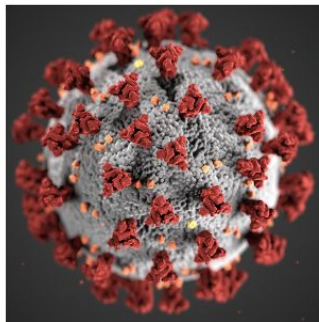


GENED 1170 - Confronting COVID-19: Science, History, Policy

Fall 2020

Tues/Thurs 10:30-11:45 am

<https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/77755>



Instructors

Allan M. Brandt, PhD
Professor of the History of Science
Amalie Moses Kass Professor
of the History of Medicine
Email: brandt@fas.harvard.edu

Ingrid T. Katz, MD, MHS
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Associate Faculty Director,
Harvard Global Health Institute
Email: ikatz2@bwh.harvard.edu

Head Teaching Fellow: Michelle LaBonte, PhD, AM (mlabonte@post.harvard.edu)

Deputy Head Teaching Assistant: Liana Rosenkrantz Woskie (lwoskie@hsph.harvard.edu)

Remote Support Specialist: Yvan Prkachin, PhD (yvanprkachin@fas.harvard.edu)

Teaching Fellows and Teaching Assistants:

Emma Broder (emmabroder@g.harvard.edu)
Annikki Herranen-Tabibi (herranen@fas.harvard.edu)
Daeun Jeong (djeong@g.harvard.edu)
Colleen Lanier-Christensen (colleenlanier@fas.harvard.edu)
Meg Perret (mperret@g.harvard.edu)
Leah Xue (leahxue@g.harvard.edu)

Research Assistant Support:

Abraar Karan, MD, MPH, DTM&H
Abigail Kawola
Olivia Mulvey
Kristen Riley

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Course Overview

We are living in a world radically reshaped by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This course will investigate the wide range of questions raised by the pandemic, its impact and significance. We will also examine how diseases raise fundamental issues for science, policy, and society. In addition to assessing our scientific and medical knowledge about COVID-19, the course will utilize strategies from history, the humanities, and the social sciences to illuminate central policy and political considerations for addressing the epidemic in the U.S. and across the globe. The course will bring experts from a wide array of fields to offer approaches for understanding essential issues raised by the pandemic, including: the science of the virus; medical and public health responses; as well as its impact on economies, society, and culture. We will also broadly consider how epidemics reveal existing social structures such as fundamental health disparities and social inequalities. Among the questions we will explore are: how do we balance basic freedoms and social restrictions as we face critical new threats to human health; and how do we think about risk and vulnerability in the face of uncertainty from a both a personal and political viewpoint? As this epidemic unfolds in real time, you will have an opportunity to integrate interdisciplinary perspectives for understanding epidemic disease and how it shapes and reflects powerful social forces and global systems.

Course Objectives

Pandemics impact virtually every aspect of science, medicine, society, and culture. Certainly this has been the case as the COVID-19 pandemic has moved across the globe during this last year. As we all know at this time, the pandemic has shattered norms and expectations in every domain of life, culture, and economy. This course will offer you a deeper understanding of the problems of controlling the epidemic, clinical and public health approaches to treating patients and preventing transmission; new medical and scientific strategies for treatment and control; as well as the vast disparities of its impact on peoples and populations. You will learn how disease reflects ongoing inequalities in health and wellbeing.

A principal objective of the course is to explore and understand the deeper contexts of how the “biosocial” characteristics of disease--the interaction of biological and social forces--challenge policy-makers, institutions, and political decision-making. The course also seeks to investigate how COVID-19 will shape fundamental cultural practices and social relations as we look ahead. At the end of the course, you will have developed new skills and insight into understanding the meaning, impact, and approaches to controlling COVID-19, and how the US and global societies are responding to a pandemic crisis in real time.

Course Policies and Expectations

Accessible Education: Students needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a documented disability must present their Faculty Letter from the [Accessible Education Office](#)

[\(AEO\)](#) and speak with the professor by September 11th. Failure to do so may result in the Course Head's inability to respond in a timely manner. All discussions will remain confidential, although Faculty are invited to contact AEO to discuss appropriate implementation.

Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to attend lectures and sections synchronously. However, if it is not possible for you to attend the lectures synchronously because of the time zone you are located in (or another compelling reason), it may be possible for us to make an exception to this policy. If you are given permission to watch lectures asynchronously, you will need to take part in an additional synchronous activity for 1 hour each week.

Zoom Expectations: All students are expected to turn on their cameras during Zoom sessions unless they speak with the teaching team in advance for an exception. For the lectures, please use the chat function to pose a question and keep your microphone muted unless you are called on to speak (we will not be “cold calling” during the lecture). All lectures will be recorded for those students who have been given permission to watch the lectures asynchronously. Please do not share Zoom recordings with anyone outside of the class for any reason. If there is a Zoom outage, you will receive an email with instructions from the teaching staff within 10 minutes. For section, your TF will go over guidelines for participation. All students should have had the opportunity to learn the basics of Zoom either during the spring semester or through the Academic Resources Center. If you still have questions about Zoom, please contact the help desk at: https://atg.fas.harvard.edu/contact_us.

Section Changes: We will make every effort to assign you to a section that works well with your schedule. Section changes will not be permitted except under extraordinary circumstances, in which you should contact the Head TF, Michelle LaBonte.

Senior Thesis Writers: If you are currently writing a senior thesis (for a Fall 2020 or Spring 2021 deadline), it may be possible to use material that you produce for the course in your thesis and vice versa. However, you are required to email Professors Allan Brandt and Ingrid Katz by September 18th to request permission. According to FAS guidelines, you must also obtain written permission from your thesis advisor.

Citation Practices: Please cite any sources that you use in the preparation of assignments for this course.

The Harvard College Honor Code: Members of the Harvard College community commit themselves to producing academic work of integrity – that is, work that adheres to the scholarly and intellectual standards of accurate attribution of sources, appropriate collection and use of data, and transparent acknowledgement of the contribution of others to their ideas, discoveries, interpretations, and conclusions. Cheating on exams or problem sets, plagiarizing or misrepresenting the ideas or language of someone else as one’s own, falsifying data, or any other instance of academic dishonesty violates the standards of our community, as well as the

standards of the wider world of learning and affairs. All individual assignments submitted for this course are expected to be your own, including your own research and writing.

Resources

Resource Guide to Remote Learning: This informative document was prepared by the Advising Programs Office to help facilitate connection during remote learning. Please find additional information in this [Google Doc](#).

Academic Resource Center: Available services include peer tutoring, academic coaching, workshops, ESL consultations, and guidance about learning remotely. In addition, the ARC provides a range of support to First-Year students. Please find additional information on the [ARC website](#).

Harvard College Writing Center: For guidance at any stage of the writing process, you can make an appointment to meet with a writing tutor. Please find additional information, including online materials about writing papers, on the [Writing Center website](#).

Counseling and Mental Health Services: A no-cost support service for registered students, including individual and group meetings, workshops, and written materials. For additional information, see the [CAMHS website](#).

Office of Sexual Assault Prevention & Response: A service to assist with issues including, but not limited to, sexual assault, harassment, stalking (online and/or in person), dating concerns, domestic violence, gender based harassment. In addition, ASAPR provides support to people who have witnessed or are otherwise aware of such issues faced by others. Please find additional information on the [OSAPR website](#). If you need immediate support call the 24-hour Crisis Hotline at 617.495.9100.

