10/04 Epidemiological Transitions and Health Disparities

Population Growth
1800: 1,000,000,000
1927: 2,000,000,000
1974: 4,000,000,000
1999: 6,000,000,000
2005: 3 people born each second, 10,000 per hour

Causes of Growth
Increased fertility vs. decreased mortality

Epidemiological Transitions: Abdel Omran
Age of Pestilence and Famine
Age of Receding Pandemics
Age of Degenerative and Man-Made Diseases
Impact on culture: changing ideas about marriage and children

Why Did Infectious Diseases Decline?
McKinlay & McKinlay and the role of medicine
Different models for different countries
Multifactorial explanations

The Rise (?) of Chronic Diseases
Unmasked by an aging population
Or created by changed conditions of life? – “diseases of civilization”
Case: mental illness

Implications for Health Policy
Predicting future patterns of disease and mortality
The role of medicine

Is the Transition Reversible?
Case: HIV and sub-Saharan Africa
Case: Russia
Case: obesity and the US in the 21st century?