

Sociology of Health Online

Soc 3671-90

Fall Semester, 2013

INSTRUCTOR

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CONSULTATION

I am available for consultation via Canvas email, by phone, or by appointment.

Canvas email is the best way to communicate with me and the TA. Email will be responded within 48 hours except for weekends. You are also welcome to schedule in-person meetings or phone conversations with the instructor or TA to discuss course-related issues.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to acquaint students with important issues in sociology of health. It offers a broad introduction to the study of illness, health and medicine from sociological perspectives. It discusses social determinants of health and surveys the social meanings of health and illness. It also examines systems of healthcare to understand the social and political factors related to the quality, cost and accessibility of healthcare.

CLASS OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able

- to better understand the concepts of health and illnesses;
- to better understand the complexity and importance of social factors and social interactions in forming social disparity in health outcomes;
- to better understand illness behaviors;
- to better understand the issues of health care systems in the United States.

REQUIRED READINGS

- Text: Cockerham, William C. 2009. *Medical Sociology*. 11th Ed. Pearson Prentice Hall. ISBN 0-13 172924-1.
- Additional required readings include book chapters and journal articles detailed in the course schedule below. They are available on E-reserve at the library.
 - Berrigan D, Dodd K, Troiano RP, Reeve BB & Ballard-Barbash R. 2000. "Physical activity and acculturation among adult Hispanics in the United States." *Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport* 77(2): 147-157.
 - Gall TL & Cornblat MW. 2002. "Breast cancer survivors give voice: A qualitative analysis of spiritual factors in long-term adjustment." *Psycho-Oncology* 11:524-535.
 - Pescosolido BA, Tuch SA & Martin JK. 2001. "The profession of medicine and the public: Examining Americans' changing confidence in physician authority from the beginning of the 'health care crisis' to the era of health care reform." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 42:1-16.

- Rier DA. 2000. "The missing voice of the critically ill: A medical sociologist's first-person account." *Sociology of Health and Illness* 22:68-93.
- Ross C. 2000. "Walking, exercising, and smoking: does neighborhood matter?" *Social Science & Medicine* 51:265-274."
- Weiz R. 1999. "Watching Brian die: The rhetoric and reality of informed consent." *Health* 3:209-227.
- Williams DR & Collins C. 1995. "US socioeconomic and racial differences in health: Patterns and explanations." *Annual Review of Psychology* 21:349-386.

CANVAS

All course materials including lecture notes, quizzes, and additional documents are posted in the corresponding learning modules on Canvas. Weekly email messages will be sent to you on Monday via email on Canvas highlighting what to expect during the week. Please check the course site and your email via Canvas on a regular basis. It is highly encouraged you closely follow the course schedule in order to do well on the weekly quizzes, keeping up with the pace of the course material and not getting lagged behind.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

This class can be "attended" from wherever there is an Internet connection. All lecture notes, discussion threads, homework assignments, quizzes, and exams are posted and submitted on Canvas. Competence in using an Internet browser and Canvas is required of the student.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

- **Quizzes (30%)** – There will be timed quizzes on a weekly basis throughout the semester except during the exam or spring break week. The quizzes are to be posted and completed on Canvas. Quizzes will be open on Monday morning (before noon) and closed on Sunday night (midnight). *Do not open the quiz before you plan on taking it!* Once you begin a quiz, the timer starts and you will be unable to stop it. Make sure you are ready to take the quiz and you are in a stable computer environment before starting it. Your three lowest quizzes will be dropped from your final grade.
- **Exams (60%)** – There will be four close-book exams in this course. Exams 1 through 3 cover the 3 units of material respectively. Exam 4 is an OPTIONAL cumulative final to be given in the exam week. The highest 3 of the 4 test scores are counted toward your final grade. This means if you are satisfied with your first 3 test grades, you do not have to take the cumulative final exam. Each of the first three exams will involve multiple choice, true/false, definition and essay questions. The final cumulative exam will entirely consist of multiple choice questions. **Missed exams cannot be made up.** Questions will test a combination of reading materials and films. Study guides will be posted before each exam. Each of the three exams or the final exam will be worth 20% of your final grade. Together, the exams will make up 60% of your grade.
- **Online Discussion (10%)** – Students will participate in 3 online discussions over the course of the semester. Each student is expected to post at least one comment on the discussion thread and respond to two other students' comments. This activity will be conducted on Canvas and will be evaluated based on the quantity and quality of student comments in the discussion thread. The discussion activity will constitute 10 % of your final grade.