Title IX Office: Consistent with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Harvard University does not discriminate against students, faculty or staff based on sex in any of its programs or activities, including but not limited to educational programs, employment, and admission. Sexual harassment, including sexual violence, is a kind of sex discrimination and is prohibited by Title IX and by the University. The University is committed to responding promptly and effectively when it learns of any form of possible discrimination based on sex. An individual who has questions or concerns regarding possible discrimination based on sex should contact a Title IX Coordinator at their respective School or unit (if applicable), or Nicole Merhill, the University's Title IX Officer. Ms. Merhill's contact information is nicole_merhill@harvard.edu and (617) 496-2470.

Speaking with someone, even the Title IX Coordinator or someone who is responsible for notifying the School or Unit Title IX Coordinator, does not mean that you will need to participate in an informal resolution or file a complaint. The University encourages all persons who believe they may have been the subject of sexual or gender-based harassment to speak with an

appropriate University officer about the incident because, even if no informal process is commenced or formal complaint is filed, that information will help the University identify any concerns about harassment and work to address them. Speaking to a University officer will allow any student affected to be supported by the School, and also will allow School and University officials to consider whether there are broader issues for the community that need to be addressed. Please find further information at the Harvard Title IX Office website: <https://titleix.harvard.edu/>

Readings, Assignments, and Grading

Readings: Readings associated with each lecture session are indicated on the syllabus. They will be available either via a direct link or as a PDF on Canvas. You will not need to purchase any readings for the course. Please do the readings before attending lecture, as we have selected the readings to provide you with an important framework for engaging with the guest speakers. Readings for each session should take between 1.5-2 hours, and as such, we expect you to read them in detail. If you find that the readings are taking longer than expected, please reach out to your TF for guidance, as we are happy to help you with reading strategies. Given the character and nature of the pandemic, there will likely be many developments throughout the semester. As such, we will include a news section on the Canvas site to highlight additional, optional readings that cover developments of key importance.

Assignments: Course assignments fall into two main categories: weekly response papers and a podcast.

Weekly Response Papers: Each week, you will be asked to submit a one-page response to one of two questions that we will pose to you about the course readings. You will work independently on your written response. Weekly response papers are due on Monday nights at 11:59 PM EST, as indicated in the Detailed Class Schedule below. All assignments must be submitted through Canvas. There will be a total of 12 weekly response papers and you can skip up to 2 weekly assignments with no penalty. Grades will be determined by the top 10 response papers.

Podcast: For your final project in the course, you will have the opportunity to create a 10-12 minute podcast that addresses an aspect of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to being graded, your podcast will likely be archived in a Harvard library for use by future historians and possibly featured on the Harvard Global Health Institute website. At this relatively early stage in the pandemic, there are many voices that have yet to be recorded, and we hope that you will capture some of these perspectives in your podcast. While we commonly hear from prominent physicians, scientists, and scholars in news reports and opinion pieces, we urge you to seek out different kinds of judgements, assessments, affects, or practices that haven't been prominently featured in the news thus far.

A podcast is an ideal medium for this task, as it allows you to feature unfiltered voices from interviews and provides you the opportunity to present an argument about an issue related to the pandemic. Possible topic areas include, but are not limited to, patient experiences,

diagnostic testing, telehealth, mask compliance, the experiences of actors/performers, Hollywood film, K-12 or college student life, parenting, beaches, restaurants/bars, unemployment, assessment of remote education, virtual communities, art making, dental care, protests, activist/advocacy, stigma, religion and worship, remote work, changes in career plans, and experiences of undergraduates, graduate students, or post-doctoral fellows in COVID-19 labs or other academic or non-academic settings.

No background knowledge or technical expertise is required or assumed for this project. In addition to providing you with technical training through workshops held by the Learning Lab at Harvard, a series of three assignments during the semester are designed to help you develop the skills that you will need to produce the final podcast.

- **Podcast Assignment 1:** Identify a topic for your podcast and provide a one-page justification for your choice that includes a list of three potential interviewees and why these individuals are uniquely positioned to speak on your chosen topic. *Due: Friday, September 25 at 11:59 PM EST.*
- **Podcast Assignment 2:** Draft an interview guide that includes a conceptual outline and series of semi-structured questions to guide your conversation. We suggest scheduling your interview by this deadline. *Due: Friday, October 23 at 11:59 PM EST.*
- **Podcast Assignment 3:** Record your interview and write a one-page (minimum) summary of the insights you gleaned from the interview and the argument you expect to make; this will be used to inform post-production and editing. *Due: Friday, November 13 at 11:59 PM EST.*

Grading: You will be assigned a letter grade for the course, but it is possible to take the class pass/fail if you get permission from Professors Brandt and Katz. You are allowed to take just one Gen Ed course pass/fail. Grades for the course will be determined as follows:

Weekly Response Papers	20 points
Podcast Assignment 1	10 points
Podcast Assignment 2	10 points
Podcast Assignment 3	10 points
Final Podcast ¹	40 points
Participation	10 points

Participation will be determined primarily by your engagement in section, as outlined by your TF, as well as your attendance in lecture. Given the size of the class, you are not required to ask questions in lecture, although we hope that you will!

Late Policy: Late assignments will be accepted without penalty ONLY if you provide a note from your resident dean. In the event of an unexcused late assignment, your grade will be lowered by 10% each day. Please contact your TF, the Head TF, or Professors Brandt or Katz if you are

¹ In line with the text above, the final podcast will be evaluated based on the quality of submitted content (interview and corresponding analysis of your chosen topic), not technical editing skills. The course team will provide support throughout and guidance on free editing software.

struggling to complete work so we can brainstorm strategies to effectively manage the course workload. We are here to help!

Class Schedule

Date	Session
Sept 3	COVID-19: Why Here, Why Now?
Sept 8	Reopening Harvard: How Did We Get Here?
Sept 10	What Is an Epidemic/Pandemic?
Sept 15	Outbreaks and Narratives of Contagion
Sept 17	Epidemiology and Modeling
Sept 22	Diagnosis and Testing
Sept 24	Stories from the Frontlines: Clinical and Hospital Responses
Sept 29	The Experiences of Patients and Caregivers
Oct 1	Treating COVID-19
Oct 6	Vaccine Hunters
Oct 8	Race, Racism, and Disease
Oct 13	Prisons and Incarceration
Oct 15	Masks: Science, Policy, Politics
Oct 20	Contact Tracing and the Problem of Transmission
Oct 22	Public Health Infrastructure
Oct 27	Political Impact and the Election
Oct 29	Global Governance and the WHO
Nov 3	Global Health, Global South
Nov 5	Mental Health
Nov 10	Gender, Family, Home and Work
Nov 12	Economic Impact/Economic Policy
Nov 17	The Future of Healthcare Policy and Healthcare Delivery
Nov 19	Culture and COVID-19: Art, Photography, and Performance
Nov 24	Reconsidering Cities: Urban Design in the Wake of COVID-19
Dec 1	TBD
Dec 3	Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Detailed Class Schedule

WEEK 1:

September 3: COVID-19: Why Here, Why Now?

OVERVIEW: This session will introduce all aspects of the course and focus on the range of questions--scientific, social, and political-- that the COVID-19 pandemic has raised across the globe. We will review the rationale for interdisciplinary approaches to observing and understanding the pandemic and its impact.

FACULTY: Allan Brandt and Ingrid Katz

WEEK 2:

September 7: Weekly Assignment Due on Canvas by 11:59 PM EST

September 8: Reopening Harvard: How Did We Get Here?

