# Sociology of Health and Health Professions (SOCI 353)

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| Instructor | Jennifer Andersen, M.A. | Class | M/W/F 10:30-11:20 Avery 118 |
| Office | Oldfather 405 | Phone | 402.472.6164 |
| Office Hours | M/W 12:30 – 1:30 or by appt. | E-mail | jenn.audrey@gmail.com |

### Text:

The Sociology of Health, Healing, and Illness, 8th Edition: Weiss and Lonnquist

Complications: A Surgeon’s Notes on an Imperfect Science; Atul Gawande

Being Mortal: Atul Gawande

Better: A Surgeon’s Notes on Performance; Atul Gawande

### Description:

Today much of the discussion surrounding health care is focused on access to health care and health insurance; quality of care; health care technology, health policy reform; and health care costs. This course presents a conceptual and substantial overview of the social, cultural, and historical foundations of health care and health professions in the United States as well as a global perspective on health care.

### Course Objectives:

Following the completion of this course, students will be able to:

* Demonstrate an understanding of the development of medical sociology;
* Identify how the system of health care and health professions has changed over time;
* Assess the important social factors on the structure of health care industry, health care policy and the distribution of health care;
* Discover and develop their own sociological imagination and apply it to societal issues;
* Develop communication skills through in-class group discussions, presentations, and written assignments.

### Requirements:

Requirements: Attendance is required and students are expected to complete assigned readings and assignments prior to class or on due dates. Active participation in the class is encouraged and will enhance your overall experience in this course.

Format: Course instruction will consist of lectures, class discussion, small group work, videos and additional class activities to stimulate critical thinking and successful completion of course objectives.

Class Conduct: I place a high value on respectful conduct in the classroom, representing diversity and acknowledging different opinions and experiences. As a student, classroom conduct respectful to both the instructor and your classmates covers a range of areas that all of you are familiar with.

Required Materials: The required texts are listed above, and will be necessary for the successful completion of this course. Additionally, further readings as assigned may be found on Canvas, along with the posting of syllabi, outlines, grades and other important course information and updates. If you have any limitations using Canvas, notify me immediately, as computer access is a requirement of this class.

Weekly Journals: Students are required to complete a weekly journal, which will be a reflection on the material learned in the course. For students planning on obtaining further education in healthcare past the bachelor’s degree, this activity will also helpful in preparing future applications.

In-Class Activities/Assignments: Students will be given individual and group in-class activities/assignments (graded and ungraded). Therefore, in-class participation is very critical to the successful completion of this course.

Quizzes: Students are required to take ten (10) quizzes over the materials presented in class, or discussed in the assigned readings. These quizzes will be administered over the course of the semester. Quizzes may take different formats: 1) multiple choice questions; (2) true/false questions; and (3) essay questions (i.e. question is posed and you are required to provide the answer).

Exams: There are a total of two (2) examinations for this course – mid-term and final exam. The format will be multiple choice, short answer, as well as essays. All exams are closed book/no notes and will be administered in class on the assigned dates. Make-up exams are only allowed under extreme circumstances, and at the instructor’s discretion. Students must also provide documentation for medical emergencies.

Book Review Project: Students will choose one of the three books assigned to complete a book review. Details will follow.

Final Paper and Media Presentation: Each student will develop a final paper and a health media project based on the concepts and approaches discussed in the course. Each student will develop a 10-15 page paper and a 5 to 7-minute project using any form of media platform (e.g. YouTube video, Power-point, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr, and Infographics) on a topic of their choice. Be creative and have fun! The projects will be graded on relevance to the course, innovativeness, freshness of idea and groups should demonstrate evidence of extensive research, knowledge of specific health content, depth of thinking, organization and flow of the material. Additional details will follow.

