

Health, Medicine, and Society

SOCI 252

Information Spring 2019
Online

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Office Hours Monday/Wednesday, Noon – 1pm, or by
appointment
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Course Description:

This course is designed to give students an introduction to the sociological study of health and medicine. Key areas of focus include:

- The relationship between social conditions and physical/mental health
- Differences in health across social groups
- The causes and facilitators of health disparities between groups
- Medical care and health care policies

Course Format:

The course is broken down into four sections. Students will take an online exam, via Canvas, at the conclusion of each section, with a final cumulative exam at the end of the course.

In addition to the textbook, supplemental readings will be assigned as well. Students will be required to discuss the textbook and these readings with one another online, via Canvas discussion board. Students will be broken into groups for this activity.

Furthermore, online video lectures will be posted for each topic covered. Students are responsible for the content of these lectures.

Required Text:

The Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care: A Critical Approach
Seventh Edition
By Rose Weitz

Additional readings, provided by the instructor. Details on these readings can be found below.

Course Grading and Assignments:*Discussion Board Posts:*

There are two types of threads you will find on the Discussion board: 1) general threads that everyone has access too, and 2) weekly discussion threads that only myself and the other members of your group have access too.

Students will be broken up into smaller groups for weekly discussions of course readings. A new thread will be posted every Monday, by me, for the week's discussion. Everyone is to make a total of two posts in each of these weekly threads, with a total of three parts: Initial posts should include 1) a brief reaction/discussion of the week's readings, and 2) a discussion question for the class about the week's readings. These will be due by 11:59 PM on Wednesday nights. For the second post, you are to return by 11:59 the following Friday and respond to one of your classmate's discussion questions.

Initial reactions need only be a paragraph or two in length – these are simply quick responses to keep you engaged with the material in an online environment. It is okay if multiple people respond to the same discussion question – the purpose of these is to engage you in the material. You will be graded on posts and participation. This is largely a completion grade, but you will be docked points for failing to post on time or making low-effort posts.

In addition to the daily discussion threads, there will be two general threads that everyone has the same access to: a general icebreaker thread and a general hub thread. The icebreaker thread is simply for everyone to post a quick introduction in for a completion grade as class gets started.

The hub will also serve as a place for any questions or comments you may have about the course broadly.

Exams:

There will be four unit exams, and one cumulative final exam. Unit exams will be 40 multiple-choice questions, with a 50-minute time limit. The cumulative final exam will be 80 questions with a 90-minute time limit. All exams will be taken via Canvas. The exams are open-book, but you *will not* have time to look up each answer, so study beforehand and be prepared! Unit exams will go live at Noon on Wednesdays (e.g., Jan 30th) and you will have until 11:59 PM the following Sunday (e.g. Feb 3rd) to complete them. The cumulative final will go up at Noon on Monday, April 29th and you will have until Noon on Friday, May 3rd to complete it.

The grading breakdown is as follows:

- Discussion Board/Participation: 170 points (10 per week, 10 for introduction post)
- Four Unit Exams: 80 points each
- Final Exam: 160 points
- GRAND TOTAL: 650 points

Netiquette

When posting on the discussion boards, it is important to understand how to interact with one another online. You can read more about the rules of netiquette in the “Getting Started” tab in Blackboard.

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted. Not only is it unfair to the other students, it will also be much harder to catch up in this condensed five-week session. If there is an extenuating circumstance, please contact me.

Grade Breakdown

| <i>Letter</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Letter</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| A+ | 97 – 100% | C | 73 – 76% |
| A | 93 – 96% | C- | 70 – 72% |
| A- | 90 – 92% | D+ | 67 – 69% |
| B+ | 87 – 89% | D | 63 – 66% |
| B | 83 – 86% | D- | 60 – 62% |
| B- | 80 – 82% | F | 00 – 59% |
| C+ | 77 – 79% | | |

Plagiarism:

(as defined by Dictionary.com)

1. an act or instance of using or closely imitating the language and thoughts of another author without authorization and the representation of that author's work as one's own, as by not crediting the original author.

Synonyms: appropriation, infringement, piracy, counterfeiting; theft, borrowing, cribbing, passing off.

2. a piece of writing or other work reflecting such unauthorized use or imitation.

In plain English: Don't copy/paste information or writing from another place without citing it.

Cheating: Students caught cheating on exams or other assignments will receive a grade of zero for the exam/assignment.