OVERVIEW: Over recent months we have all closely watched for the University and the College's decisions about how best to respond to COVID-19, and especially to policies for re-opening the campus, following the March shutdown. This session will look at the complex decision-making process, as well as the intricate trade-offs that led to the decisions regarding the current term and residential de-densification.

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Alan Garber](#) - Provost, Mallinckrodt Professor of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School; Professor of Economics, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences; Professor of Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School of Government; and Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
- [Giang Nguyen](#) - Director of Harvard University Health Services
- [Stephanie Pinder-Amaker](#) - Director of McLean Hospital College Mental Health Program, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School
- [Christopher Stubbs](#) - FAS Dean of Science, Samuel C. Moncher Professor of Physics and of Astronomy

READINGS:

- Michael J. Sorrel, "Colleges are Deluding Themselves," *The Atlantic*, May 15, 2020. [Link](#)
- Vivian S. Lee, Vindell Washington, and Robert M. Califf, "The Bad Science of Reopening," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, July 28, 2020. [Link](#).
- Elissa Nadworny, "The Wild Card for an In-Person Fall: College Student Behavior," *NPR*, June 29, 2020. [Link](#).
- "Residential Community Compact," *Harvard College*, Fall 2020. [Link](#).
- Greta Anderson, "Colleges Seek Waivers from Risk-Taking Students," *Inside Higher Ed*, August 3, 2020. [Link](#).
- Sarah Brown and Alexander C. Kafka, "Covid-19 Has Worsened the Student Mental-Health Crisis. Can Resilience Training Fix It?" *The Chronicle*, May 11, 2020. [Link](#).

September 10: What Is an Epidemic/Pandemic?

OVERVIEW: We all know we are living in the midst of a pandemic, but pandemics bring together many characteristics, patterns, and impacts. This session will focus on how different disciplines have come to study and understand epidemics and pandemics, from the perspectives of public health, history, and evolutionary biology.

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Stephen Greenblatt](#) - John Cogan University Professor of the Humanities
- [Charles Rosenberg](#) - Professor of the History of Science, Emeritus; Ernest E. Monrad Professor in the Social Sciences
- [Christina Warinner](#) - Assistant Professor of Anthropology; Sally Starling Seaver Assistant Professor, Radcliffe Institute

READINGS:

- Dara Grennan, "What is a Pandemic?" JAMA, March 5, 2019. [Link](#).
- Paula Findlen, "What Would Boccaccio Say About COVID-19?" *The Boston Review*, April 24, 2020. [Link](#).
- Joshua Lederberg, "Pandemic as a Natural Evolutionary Phenomenon," *Social Research*, vol. 55, no. 3, 1988, (pp. 343–359) in *The Johns Hopkins University Press*, Autumn 1988. [Link](#).
- Alex De Waal, "New Pathogen, Old Politics," *The Boston Review*, April 3, 2020. [Link](#).
- Peng Zhou, Xing-Lou Yang, [...] Zheng-Li Shi, "A Pneumonia Outbreak Associated with a New Coronavirus of Probable Bat Origin," *Nature*, February 3, 2020. [Link](#). (skim)

September 10/11: Your TF will have instructions for first section meeting

WEEK 3:

September 14: Weekly Assignment Due on Canvas by 11:59 PM EST

September 15: Outbreak and Narratives of Contagion

OVERVIEW: In recent years, literary critics and humanists have investigated how we "narrate" and convey stories of epidemics, their causes, and effects. This session will explore how these accounts are structured and organized, and how they shape deeper humanistic knowledge about diseases and their spread.

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Eram Alam](#) - Assistant Professor in the History of Medicine, Department of the History of Science
- [Jill Lepore](#) - David Woods Kemper '41 Professor of American History; and Affiliate Professor of Law, Harvard University
- [Karen Thornber](#) - Acting Director, Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harry Tuchman Levin Professor in Literature, Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations

READINGS:

- Priscilla Wald, "Introduction" in *Contagious: Cultures, Carriers, and the Outbreak Narrative*, Duke University Press. 2008. [Link](#). (pages 1-28)

- Allan M. Brandt and Alyssa Botelho, “Not a Perfect Storm - Covid-19 and the Importance of Language,” *New England Journal of Medicine*, April 16, 2020. 382:1493-1494. [Link](#).
- Carl Zimmer, “Most People With Coronavirus Won’t Spread It. Why Do a Few Infect Many?” *The New York Times*, June 30, 2020. [Link](#)

September 17: Epidemiology and Modeling

OVERVIEW: A central element of all epidemics has been strategies to understand their cause and the character of their spread; as well as to assess their impact on patterns of illness and death. This session will explore how experts in the field of epidemiology and disease modeling have addressed COVID-19 and their approaches to understanding it’s dynamics and trajectory.

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Caroline Buckee](#) - Associate Professor of Epidemiology, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
- [William Hanage](#) - Associate Professor of Epidemiology, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
- [Maimuna Majumder](#) - Faculty at Computational Health Informatics Program (CHIP); Research Associate, Harvard Medical School

READINGS:

- Marc Lipsitch, David Swerdlow, and Lyn Finelli, “Defining the Epidemiology of Covid-19 - Studies Needed,” *New England Journal of Medicine*, March 26, 2020. [Link](#)
- Jonathan Fuller, “Models v. Evidence,” *Boston Review*, May 5, 2020. [Link](#).
- Maggie Koerth, Laura Bronner and Jasmine Mithani, “Why it’s so freaking hard to make a good COVID-19 model,” *FiveThirtyEight*, March 31, 2020. [Link](#).

September 17/18: Section meetings

WEEK 4:

September 21: Weekly Assignment Due on Canvas by 11:59 PM EST

September 22: Diagnosis and Testing

OVERVIEW: The technical ability to test for and diagnose an epidemic disease has historically been a crucial aspect of both public health and medical approaches. This has clearly been the case with COVID-19. This class will explore the science and technology of testing for COVID-19, as well as the problems and possibilities that testing offers for mitigating the epidemic. We will also learn about the accuracy of alternative tests and difficulties in making tests accessible.

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Margaret Bourdeaux](#) - Research Director, Security and Global Health Project, Harvard Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School; Associate Physician, Brigham and Women’s Hospital
- [Michael Mina](#) - Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, core member of the Center for Communicable Disease Dynamics (CCDD); Assistant Professor in Immunology and Infectious Diseases at HSPH, and Associate

Medical Director in Clinical Microbiology (molecular diagnostics) in the Department of Pathology at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School

- [Pardis Sabeti](#) - Professor at the Center for Systems Biology and Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University and the Department of Immunology and Infectious Disease, Harvard School of Public Health and Broad Institute Member

READINGS, VIDEOS, and PODCAST:

- David Cyranoski, "Profile of a Killer Virus," *Nature*, May 7 2020. 581: 22-26. [Link](#)
- "How Coronavirus Tests Work," *NOVA PBS*, March 27, 2020. [Link](#) (short video)
- "Why Antibody Tests Don't Yet Reveal Coronavirus Immunity," *NOVA PBS*, May 13, 2020. [Link](#) (short video)
- "How COVID-19 Tests Work," *FDA*, June 4, 2020. [Link](#)
- "Coronavirus 'Long-Haulers' Have Been Sick for Months. Why?" *NPR Short Wave*, June 12, 2020. [Link](#) (podcast)
- Elisabeth Zerofsky, "How Munich Turned its Coronavirus Outbreak into a Scientific Study," *The New Yorker*, July 19, 2020. [Link](#)
- Andrew M. Cuomo, "Let's End the Wait for Coronavirus Results. Here's How." *The New York Times*, July 31, 2020. [Link](#)

September 24: Stories from the Frontline: Clinical and Hospital Responses

OVERVIEW: Outbreaks of COVID-19 in the US and around the globe tested the capacities of hospitals and health systems to meet rising demand for emergency care. Further, the risk of transmission of the virus, radically altered the environment for these institutions to deliver ongoing and elective care. This session will bring frontline care-givers and hospital leaders to review and assess their approaches to meeting surge conditions in their institutions, as well as the longer term impact of COVID-19 on health care delivery.