Point Totals:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Assignment/Quiz/Exam | Points per Assignment | Cumulative Points | Percent of Grade |
| Weekly Journal | 15 @ 10 points each | 150 | 15% |
| In-Class Graded Activities | 15 @ 5 points each | 225 | 7.5% |
| Quizzes | 10 @ 15 points each | 375 | 15% |
| Exams | 2 @ 125 points each | 625 | 25% |
| Book Review | 1 @ 175 points | 800 | 17.5% |
| Final Paper and Media Presentation | 1@ 200 points | 1000 | 20% |

### Additional Information

Students who have conflicts due to representing the university (e.g. Band, Athletics, Theatre): If you will have university related class conflicts, you need to submit official written documentation from the organization leader (e.g. director, coach) (highlighting your schedule) during the first two weeks of class. If your schedule conflicts with an assignment or exam due date, you must inform the Instructor via email about this conflict at least 2 weeks in advance, for a new assignment or exam date to be scheduled. Students who miss graded activities due to university related travel with an organization can make up missed exercises. Please note that make-up assignments or exams may vary from those originally given.

Grade Check Request: Grade checks/reports for student athletes, scholarships, Greek society membership, etc. are handled in person by appointment with your Instructor.

Requisition for Re-evaluation of Assignments & Exams: If a student believes an error was made in the assignment of his/her grade on an assignment they may address the situation in a type-written memo. For assignments and examinations, if a student believes there was more than one correct answer for a question or points were deducted in error they may submit, via email, a report detailing the error within 48 hours of assignment or exam date. For a request to be considered the student must provide relevant evidence from the assigned readings and/or lecture notes in support of the claim. Please note that re-grading means that the grade on the assignment or examination may increase, not change at all, or decrease. The score on the re-graded assignment or examination will then be considered the student’s final score. Requests for re-evaluation of re-graded assignment or examination will not be accepted.

If a student is not satisfied with the response to a request for re-evaluation of an assignment or examination grade, the student may contact the chair of the Undergraduate Program in Sociology, in writing, to detail the complaint. Please note, however, that the chair of the Undergraduate Program should be contacted only after a student has submitted a request for re-evaluation, as explained in the above paragraph, and only in the case that the student is unsatisfied with the Instructor’s response to the initial request.

Students with Disabilities: In accordance with the University policy, if a student has a documented disability and requires accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, he/she should contact the Instructor via email as soon as possible and make this need known. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, you must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY. Please contact the Service for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office as soon as possible to have them advance the paperwork to the instructor in a timely manner.

Email Etiquette: Many students are new to formal electronic communication; therefore, this is a good time to learn how to create a professional electronic presentation of self. Electronic communication with your professors, instructors, recitation instructors, and other UNL personnel constitute formal, rather than conversational, correspondence. The style and tone of your emails should therefore be like business-style email correspondence. Therefore, structure your email professionally by beginning with the appropriate salutation (e.g., Good Morning/Day/Afternoon Professor, Dr., Director, Dean, Provost, Chancellor, Mr., Ms., and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_\_ (Last Name). Unless otherwise instructed, UNL personnel should not be addressed as Hey/Hi/Hello/Yo/what’s up \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (First Name). If you are unsure, it is always best to use professional titles (e.g. Professor or Dr. and last name). Likewise, if you prefer to be addressed by a different name other than what is listed on the official class roster, please inform me as soon as possible, so that you may be addressed appropriately.

When emailing please identify the course name (i.e. SOCI 353) and end the correspondence by signing your name. I generally respond to emails between 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday. However, if you have not received a response within 24 business hours, please send a follow-up email.

Academic Integrity: The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has set education objectives that aim to maintain academic integrity. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, submitting unoriginal work in whole or part, fabrication or falsification, abuse of academic materials, complicity in academic dishonesty, and falsifying grade reports. At minimum, any student found guilty of committing an act of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade on the assignment, will be reported to the Chair of the Department of Sociology and the University Judicial Officer. Further academic and disciplinary sanctions may also be applied, however, including dismissal from the university. Students have been dismissed from the University for Violations of academic integrity. We therefore strongly urge you to maintain academic integrity.

