Examples of discussion questions

**From the class on STDs between the wars:**

‘How would you characterize the language around transactional sex workers in the articles we read, esp. the Rappaport and Baltimore Sun articles? Has this language or the attitudes (paternalism, moralizing, "personal responsibility" etc.) changed to date? Why do you think that males are rarely discussed in these articles in their role as clients (and not discussed at all as transactional sex workers themselves) in these articles?’

‘The Baltimore Sun uses the phrase “Social Disease” in its article from 1933, how does the term “Social Disease” differ from “Venereal Disease” or “Sexually Transmitted Disease/Infection,” is the connotation of the phrases different? Does the change in language create a change in social stigma?’

**From the class on medical care after 1948:**

‘I wonder if the shift in the 1930s in healthcare of the poor from the Department of Health to the Department of Welfare reflected a shift in the idea that healthcare was not a right but rather a commodity to be paid for by the rich and a boon to be granted to the deserving poor?’

‘Why is the preservation of the "traditional patient-physician relationship" such an important part of the development of the American medical care system? How is this related to the resistance to socialized medicine?’

**From the class on substance abuse**

‘Most of Wilson’s cases mention a person who dies within a few days of leaving a correctional facility. How does speak directly to the idea, especially as laid out by Beilenson and Schmoke, of the “War on Drugs” being something that should not be addressed by incarceration?’

‘How does the “medicalization” of drug use contrast with the deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill in relation to the role of prisons?’