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Katrina Armstrong](#) - Jackson Professor of Clinical Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Chair of the Department of Medicine and Physician-in-Chief of Massachusetts General Hospital
- [Paul Biddinger](#) - Vice Chairman for Emergency Preparedness in the Department of Emergency Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital
- [Mike Klompas](#) - Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School; Brigham and Women's Hospital
- [Claire-Cecile Pierre](#) - Instructor in Global Health and Social Medicine; Director of the Program in Global Health Systems Strengthening and Social Change, Harvard Medical School; Instructor, Cambridge Health Alliance

READINGS:

- Michael Klompas, "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Protecting Hospitals From the Invisible" *Annals of Internal Medicine*. May 5, 2020. [Link](#)
- Anna DeForest, "The New Stability," *NEJM*, July 17, 2020. [Link](#)
- Khullar, Dhruv. "Fighting the Coronavirus, from New York to Utah," *The New Yorker*, August 2, 2020. [Link](#)

- Hick, John L., et al. "Novel Coronavirus and Old Lessons - Preparing the Health System for the Pandemic," *NEJM*, 23 July 2020, [Link](#)
- David Scales, "An Understaffed Hospital Battles COVID-19", Health Affairs, August, 2020. [Link](#).
- Boodman, Eric. "Photos: Inside One Boston Hospital's Response to Covid-19." *STAT*, 7 May 2020, [Link](#)
- Rushton, Cynda H., et al. "Dramatic Interventions in the Tragedy of the Covid-19 Pandemic." *The Lancet* 396.10247 (2020): 305-06. [Link](#).

September 24/25: Section meetings

September 25: Podcast Assignment 1 Due on Canvas by 11:59 PM EST

WEEK 5:

September 28: Weekly Assignment Due on Canvas by 11:59 PM EST

September 29: The Experiences of Patients and Caregivers

OVERVIEW: This session will center attention on the experience of patients and families as they have experienced the medical impact of COVID-19. In addition to medical care and recovery, patients, families and caregivers will narrate the experiences of suffering, stress, grief and bereavement in the context of the epidemic.

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Larry Bacow](#) - President of Harvard University; Professor of Public Policy
- [Daniela Lamas](#) - Pulmonary and Critical Care, Brigham & Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School
- [Sharon Levine](#) - Section Head, Geriatric Medicine, Division of Palliative Care and Geriatric Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital
- Mojibur Rahman, patient, joined by his son, Mushfiqur Rahman

READINGS:

- Lamas, Daniela J. "If I Hadn't Been Transferred, I Would Have Died." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 4 Aug. 2020. [Link](#)
- Jessie M. Gaeta, Denise De Las Nueces, David G. Munson, Joshua A. Barocas, and Kathleen E. Walsh, "Case 21-2020: A 66-Year-Old Homeless Man with Covid-19," *New England Journal of Medicine*, July 9, 2020, 383:170-178. [Link](#)
- Garret Graff, "First Denial, Then Fear: Covid-19 Patients in Their Own Words," *Wired*, March 27, 2020. [Link](#)
- Corina Knoll, Ali Watkins and Michael Rothfeld, "'I Couldn't Do Anything': The Virus and an E.R. Doctor's Suicide," *The New York Times*, July 11, 2020. [Link](#)
- Sahoo, Swapnajeet et al. "Lived experiences of the corona survivors (patients admitted in COVID wards): A narrative real-life documented summaries of internalized guilt, shame, stigma, anger." *Asian Journal of Psychiatry*, May 30, 2020, 53:102187. [Link](#)
- Charon R. "Narrative Medicine: A Model for Empathy, Reflection, Profession, and Trust," *JAMA*. 2001, 286:1897–1902. [Link](#)

October 1: Treating COVID-19

OVERVIEW: In the early phase of the COVID-19 pandemics there has been much speculation and considerable research into new and re-purposed therapies. There is now growing evidence concerning several drugs and a great deal of ongoing research to identify safe and effective treatments for those who have become ill. This class will assess the ongoing research for effective medications as well as the larger context of trials, regulation, and access to drugs.

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Jonathan Abraham](#) - Assistant Professor of Microbiology, Harvard Medical School; Associate Physician, Infectious Diseases, Brigham & Women's Hospital
- [Rajesh Gandhi](#) - Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Harvard University CFAR Co-Director; Massachusetts General Hospital
- [Rochelle Walensky](#) - Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases, Massachusetts General Hospital

READINGS:

- Doroshov, Deborah, Scott Podolsky, and Justin Barr. "Biomedical Research in Times of Emergency: Lessons from History." *Annals of Internal Medicine*, May 7, 2020. [Link](#)
- Sarah Zhang, "The Best Hopes for a Coronavirus Drug," *The Atlantic*, April 8, 2020. [Link](#).
- R. Kiplin Guy, Robert S. DiPaola, Frank Romanelli, Rebecca E. Dutch, "Rapid repurposing of drugs for COVID-19," *Science*, May, 22 2020, 368: 829-830. [Link](#)
- Ari Ne-eman, "I Will Not Apologize for My Needs," *The New York Times*, March 23, 2020. [Link](#)

October 1/2: Section meetings

WEEK 6:

October 5: Weekly Assignment Due on Canvas by 11:59 PM EST

October 6: Vaccine Hunters

OVERVIEW: Vaccines are seen as the best hope for ending the COVID-19 epidemic; and many candidate vaccines are in development. This session will review current research strategies in vaccine development; it will also evaluate human trials, safety and efficacy, as well as approaches to assuring mass access to vaccines in the US and other countries.

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Galit Alter](#) - Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Group Leader, Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard
- [Lindsey Baden](#) - Director of Clinical Research in the Division of Infectious Diseases, Brigham and Women's Hospital; Director of Infectious Diseases, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School
- [Bisola Ojikutu](#) - Assistant Professor of Medicine, Assistant Professor of Global Health and Social Medicine, Associate Director of the Harvard University Center for AIDS Research Bio-Behavioral and Community Science Core, Director for the Community Engaged Research Program; Brigham and Women's Hospital

- [Bruce Walker](#) - Founding Director of the Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard; Director of the Harvard University Center for AIDS Research

READINGS and VIDEO:

- NOVA PBS, “Decoding COVID-19,” May 13, 2020. [Link](#). (watch short vaccine section from to 37:00-39:38)
- Lawrence Corey, John R. Mascola, Anthony S. Fauci, and Francis S. Collins, “A strategic approach to COVID-19 vaccine R&D,” *Science*. 368:948-950. May 29, 2020. [Link](#).
- “Clinical Studies,” COVID-19 Prevention Network, [Link](#)
- “The Science of COVID-19 Vaccines and Antibodies,” COVID-19 Prevention Network, [Link](#).
- Carl Elliott, “An Ethical Path to a Covid Vaccine,” *The New York Review of Books*, July 2, 2020. [Link](#).
- Justin Trudeau, Sahle-Work Zewde, Moon Jae-in, Jacinda Ardern, Cyril Ramaphosa, Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón, Stefan Lofven and Elyes Fakhfakh, “The international community must guarantee equal global access to a covid-19 vaccine,” *The Washington Post*, July 15, 2020. [Link](#).
- Deanna Pan, ‘Why should we trust you?’ Black Americans, hardest hit by COVID-19, are the most skeptical of potential vaccines, *The Boston Globe*, August 18, 2020. [Link](#).
- Daniel B. Chastain, Sharmon P. Osae, Andrés F. Henao-Martínez, Carlos Franco-Paredes, Joeanna S. Chastain, and Henry N. Young, Racial Disproportionality in Covid Clinical Trials, *NEJM*, August 11, 2020. [Link](#).