Unit 1 August 26 to September 28

- Discussion 1 released on Monday 9/23; discussion closed on Saturday 9/28
- Exam I administered through UONLINE on Saturday 9/28

Unit 2 September 30 to Nov 2

- Discussion 2 released on Monday 10/28; discussion closed on Saturday 11/2
- Exam II administered through UONLINE on Saturday 11/2

Unit 3 Nov 4 to December 14

- Discussion 3 released on Monday 12/9; discussion closed on Saturday 12/14
- Exam III administered through UONLINE on Saturday 12/14

- **Final grades** will be given according to the following scale:

A (90-100%)	A- (86-89%)	B+ (83-85%)
B (80-82%)	B- (77-79%)	C+ (73-76%)
C (70-72%)	C- (66-69%)	D+ (63-65%)
D (60-62%)	D- (55-59%)	E (<55%)

- **No extra credit** is available.

LATE POLICY

- The deadline is enforced electronically by Canvas based on its server's clock of Utah Time. Each activity/assignment is due at 11:59PM on the corresponding deadline. Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines. It is your responsibility to finish and submit assignments, discussion comments, quizzes, and exams on time.
- No late submission will be accepted. There is no exception. A late/missed activity/assignment will receive zero automatically. Recall your lowest quiz and exam scores will be dropped from your final grade.
- Please remember that being late by one second is late. Do not ask the instructor to accept your submission because it is "only one second late." Do not send your assignment by email because it is late. Please also note that no make-up quiz/exam/homework/discussion will be given, even for emergency situations. Your three lowest quiz scores and one lowest exam scores will be dropped from your final grade.
- Computer related problems (i.e. electronic or equipment failure) are not a valid excuse for not completing or submitting an assignment (i.e., quiz or discussion comments) on time. It is your responsibility to maintain your computer and related equipment in order to participate in this online class. Therefore it is advisable to complete the assignments early enough to take into account any problems that may occur.

THINGS TO REMEMBER (Please read them carefully!)

- This is an online course but the instructor and the TA are both nearby! Please feel free to email, telephone, or even come and see us! If you email us, please use the mail function within Canvas. We will regularly check there. Our department email addresses serve as a backup. Email will be responded within 48 hours (often sooner).
- An 'incomplete' will only be granted if you can justify to the instructor that you cannot finish the course because of circumstances beyond your control and if the majority of course work is already completed.
- If you are a member of a university athletic team and need accommodations, you must provide instructor with a schedule of games and team commitments within the first two weeks of the semester.
- Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Any assignment or exam that is handed in must be your own work! However, talking with one another to understand the material better is strongly encouraged. Recognizing the distinction between cheating and cooperation is very important.
 - If you copy someone else's solution, you are cheating. If you let someone else copy your solution, you are cheating. We will not distinguish between the person who copied a solution and the person whose solution was copied. Both people will be treated as cheaters.
 - If someone dictates a solution to you, you are cheating. Everything you hand in must be in your own words, and based on your own understanding of the solution.