If you are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty, please see an academic advisor, talk to your professor/instructor, and become familiar with the University’s Academic Integrity Policy

(See http://stuafs.unl.edu/ja/code/three.shtml).

### Course Outline

All readings should be completed before class on the day they are assigned. This schedule is subject to changes based on our movement through the material. You will be informed of all changes in class in advance. Due dates for assignments are posted on Canvas.

### Course Schedule:

| Week | Topic | Required Reading |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1  Aug 21-25 | M: Introduction/Syllabus  W/F: The Development of Scientific Medicine | Chapters 1 and 2; Weiss and Lonnquist  Better: Afterword (pgs. 249-257) |
| Week 2  Aug 28 – Sept 1 | M/W: Social Epidemiology  F: Society, Disease, and Illness | Chapters 3 and 4; Weiss and Lonnquist  Better: Part 1 Diligence |
| Week 3  Sept 4-8 | M: No Class  W/F: Society, Disease, and Illness | Chapter 4; Weiss and Lonnquist  Better: Part 1 Diligence |
| Week 4  Sept 11-15 | M/W: Social Stress  F: Health Behavior | Chapters 5 and 6: Weiss and Lonnquist  Topic Choice and Book Review Choice due Sept. 11th |
| Week 5  Sept 18-22 | M: Health Behavior  W/F Experiencing Illness and Disability | Chapters 6 and 7: Weiss and Lonnquist  Being Mortal: Chapters 1, 2, and 3 |
| Week 6  Sept 25-29 | M/W/F Physicians and the Profession of Medicine Medical Education and the Socialization of Physicians | Chapters 8 and 9: Weiss and Lonnquist  Complications: Part 1- Fallibility |
| Week 7  Oct 2-6 | M/W/F: Nurses, Mid-Level Healthcare Practitioners, And Allied Health Workers  Complementary and Alternative Medicine | Chapters 10 and 11: Weiss and Lonnquist  Annotated Bibliography Due Oct 6th |
| Week 8  Oct 9- 13 | M: Midterm Exam  W/F: The Physician-Patient Relationship: Background and Models | Chapter 12: Weiss and Lonnquist  Complications: Part 2- Mystery and Part 3- Uncertainty  Midterm Oct. 9th |
| Week 9  Oct 16-20 | M: No Class  W/F: Professionalization and Ethical Obligations of Physicians in the Patient-Physician Relationship | Chapter 13: Weiss and Lonnquist  Better: Part 2- Doing Right  Data Collection Due Oct 20th |
| Week 10  Oct 23-27 | M/W/F: The Healthcare System of the United States | Chapter 14: Weiss and Lonnquist  Better: Part 3- Ingenuity |
| Week 11  Oct 30-Nov 3 | M/W/F: Health Care Delivery in the United States | Chapter 15: Weiss and Lonnquist  Being Mortal: Chapters 4 and 5  Newspaper Search due Nov. 3rd |
| Week 12  Nov 6-10 | M/W: Comparative Health Care Systems  F: Book Review Discussion Day | Chapter 17: Weiss and Lonnquist  Book Review Due Nov. 8th |
| Week 13  Nov 13-17 | M/W: The Social Implications of Advanced Health Care Technology  F: Movie Day: Gleason | Chapters 16: Weiss and Lonnquist  Being Mortal: Chapters 6, 7, and 8 |
| Week 14  Nov 20-24 | M: Hybrid Class  W/F: No Class | TBD; See Module in Canvas for Assignment  Final Paper Due Nov. 24th |
| Week 15  Nov 27-Dec 1 | The Affordable Care Act and the Future of  Health Care Reform | Online Readings |
| Week 16  Dec 4-8 | Media Presentations | Order of Presentations TBD, Presentation due online Dec 3rd |
| Week 17  Dec 11-15 | Finals Week | Final Exam Friday, Dec 15th, 10-12 |

### Examinations:

Midterm Exam: October 9th, 10:30am, Avery 118

Final Exam: December 15th, 10:00am - 12:00pm, Avery 118