October 8: Race, Racism, and Disease

OVERVIEW: The COVID-19 epidemic has revealed the significance of racism as a cause of wide disparities in the morbidity and mortality in the U.S. This session will investigate the history and epidemiology of racism as an essential indicator of COVID-19 outcomes, as well as approaches for researching race and racism as social determinants of disease.

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Margarita Alegria](#) - Chief of the Disparities Research Unit, Massachusetts General Hospital and The Mongan Institute; Harry G. Lehnert, Jr, and Lucille F. Cyr Endowed Chair at the Mass General Research Institute; Professor, Harvard Medical School
- [Evelynn Hammonds](#) - Chair, Department of the History of Science; Barbara Gutmann Rosenkrantz Professor of the History of Science; Professor of African and African American Studies
- [Camara Phyllis Jones](#) - 2019-2020 Fellow, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, past president of the American Public Health Association, senior fellow at the Morehouse School of Medicine, and adjunct professor at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University
- [Sonya Shin](#) - Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School; Associate Physician at Brigham and Women’s Hospital; Consulting Physician, Gallup Indian Medical Center

READINGS and VIDEO:

- David R. Williams and Lisa A. Cooper, “COVID-19 and Health Equity – A New Kind of ‘Herd Immunity,’” *JAMA*, May 11, 2020. [Link](#).

- Merlin Chowkwanyun and Adolph L. Reed Jr. “Racial Health Disparities and Covid-19: Caution and Context,” *New England Journal of Medicine*, May 6, 2020. [Link](#).
- Colin Gordon, Walter Johnson, Jason Q. Purnell, and Jamala Rogers, “COVID-19 and the Color Line,” *Boston Review*, May 1, 2020. [Link](#).
- Evelyn Hammonds and Susan Reverby, “Toward a Historically Informed Analysis of Racial Health Disparities Since 1619,” *American Journal of Public Health*, vol. 109, no. 10, October 2019. [Link](#).
- Ibram X. Kendi, “What the Racial Data Show,” *The Atlantic*, April 6, 2020. [Link](#).
- Jens Manuel Krogstad, Ana Gonzalez-Barrera and Mark Hugo Lopez, “Hispanics more likely than Americans overall to see coronavirus as a major threat to health and finances,” Pew Research Center, March 24, 2020. [Link](#)
- Desi Rodriguez-Lonebear, Nicolás E. Barceló, and Randall Akee, “American Indian Reservations and COVID-19: Correlates of Early Infection Rates in the Pandemic,” *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*, July/August 2020, 26:371-377. [Link](#)
- David Williams, “How Racism Makes Us Sick,” *TEDMED*, 2016. [Link](#).

October 8/9: Section meetings

WEEK 7:

October 12: Weekly Assignment Due on Canvas by 11:59 PM EST

October 13: Prisons and Incarceration

OVERVIEW: Mass incarceration has led to prisons being among the most prevalent institutions for the transmission of COVID-19. This session will center attention on prison populations, risk of transmission, and strategies to protect incarcerated populations from institutional outbreaks.

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Eric Reinhart](#) - PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology at Harvard, MD candidate at The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine
- [Kim Sue](#) - Medical Director, Harm Reduction Coalition, New York City;
- [Crystal Yang](#) - Professor of Law, Harvard Law School; Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research

READINGS and PODCAST:

- NPR, 1A Podcast, 2020. Coronavirus and Prison Populations. [Link](#).
- Eric Reinhardt and Daniel Chen, “Incarceration And Its Disseminations: COVID-19 Pandemic Lessons From Chicago’s Cook County Jail,” *Health Affairs*, June 4, 2020. [Link](#).
- Peter Wagner and Emily Widra, “Five ways the criminal justice system could slow the pandemic,” *Prison Policy Initiative*, March 27, 2020. [Link](#).
- The Coronavirus Crisis Inside Prisons Won’t Stay Behind Bars, *New York Times*, June 25, 2020, [Link](#)

October 15: Masks: Science, Policy, Politics

OVERVIEW: The use of masks is one of the oldest strategies to prevent the transmission of disease, but it has been the source of considerable confusion and debate in the current

COVID-19 pandemic. This class will closely examine the mask as a medical technology, as a material object, and as a political symbol in the context of the pandemic.

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Atul Gawande](#) - Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School; Brigham and Women's Hospital
- [Hannah Marcus](#) - Assistant Professor of the History of Science, Department of the History of Science
- [Julia Marcus](#) - Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School; Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute

READINGS and VIDEOS:

- Christine Hauser, "The Mask Slackers of 1918," *The New York Times*, August 3, 2020. [Link](#).
- Virginia Postrel, "Pandemics Come and Go but Medical Masks Are Eternal," *Bloomberg*, April 10, 2020. [Link](#).
- Bruno J. Strasser and Thomas Schlich. "The Art of Medicine: A History of the Medical Mask and the Rise of Throwaway Culture." *The Lancet*, May 22, 2020. [Link](#).
- Vanessa Friedman, "The Mask," *The New York Times*, March 17, 2020. [Link](#).
- Josh Katz, Margot Sanger-Katz, and Kevin Quealy, "A Detailed Map of Who is Wearing Masks in the U.S." *The New York Times*, July 17, 2020. [Link](#).
- Michael Klompas, Charles Morris, and Erica Shenoy, "Universal Masking in the Covid-19 Era," *New England Journal of Medicine*, July 9, 2020. [Link](#).
- Wei Lyu and George Wehby, "Community Use of Face Masks and COVID-19: Evidence from a Natural Experiment of State Mandates in the US," *Health Affairs*, August 2020. [Link](#).
- Bojan Pacevski and Jason Douglas, "Masks Could Help Stop Coronavirus. So Why Are They Still Controversial?" *The Wall Street Journal*, June 29, 2020. [Link](#).
- Charlie Warzel, "How to Actually Talk to Anti-Maskers," *The New York Times*, July 22, 2020. [Link](#).
- Muiy Xiao, Haley Willis, Christoph Koettl, Natalie Reneau, and Drew Jordan, "Wearing a Mask? It May Come from China's Controversial Labor Program," *The New York Times*, July 19, 2020. [Link](#).
- Alison Stine, "I'm partially deaf. When mask-wearing came along, I had to rebuild my world," *The Guardian*, August 20, 2020. [Link](#).

October 15/16: Section meetings

WEEK 8:

October 19: Weekly Assignment Due on Canvas by 11:59 PM EST

October 20: Contact Tracing and the Problem of Transmission

OVERVIEW: Testing for COVID-19 has led to the utilization of a historical strategy for controlling the epidemic: contact tracing. By identifying individuals who are infected and "tracing" and

isolating their “contacts,” epidemics can be slowed, and sometimes ended. This session will examine how this approach has been applied to COVID-19 in the US and in other countries around the world.