- If someone helps you understand the problem during a high-level discussion, you are not cheating. We strongly encourage students to help one another understand the material presented in class, in the book, and general issues relevant to the assignments.
- When taking an exam, you must work independently. Any collaboration during an exam will be considered cheating.
- Any student who is caught cheating will be given an E in the course and referred to the University Student Behavior Committee. Many students think they can get away with cheating and will not be caught. But it is much easier to spot cheaters than you might think! Please don't take that chance. If you're having trouble understanding the material, please let us know and we will be more than happy to help.
- **Classroom equivalency:** Discussion threads, e-mails, and chat rooms are all considered to be equivalent of a classroom setting, and the student behavior within those environments shall conform to the Student Code.
 - Posting photos or comments that would be considered off-topic in a classroom are still off-topic in an online posting.
 - Off-color language and photos are never appropriate.
 - Using angry or abusive language online will not be tolerated, and will be dealt with according to the Student Code.
 - Do not use ALL CAPS, except for titles, since it is the equivalent of shouting online, as is overuse of certain punctuation marks such as exclamation points e.g. !!!! and question marks e.g. ?????.
 - Course e-mails, discussion postings and other online course communications are part of the classroom and as such, are University property and therefore will be subject to GRAMA regulations and the Student Code. Privacy regarding these communications between correspondents must not be assumed and should be mutually agreed upon in advance, in writing.
- The syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when students are given reasonable notice of the modification.
- The instructor will retain unclaimed student exams and assignments only until June 30th, 2013. Please make a note of this for your records.

DISCLAIMERS

“The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.”

(www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/)

COURSE SCHEDULE*

Unit 1	The Convergence of Social Science and Medicine
1: Aug 26	Reading: Ch 1 – Medical Sociology
2. Sep 2	Reading: Ch 2 - Epidemiology
	Film: "Rx for Survival: A Global Health Challenge - How Safe are We?" (available at the University media streaming: http://stream.scl.utah.edu/index.php?c=details&id=886)
3. Sep 9	Reading: Ch 3 – Social Demography of Health: Social Class
	Reading: Williams & Collins (1995)
4. Sep 16	Reading: Ch 4 – Social Demography of Health: Gender, Age, and Race
	Film: “The Minority Project” available at available at http://stream.utah.edu//m/show_grouping.php?g=09742b93697e42788
5. Sep 23	Reading: Ch 5 – Social Stress and Health
	DISCUSSION 1: Response to the films and the readings
Sep 28	EXAM I
Unit 2	Health and Illness Behaviors
6. Sep 23	Reading: Ch 6 – Health Behavior and Lifestyles
	Reading: Berrigan, Dodd, Troiano, Reeve & Ballard-Barbash (2000)
7. Oct 7	Reading: Ross (2000)
	Film: “Designing Healthy Communities: Episode 1” available at the University media streaming: http://stream.lib.utah.edu/index.php?c=details&id=8496
8. Oct 14	SPRING BREAK
9. Oct 21	Reading: Ch 7 – Illness Behavior
	Reading: Gall & Cornblat (2002)
10. Oct 28	Reading: Ch 8 – Sick Role
	Reading: Rier (2000)
	DISCUSSION 2: Response to the films and the readings
Nov 2	EXAM II
Unit 3	Mainstream and Alternative Health Care
11. Nov 4	Reading: Ch 9 – Doctor-Patient Interaction
	Reading: Weiz (1999)
12. Nov 11	Reading: Ch 11 & Ch 12– Physicians & the Physician in a Changing Society
	Reading: Pescosolido, Tuch & Martin (2001)
13. Nov 18	Reading: Ch 10 – Healing Options
	Film: “Healing and the Mind – Vol 1: The Mystery of Chi” available at the university media streaming: http://stream.lib.utah.edu/index.php?c=details&id=1667
14. Nov 25	Reading: Ch 15 – Health care delivery and social policy in the United States
	Film “Sicko” (first 60 minutes) available at the university media streaming: http://stream.lib.utah.edu/index.php?c=details&id=532
15. Dec 2	Reading: Ch 16 – Health care & social policy in developed countries
	Film: “Sicko” (the remaining part) available at the university media streaming: http://stream.lib.utah.edu/index.php?c=details&id=532
16. Dec 9	DISCUSSION 3: Response to the films and the readings
Dec 14	EXAM III
17. Dec 16	FINAL EXAM (COMPREHENSIVE; OPTIONAL)

* The schedule is subject to change.