial Pollution*, Chapters 2 - 3 (pp. 36-107)

Markowitz G, Rosner D. *Lead wars*, chapters 1 and 2, to be distributed in class


* Dauvergne P. *The Shadows of Consumption: Consequences for the Global Environment*, Chapters 7,8,9,10 (pp. 67-93)

**October 20** – Public Lecture – Naomi Oreskes on Global Warming and tobacco – Corruption of Science

**Naomi Oreskes and Eric Conway, Merchants of Doubt**

**October 27** – Tobacco

Brandt AM. *The Cigarette Century: The Rise, Fall, and Deadly Persistence of the Product that Defined America*, Read chapter 13 (pp. 449-492)


**November 3** – Student led on line discussion

**November 10** -- The Chemical Industry and Popular Response


Markowitz G and Rosner D, *Deceit and Denial: The Deadly Politics of Industrial Pollution*, Chapter 6 and 7 (pp. 168-233)


**November 17 – Big Pharma**


**November 24 – On-line discussion**

**December 1 -- 3rd Speaker**
December 8 – student Presentations

December 15 – Student Presentations