Students With Disabilities:

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact us (the instructor or teaching assistant) for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodations to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to participate fully in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive

accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

Found at: <http://www.unl.edu/ssd/content/syllabus-statement-faculty>

More information available: <http://www.unl.edu/ssd/home>

An additional note: Video lectures will be uploaded to YouTube, where closed-captioning is available.

Additional Readings:

Aggarwal, A., P. Monsivais, A. J. Cook, and A. Drewnowski. 2011. "Does Diet Cost Mediate the Relation between Socioeconomic Position and Diet Quality?" *European Journal of Clinical Nutrition* 65(9):1059–66.

Barker, Kristin K. 2011. "Listening to Lyrica: Contested Illnesses and Pharmaceutical Determinism." *Social Science & Medicine* (1982) 73(6):833–42.

Clarke, Adele E., Janet K. Shim, Laura Mamo, Jennifer Ruth Fosket, and Jennifer R. Fishman. 2003. "Biomedicalization: Technoscientific Transformations of Health, Illness, and U.S. Biomedicine." *American Sociological Review* 68(2):161–94.

Conrad, Peter and Kristin K. Barker. 2010. "The Social Construction of Illness: Key Insights and Policy Implications." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 51 Suppl:S67-79.

Horwitz, Allan V. 2007. "Transforming Normality into Pathology: The 'DSM' and the Outcomes of Stressful Social Arrangements." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 48(3):211–22.

Phelan, Jo C., Bruce G. Link, and Parisa Tehranifar. 2010. "Social Conditions as Fundamental Causes of Health Inequalities: Theory, Evidence, and Policy Implications." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 51 Suppl:S28-40.

Timmermans, Stefan and Hyeyoung Oh. 2010. "The Continued Social Transformation of the Medical Profession." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 51(1_suppl):S94–106.

Winnick, Terri A. 2005. "From Quackery to 'Complementary' Medicine: The American Medical Profession Confronts Alternative Therapies." *Social Problems* 52(1):38–61.

Course Schedule:

| Week | Readings/Exams |
|-------------------------|---|
| | Unit #1 |
| Week 1 (Jan 7) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introductions, - Weitz, Ch1 - "The Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care" |
| Week 2 (Jan 14) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weitz, Ch2 – "The Social Sources of Modern Illness" - Phelan, Link, and Tehranifaf – "Social Conditions as Fundamental Causes of Health Inequalities: Theory, Evidence, and Policy Implications" |
| Week 3 (Jan 21) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weitz, Ch3 – "The Social Distribution of Illness in the United States" - Aggarwal et. al. – "Does diet cost mediate the relation between socioeconomic position and diet quality?" |
| Week 4 (Jan 28) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weitz, Ch4 – "Illness and Death in the Less-Developed Countries" - Unit #1 Exam – Covering Weeks 1-4 |
| | Unit #2 |
| Week 5 (Feb 4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weitz, Ch5 – "The Social Meanings of Illness" - Weitz, Ch6 – "The Experience of Disability, Chronic Pain, and Chronic Illness" |
| Week 6 (Feb 11) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conrad and Barker – "The Social Construction of Illness: Key Insights and Policy Implications" - Barker – "Listening to Lyrica" |
| Week 7 (Feb 18) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weitz, Ch7 – "The Sociology of Mental Illness" |
| Week 8 (Feb 25) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Horwitz – "Transforming Normality into Pathology" - Unit #2 Exam – Covering Weeks 5-8 |
| | Unit #3 |
| Week 9 (Mar 4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weitz, Ch8 – "Health Care in the United State" - One TBA supplementary reading |
| Week 10 (Mar 11) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weitz, Ch9 – "Health Care Around the Globe" - Weitz, Ch10 – "Health Care Settings and Technologies" |
| Week 11 (Mar 18) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spring Break – no readings or exams |
| Week 12 (Mar 25) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarke – "Biomedicalization: Technoscientific Transformations of Health, Illness, and U.S. Biomedicine" - Unit #3 Exam – Covering Weeks 9-12 |
| | Unit #4 |
| Week 13 (Apr 1) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weitz, Ch11 – "The Profession of Medicine" - Timmermans and Oh – "The Continued Social Transformation of the Medical Profession" |
| Week 14 (Apr 8) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weitz, Ch12 – "Other Mainstream and Alternative Health Care Providers" |
| Week 15 (Apr 15) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Winnick – "From Quackery to 'Complementary' Medicine" |
| Week 16 (Apr 22) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weitz, Ch13 – "Issues in Bioethics" - Unit #4 Exam – Covering Weeks 13-16 |
| Week 17 (Apr 29) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final Exam – Cumulative |