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Danielle Allen](#) - James Bryant Conant University Professor at Harvard University; Director, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics
- [Joia Mukherjee](#) - Associate Professor of Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital; Associate Professor of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Chief Medical Officer, Partners in Health
- [Jonathan Zittrain](#) - George Bemis Professor of International Law; Vice Dean for Library and Information Resources; Faculty Director, Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society; Professor of Computer Science, Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Professor, Harvard Kennedy School of Government

READINGS:

- Christie Aschwanden, “Contact Tracing, a Key Way to Slow COVID-19, Is Badly Underused by the U.S.,” *Scientific American*. July 21, 2020. [Link](#).
- “Roadmap to Pandemic Resilience: Massive Scale Testing, Tracing, and Supported Isolation (TTSI) as the Path to Pandemic Resilience for a Free Society,” *Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University*, April 20, 2020. [Link](#).
- Gottlieb, Scott, Caitlin Rivers, Mark B. McClellan, Lauren Silvis, and Crystal Watson, “National Coronavirus Response: A ROAD MAP TO REOPENING,” *American Enterprise Institute*, March 28, 2020. [Link](#)
- “Exposure Notification,” Google. May 2020. [Link](#).
- Jonathan Zittrain, “Entering the Minefield of Digital Contact Tracing,” *Medium.com Berkman Klein Center Collection*, 2020. [Link](#).
- Jo Baker, “This Contact Tracer Is Fighting Two Contagions: The Virus and Fear,” *New York Times*, August 9, 2020, [Link](#)
- Alex Putterman, “House parties in Greenwich may have spread COVID-19 among teenagers; official says individuals not cooperating with contact tracing,” *Hartford Courant*, July 31, 2020, [Link](#)
- Emily Gurley, “COVID-19 Contact Tracing,” *Coursera*, [Link](#) (take a quick look, as it is the most utilized course for teaching contact tracing)

October 22: Public Health Infrastructure

OVERVIEW: For the last half century, observers have described the deterioration of US Public Health institutions and infrastructure for health promotion and disease prevention. This session will focus on the US Public Health System and structural obstacles to responding to COVID-19 and other critical health problems.

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Mary Bassett](#) - François-Xavier Bagnoud Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights; Director of the François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

- [Howard Koh](#) - Harvey V. Fineberg Professor of the Practice of Public Health Leadership, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
- [Margaret Kruk](#) - Professor of Health Systems, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Director, QuEST Center
- [Rajesh Panjabi](#) - Instructor in Medicine; Department of Global Health and Social Medicine Affiliate; Co-Founder and CEO, Last Mile Health

READINGS:

- Meredith Rosenthal and David Jones, "Preparedness and Unpreparedness: The Military vs. Medicine," *Safra Center for Ethics*. May 7, 2020. [Link](#).
- Howard H. Koh, "We need one response - not 50 - to fight Covid-19," *STAT News*. May 22, 2020. [Link](#).
- Margaret Kruk, Michael Myers, Tornorlah Varpilah, Berince Dahn, "What is a resilient health system? Lessons from Ebola," *The Lancet*. May 9, 2015. [Link](#).
- Sonja Rasmussen and Denise Jamieson. "Public Health Decision Making during Covid-19 — Fulfilling the CDC Pledge to the American People," *New England Journal of Medicine*. July 29, 2020. [Link](#).

October 22/23: Section meetings

October 23: Podcast Assignment 2 Due on Canvas by 11:59 PM EST

WEEK 9:

October 26: Weekly Assignment Due on Canvas by 11:59 PM EST

October 27: Political Impact and the Election

OVERVIEW: This session will address the impact of COVID-19 on the US election; it will assess the complex problems of voting in the context of the epidemic and political debates about voting rights and public health. Additionally, we will address the impact of the federal and state efforts to respond to the epidemic on the presidential election and other races.

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Jennifer Hochschild](#) - H.L. Jayne Professor of Government, Professor of African and African American Studies; Harvard College Professor
- [Nicholas Stephanopoulos](#) - Professor of Law, Harvard Law School
- [Brandon Terry](#) - Assistant Professor of African and African American Studies and Social Studies

READINGS:

- Jonathan Chait, "The Republican Revolt Against COVID Science and Common Sense," *New York Magazine*, July 20, 2020 [Link](#)
- Lynn Vavreck and Christopher Warshaw, "How Local Covid Deaths Are Affecting Vote Choice," *New York Times*, July 28, 2020 [Link](#)
- KFF Health Tracking Poll - July 2020 [Link](#)
- O'Donnell and Associates, *Corona Big Book*, April 17, 2020, [Link](#) (read excerpts)

- Adam Liptak, “Supreme Court Turns Down Request to Allow All Texans to Vote by Mail” *New York Times*, June 26, 2020 [Link](#)
- J. Sotomayor, “Texas Democratic Party, et al. v. Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, et al., On Application to Vacate Stay,” *Supreme Court of the United States*, June 26, 2020. [Link](#)
- Robert Barnes, Supreme Court again splits on coronavirus-related election issue, *Washington Post*, July 30, 2020, [Link](#)
- C. J. Roberts, “Bradley Little, Governor of Idaho, et al. v. Reclaim Idaho, et al. On Application for Stay,” *Supreme Court of the United States*, July 30, 2020. [Link](#)

October 29: Global Governance and the WHO

OVERVIEW: It is often suggested that infectious epidemics do not respect national boundaries. Therefore, epidemics require collective action of nation states. This session will focus on the role of the World Health Organization and multilateral agencies to examine questions of global governance. What are the current strengths and weaknesses of these organizations? How have they acted to address the pandemic? What is the basis of their authority and legitimacy?

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Juliette Kayyem](#) - Belfer Senior Lecturer in International Security, Harvard Kennedy School
- [Jim Kim](#) - Vice Chairman and Partner at The Global Infrastructure Partners: Co-founder, Partners in Health; Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School
- [Suerie Moon](#) - Adjunct Lecturer on Global Health, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva

READINGS:

- “Explainer: What Does The World Health Organization Do?” *NPR Goats and Soda*. April 28, 2020. [Link](#).
- Julio Frenk and Suerie Moon. “Governance Challenges in Global Health,” *New England Journal of Medicine*. March 7, 2013. [Link](#).
- Moon S, Sridhar D, Pate M, Jha A, Clinton C, Edwin V; Fallah M, Fidler D, Garrett L, Goosby E, Gostin L, Heymann D, Lee K, Leung G, Morrison S, Saavedra J, Tanner M, Leigh J, Hawkins B, Woskie L, Piot P. “Will Ebola Change the Game? Ten Essential Reforms Before the Next Pandemic.” *The Lancet*. 2015; 386(10009): 2204-2221. [Link](#).
- Ashish Jha, “Cutting ties with WHO creates a scientific and leadership vacuum” *Stat News*. June 1, 2020 [Link](#).
- Bonnie Jenkins, “Now is the time to revisit the Global Health Security Agenda,” *Brookings*, March 27, 2020. [Link](#).

October 29/30: Section meetings

WEEK 10:

November 2: Weekly Assignment Due on Canvas by 11:59 PM EST

November 3: Global Health, Global South

OVERVIEW: The emergence of “global health” as a field of research, care delivery, and health infrastructure is a relatively recent development. This class will explore the pandemic from the perspectives of contemporary global health which has centered attention on issues of resources, preparedness, prevention and delivery of essential medicines and treatments. It will explore ideas and policies from low and middle income countries and their relevance to Western nations.

