SOCIOLOGY 3671-020
SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH
Spring, 2009
W 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Bountiful Campus
3 Credit Hours

INSTRUCTOR: Shaheen Hossain, Ph.D.
Business Phone: 538-6855
Home Phone: 571-0992
Email: Shossain@utah.gov

OFFICE HOURS: Before/after class or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed to provide an in-depth examination of the field of Sociology of Health. The course will explore and analyze social aspects of health, illness, and the health care system in America. Special consideration will be given to topics such as epidemiology, social demography of health, social effects of chronic illness, and health disparities. Additional presentations will include health status and health services for maternal and child health populations in the U.S with specific reference to Utah. Discussions will focus on prenatal care, preterm births, low birth weight babies, infant mortality, oral health, immunization and health promotion.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to identify, understand, and systematically analyze how social, cultural, environmental, and behavioral factors influence patterns of health, illness, and death.

CLASS FORMAT:

Lectures, discussion, videos, and presentations by guest speakers will be used to convey ideas and concepts. Class attendance is essential, as several guest speakers have been invited for this class.

TEXTBOOK:

Medical Sociology
Cockerham, William C. Tenth Edition, Pearson

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Weekly readings: Required readings for each week are listed in the next pages. Students are encouraged to read the materials before class lectures. Class lecture will only provide an overview of course content. Presentations by guest speakers will provide additional insights & topics not covered in the text. The additional topics will also provide an opportunity for questions and discussions. Regular attendance and active participation is strongly encouraged.

WebCT: Class materials will be posted on WebCT. Lecture notes or handouts will be available in both MS power point and MS word versions one day prior to class. All students are expected to check the course website weekly. Lectures may contain more information as examples than is provided on class handouts. Students are expected to take thorough notes.
Exams: There will be two exams, a midterm and a final. Format of the exams will include multiple choice, T/F, and short answers questions from lecture, text, and discussions from guest speakers. The final exam will not be comprehensive or cumulative. The exam will be on the material covered since the midterm. The format of the final exam will be similar to the midterm exam. Each exam will account 35% of the class grade.

Research Project: Students are required to work in small groups for this research project. This will constitute 30% of the class grade. Groups will be determined alphabetically by student’s last name. Anyone, who wishes to join a group other than the one that has been assigned, must consult with the instructor. It is the group member’s responsibility to choose a topic related to medical sociology. The topic for the research project needs to be approved by the instructor prior to undertaking the research. The written report need to be 9 - 10 pages long and must include the following sections:

a. Statement of purpose (specify aim or goal)
b. Background and significance (evaluate existing knowledge, what has already been done? why is the work important?)
c. Research methods (outline research design & procedures used to accomplish the aim)
d. Results (summarize study findings, what have you found?)
e. Conclusions (discuss potential difficulties or limitations of the study, propose alternative approach)
f. Bibliography

Grading Scale: The course grade will be based upon grading policies set by the University of Utah. Extra credit will not be available.

A 100 – 93%
A- 92 – 90%
B+ 89 – 87%
B 86 – 84%
B- 83 – 80%
C+ 79 – 77%
C 76 – 74%
C- 73 – 70%
D+ 69 – 67%
D 66 – 64%
D- 63 – 60%
E <60%

CLASS POLICIES: Students and faculty are obligated to behave in accordance with the policies of the University of Utah. The University of Utah Policies and Regulations can be found at:

http://www.regulations.utah.edu/index.html
http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html
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**Tentative List of Presenters**

**TBA** Guest Speaker: Nan Streeter M.S., R.N.,
Director, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Utah Department of Health
“Planning & Monitoring MCH Programs”

**TBA** Guest Speaker: Lois Bloebaum, R.N., M.P.A.
Manager, Reproductive Health Program, Utah Department of Health
"Pregnancy Risk Assessment & Monitoring: Prenatal care and Birth Outcomes”

**TBA** Guest Speaker: George Delavan, M.D.
Director, Community and Family Health Services, Utah Department of Health
"New Role of Health Providers”

**TBA** Guest Speakers: William McMahon, M.D.
Department of Psychiatry, University of Utah
"Autism: A Public Health Concern”

**TBA** Guest Speaker: Karen Zinner, M.P.H.
Retired, Former Analyst, Maternal and Child Health Bureau
"Political Aspect and Prevention in Oral Health”

**TBA** Guest Speaker: Brenda Ralls Ph.D.
Research Consultants, Diabetes Control and Prevention Program, Utah Department of Health
"Chronic Disease and Diabetes: Burden to Society”

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) STATEMENT**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.