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Jessica Cohen](#) - Bruce A. Beal, Robert L. Beal, and Alexander S. Beal Associate Professor of Global Health, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
- [Paul Farmer](#) - Kolokotronis University Professor of Global Health and Social Medicine, Co-Founder and Chief Strategist, Partners in Health
- [Dave Walton](#) - Co-Founder and CEO at Build Health International, Brigham and Women’s Hospital

READINGS:

- Priyanka Pulla, “India is Undercounting Its COVID-19 Deaths. This is How.” *Science, The Wire*, April 8, 2020. [Link](#).
- “Productivity Growth, Key Driver of Poverty Reduction, Threatened by COVID-19 Disruptions,” *The World Bank*, July 14, 2020. [Link](#).
- Alexandra Hogan et al., “Potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria in low-income and middle-income countries: a modelling study,” *The Lancet*, July 13, 2020, [Link](#).
- Apoorva Mandavilli, “‘The Biggest Monster’ Is Spreading. And It’s Not the Coronavirus,” *The New York Times*, August 3, 2020. [Link](#).
- Cash, Richard, and Vikram Patel. "Has Covid-19 Subverted Global Health?" *The Lancet* 395.10238 (2020): 1687-88. [Link](#).
- Lindsay Maizland and Claire Felter, “Comparing Six Health-Care Systems in a Pandemic,” *Council on Foreign Relations*, April 15, 2020. [Link](#).
- Carin Zissis, LatAm in Focus: Dr. Julio Frenk on the Coronavirus Pandemic in an Age of Populism, *Americas Society/Council of the Americas*, March 16, 2020. [Link](#). (podcast)
- Talha Burki, COVID-19 in Latin America, *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, May, 2020, 20:547-548. [Link](#).

November 5: Mental Health

OVERVIEW: The COVID-19 epidemic has exacerbated already evident mental health disorders, which often go largely undiagnosed and untreated and are vastly under-resourced. These include issues of major mental illness like schizophrenia, but also include serious problems like anxiety and depression. This class will investigate the impact of COVID-19 on existing mental disorders and their treatment, as well as the significant psychosocial effects that the epidemic is having on families and individuals.

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Shelly Greenfield](#) - Chief Academic Officer and Kristine M. Trustey Endowed Chair in Psychiatry, McLean Hospital; Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School
- [Kimberlyn Leary](#) - Senior Vice President, Urban Institute;; Associate Professor of Psychology, Harvard Medical School, McLean Hospital

- [Vikram Patel](#) - The Pershing Square Professor of Global Health in the Blavatnik Institute's Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School

READINGS:

- Norm Ornstein, Benjamin F. Miller, and Kavita Patel, "The Coming Mental-Health Crisis," *The Atlantic*, May 14, 2020. [Link](#)
- Josh Katz, Abby Goodnough, and Margo Sanger-Katz, "In the Shadow of Pandemic, U.S. Drug Overdose Deaths Resurge to Record." *The New York Times*, July 15, 2020. [Link](#).
- B. Pfefferbaum and S. North, "Mental Health and the Covid-19 Pandemic," *NEJM*, Aug 6, 2020, 383:510-512. [Link](#)
- "Mental Health and COVID-19: Change the Conversation," *The Lancet*, May 4, 2020. [Link](#).
- Global mental health and COVID-19, *Lancet Psychiatry*, August 2020, [Link](#)
- Ravi Philip Rajkumar, "COVID-19 and Mental Health: A Review of the Existing Literature," *Asian Journal of Psychiatry*, vol. 52 102066, April 10, 2020. [Link](#).
- Amy Sokolow, "Opioid Overdoses Have Skyrocketed Amid the Coronavirus, but States are Nevertheless Slashing Addiction Treatment Program Budgets," *STAT*, July 16, 2020. [Link](#).
- "Substantial Investment Needed to Avert Mental Health Crisis," *World Health Organization*, May 14, 2020. [Link](#).

November 5/6: Section meetings

WEEK 11:

November 9: Weekly Assignment Due on Canvas by 11:59 PM EST

November 10: Gender, Family, Home, and Work

OVERVIEW: It has been widely observed that the epidemic and the consequent lockdowns and social-distancing has generated significant shifts in relationships, gender roles, and parenting. This session will examine important questions of gender, work, and home-life in the new ecology of COVID-19. What changes are transitory? What are the longer term shifts that the epidemic has wrought?

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Julie Battilana](#) - Joseph C. Wilson Professor of Business Administration in the Organizational Behavior Unit, Harvard Business School; Alan L. Gleitsman Professor of Social Innovation, Harvard Kennedy School
- [Hannah Bowles](#) - Co-Director of the Woman & Public Policy Program; Roy E. Larsen Senior Lecturer in Public Policy and Management
- [Claudia Goldin](#) - Henry Lee Professor of Economics, Harvard University
- [Sarah Richardson](#) - Professor of the History of Science and of Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Harvard University

READINGS:

- Emily Bogle, "Families Adjust to Life at Home During Coronavirus," *The Picture Show: Photo Stories from NPR*, April 15, 2020. [Link](#)
- Anne L. Alstott, "Mothering in a Pandemic," *The Boston Review*, May 10, 2020. [Link](#)

- Perri Klass, “The Pandemic’s Toll on Children With Special Needs and Their Parents,” *The New York Times*, July 27, 2020. [Link](#)
- Henry Dodd, “I Can’t Believe I Am Going to Say This, but I Would Rather Be at School,” *The New York Times*, April 14, 2020. [Link](#)
- Jacky Flores, “Like many college kids, I moved home when coronavirus hit. That meant helping my mom farm in the fields.” *The Lilly*, June 11, 2020. [Link](#)
- Amanda Taub, “A New Covid-19 Crisis: Domestic Abuse Rises Worldwide,” *The New York Times*, April 6, 2020. [Link](#)
- #DemocratizingWork. [Link](#).

November 12: Economic Impact/Economic Policy

OVERVIEW: Pandemics always affect economic life; COVID-19 has had a powerful impact on national and global economies, generating recession and possible depression. This session will assess the tensions that have arisen between reestablishing economies and mitigating the epidemic. It will also assess economic policies for sustaining and rebuilding essential economic stability and growth.

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Karen Dynan](#) - Professor of the Practice, Department of Economics, Harvard University
- [Gita Gopinath](#) - John Zwaanstra Professor of International Studies and of Economics, Harvard University
- [Eric Maskin](#) - Adams University Professor and Professor of Economics and Mathematics, Harvard University

READINGS and VIDEO:

- Gita Gopinath, “The Economic Aftermath of Coronavirus,” *The Daily Social Distancing Show*, April 8, 2020. [Link](#)
- Stephanie M. Lee, “An Elite Group Of Scientists Tried To Warn Trump Against Lockdowns In March,” *BuzzFeed News*, BuzzFeed News, 4 Aug. 2020, [Link](#)
- Christopher Sabatini, “To Save the Economy From COVID-19, Protect Informal Workers,” *World Politics Review*, 14 July 2020, [Link](#)
- Pascale Joassart-Marcelli, “The Pandemic Exposes Dangers of the Informal Economy: And It Is Not Just Developing Countries That Are in Trouble,” *Foreign Affairs*, May 18, 2020. [Link](#).
- Raj Chetty, John N. Friedman, Nathaniel Hendren, Michael Stepner, and the Opportunity Insights Team, “How Did COVID-19 and Stabilization Policies Affect Spending and Employment?” [Link](#).

November 13: Podcast Assignment 3 Due on Canvas by 11:59 PM EST

November 12/13: Section meetings

WEEK 12:

November 16: Weekly Assignment Due on Canvas by 11:59 PM EST

November 17: The Future of Healthcare Policy and Healthcare Delivery

OVERVIEW: COVID-19 has accelerated important changes in US health policy and practice. This session will explore both the immediate and intermediate effects of the epidemic on access to care; health insurance and health systems; hospitals, and shifts in health delivery and practice. What have been the implications of shifts to telemedicine, delayed care, de-densification, and other changes for policy and for health outcomes?

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Sara Bleich](#) - Professor of Public Health Policy, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Carol K. Pforzheimer Professor, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study
- [Haiden Huskamp](#) - Henry J. Kaiser Professor of Health Care Policy, Department of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School
- [Benjamin Sommers](#) - Professor of Health Policy and Economics, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health; Brigham and Women's Hospital
- [Zirui Song](#) - Assistant Professor of Health Care Policy, Department of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School; Assistant Professor of Medicine and Internal Medicine Physician, Department of Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital

READINGS and AUDIO:

- Eric Schneider, "Health Care as an Ongoing Policy Project", *New England Journal of Medicine*. July 30, 2020. [Link](#).
- HL Allen HL and BD Sommers, "Medicaid and COVID-19: At the Center of Both Health and Economic Crises, *JAMA*, July 21, 2020, 324:135-6. [Link](#)
- PP Reese, E Lin, and MN Harhay, "Preparing For The Next COVID-19 Crisis: A Strategy To Save Safety-Net Hospitals," *Heal Aff Blog*. 2020; [Link](#)
- Marco Ramos and Tess Lanzarotta. "COVID-19 Is Changing What It Means to Be a Doctor." *Boston Review*, 20 July 2020, [Link](#)
- Greene, Jeremy A. "As Telemedicine Surges, Will Community Health Suffer?" *Boston Review*, 13 Apr. 2020, [Link](#)
- Velasquez D, Mehrotra A. Ensuring The Growth Of Telehealth During COVID-19 Does Not Exacerbate Disparities In Care. *Health Affairs Blog*. 2020, [Link](#)
- Jeffrey H. Millstein, MD, and MA Stephanie Kindt. "Reimagining the Patient Experience During the Covid-19 Pandemic" *NEJM Catalyst Innovations in Care Delivery*, 24 June 2020, [Link](#)

November 19: Culture and COVID-19: Art, Photography and Performance

OVERVIEW: Epidemics shape the arts and art-making. Witness AIDS. Even in this early phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are seeing the effect of the epidemic on art, music, and film. Additionally, the epidemic is reshaping major art institutions, from the film industry, live performance, and museums. This session will focus on these important impacts as well as longer term effects of the epidemic for cultural expression and life.

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Sarah Lewis](#) - Associate Professor of History of Art and Architecture and African and African American Studies
- [Karthik Pandian](#) - Assistant Professor of Art, Film, and Visual Studies

- [Diane Paulus](#) - Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director of the American Repertory Theater, Harvard University
- [Martha Tedeschi](#) - Elizabeth and John Moors Cabot Director, Harvard Art Museums

READINGS:

- Regnier, Michael, "Pandemic art: how artists have depicted disease", *The Art Newspaper*, May 2, 2020. [Link](#)
- Sarah Elizabeth Lewis, "Where are the Photos of People Dying of Covid?," *The New York Times*, May 1, 2020. [Link](#)
- Alan Taylor, "Photos: The Quiet Emptiness of a World Under Coronavirus." *The Atlantic*, March 18, 2020. [Link](#).
- Sinclair Scott, Fiona (2020). "How can photographers capture human connection in the age of the coronavirus?" *CNN*, April 3, 2020. [Link](#).
- Jennifer Billock, "How Street Artists Around the World are Reacting to Life with COVID-19." *Smithsonian Magazine*. April 23, 2020. [Link](#)
- Lesley M. M. Blume, "This Year Will End Eventually. Document It While You Can" *The New York Times*, July 14, 2020. [Link](#)
- Tania Dominguez-Rangel, "Xochitl Morales: Activism at Home and Harvard." *Her Campus*, 15 Nov. 2019, 12:59, [Link](#)
- Jillian Steinhauer, "Five Art Accounts to Follow on Instagram Now." *The New York Times*, July 29, 2020, [Link](#)
- Leung, Tao, et al. "'You're Gonna Need a Bigger Boat': COVID-19 Reopening Protocols Require Hollywood to Adopt Significant Changes to Production." *All in a Day's Work: The Employer's Legal Guide*, June 18, 2020, [Link](#)
- William Ralston, "Coronavirus Might Kill The Music Industry. Maybe It Needed To Die" *Esquire*, August 5, 2020. [Link](#).

November 19/20: Section meetings

WEEK 13:

November 23: Weekly Assignment Due on Canvas by 11:59 PM EST

November 24: *Reconsidering Cities: Urban Design in the Wake of COVID-19*

OVERVIEW: Epidemics are often strongly associated with the density of urban centers. In this sense, cities have been the focus of the epidemic, its impact, and approaches to its control, despite its impact in rural areas. As a result, urban planners, architects, and engineers are already in the process of important reconsiderations of the nature and character of urban life, here in the US, and around the world. This session will focus on the impact and implications of COVID-19 for urban planning and design, architecture, and the future of cities.

GUEST FACULTY:

- [Ann Forsyth](#) (pre-recorded) - Ruth and Frank Stanton Professor of Urban Planning; Director of the Master in Urban Planning Program, Harvard Graduate School of Design
- [Edward Glaeser](#) - Professor of Economics in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University

- [Stephen Gray](#) - Associate Professor of Urban Design, Harvard Graduate School of Design; Founder, Grayscale Collaborative, Boston
- [Sameh Wahba](#) - Global Director, Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice at The World Bank

READINGS:

- Brain Melican, "A tale of three cities: the places transformed by pandemics across history," *New Statesman*. April 20, 2020. [Link](#).
- Stephen Gray, "We have a name for the uneven distribution of exposure and risk along racial lines, and it's not COVID-19. It's structural racism," *Graduate School of Design*. May 16, 2020. [Link](#).
- Richard Flordia et al. "How Life in Our Cities Will Look After the Coronavirus Pandemic," *Foreign Policy*. May, 1 2020. [Link](#).
- Kyle Chayka. "How the Corona Virus will Reshape Architecture," *The New Yorker*. July 17, 2020. [Link](#).
- Farhad Manjoo, "I've Seen a Future Without Cars, and It's Amazing," *The New York Times*, July 9, 2020. [Link](#).

November 26/27: No lecture or section due to break

WEEK 14:

November 30: No weekly assignment to allow you additional time to work on your podcast.

December 1: TBD

December 3: Looking Back, Looking Ahead

OVERVIEW: By the time we get to this final class, the COVID-19 epidemic will be quite different from where it was in early September. In this session we will reflect on the early history of the pandemic and its impact; we will also identify critical areas and strategies for monitoring its intermediate and long term effects on science and society, medicine and public health, institutions and culture.

FACULTY: Allan Brandt and Ingrid Katz

READINGS: TBD

December 10: Final Podcast Assignment Due on Canvas by 11:59 PM EST