

**SYO 4402-02 -Fall 2008
(Medical Sociology)**

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**** Syllabus subject to change if new circumstances arise or at instructor's discretion.**

Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of some major issues and research findings in the sociology of health and illness. The course covers three major themes: (1) The Relationship between Society and Health, (2) Health and Illness Behavior and Health Care Practitioners; and (3) the Health Care Delivery System.

The relationship between society and health explores the effects of social and environmental factors on health and illness; the decline of mortality from infectious disease and the extent to which this was due to social vs. medical factors; the prevalence of illness in various population subgroups, and why disease rates differ across groups; and the relationship between stress and illness. Health behaviors focus on preventive and lifestyle health behaviors and individual responsibility and health. Illness behavior focuses on actions taken when one experiences symptoms. The discussion on medical practitioners explores the power of physicians in medicine and in society; challenges to physician dominance and autonomy; medicine as an institution of social control; the physician-patient relationship; and complementary and alternative medicine. The health care delivery system covers health care costs; the increasing corporatization of the health care system; public and private financing of health care; and technology issues in screening and treatment.

Course Objectives

1. To critically explore and evaluate problems and issues that affect health and illness in contemporary society.
2. To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how the social organization of society influences the type and distribution of disease and illness.
3. To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of past, current, and predicted trends in health, illness, and health care.

4. To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how the social organization of society shapes the response to disease and illness--the medical care system.
5. To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of past, current, and proposed policy issues relevant to health, illness, and health care.

Required Materials

1. Weiss, Gregory and Lynne Lonnquist, 2006. The Sociology of Health, Healing, and Illness (6th ed.) Prentice Hall.
2. FSUID (Required for accessing course materials through Blackboard).
3. Register on New York Times Web Site at <http://www.nytimes.com/> . Click the login box and then register.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

1. Reading assignments

For each topic, assigned readings are found in the text book and supplemental articles available through Blackboard or online. The assigned readings appear at the end of the syllabus. It is important to read all the material. Some information will not be covered in class. However, students are responsible for all information at exam time. The supplemental articles will be available in the "Course Library" section on Blackboard.

NOTE: Students are strongly urged to read the materials before they can better follow the lecture and take notes more effectively. This course covers a number of concepts, historical development of issues, and often contrasts differing views on the same topic. It is very easy to become confused during the lecture. Preparation reduces confusion and anxiety. Preparation also allows the students to identify issues and definitions that are not clear so that questions may be raised well before exams. Remember, the instructor cannot determine whether or not students understand material unless students communicate during class or until the exam results are in. The former is preferable to the latter. In addition, we will have in-class quizzes.

NOTE: You are encouraged to participate during class discussions for several reasons: (1) you will learn more about the application of the course to events in your own life, (2) you will be able to clarify points of bewilderment before the exam as noted earlier, and (3) participation is taken into consideration when course grades are assigned.

2. Attendance and Unannounced Quizzes (15 % of final grade)

Attendance is assessed via sign-in sheets, participation in classroom exercises, and short quizzes. The quizzes will consist of questions that have come from the readings or the lecture. There will usually be about 3-5 questions. With 3 questions, scores will be: 0=absent, 3=no correct answers but attended class, 6=1 correct answers, 9=2 correct answers, and 12= 3 correct answers. When no quiz is given, students get 3 points for attendance. There will be **no make up quizzes. In lieu of recording or tracking excused absences, students may drop the lowest 4 grades.**

3. Exams (60 % of final grade)

Three exams will be given over the semester. Each exam will be worth a total of 50 points. The typical exam will consist of multiple-choice questions, but the instructor reserves the right to include fill-in-the-blank and short essay questions. The exams constitute 75% of the final grade. **The last exam is not comprehensive.**

Grading Scale (Rounded): 48-50=A+ 45-47=A- 42-44=B+ 39-41=B- 36-38=C+
33-35=C- 29-32=D 0-28=Failed

3b. Make-up exam policy (Applies only to regularly scheduled exams; not quizzes)

Make-up exams are given only in the following situations:

1. Illness of the student with confirmation by medical personnel.
2. Family emergency such as illness or death.
3. Informing the instructor a week in advance of the exam and presentation of an acceptable justification. Acceptable justifications include, for example, documented FSU-related activities. Acceptable justifications do not include vacation trips.
4. There are no opportunities to make up quizzes.

4. Written Homework (25% of final grade)

Each student is required to complete 3 written homework assignments. The assignments will require students to write an essay 1 page in length on the designated topic. These will be available on Blackboard.

Grading is based on analytical, synthesis, organizational, and grammar skills. Each paper will should be typed on white paper with no cover sheet. Turn in a hard copy and a copy to **Turnitin** on Blackboard. **The penalty for late papers is 5 points per day.**

Grading Scale (Rounded): 48-50=A+ 45-47=A- 42-44=B+ 39-41=B- 36-38=C+
33-35=C- 29-32=D 0-28=Failed

NOTE: Assignments and exams are not optional. Students will receive a failing grade for the course if they (1) do not complete the paper and/or (2) do not take any one of the three exams.

6. Final Letter Grades

The final letter grade will be determined by weighting attendance (15%), written homework (25%), and exams (60%). Final grades will be assigned as follows:

95-100%=A+ 90-94%=A- 85-89%=B+ 80-84%=B- 75-79%=C+ 70-74%=C-
60-69%=D 0-59%=Failed

Academic Honesty

Academic Honor: Students are expected to abide by the Academic Honor Policy of the Florida State University, including the statement on Values and Moral Standards published in The Florida State University General Bulletin. The Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of these expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty throughout the process.

Students must abide by the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a "zero" for that particular assignment or an "F" for the course, at the instructor's discretion. Any student who **plagiarizes**, cheats on exams, or otherwise behaves in a dishonest way may be reported to the university administration for further disciplinary action as specified in the Academic Honor Policy.

Plagiarism is the use of copyrighted or others' materials without proper acknowledgement. It is unlawful and may lead to criminal prosecution and/or your expulsion from the university. ALWAYS acknowledge the sources and materials that you use. If you use a string of three or more exact words from another source, place the words in quotes and cite the author, year and page number in the text. If you paraphrase (use the ideas but not the exact words) or appropriate a concept or phrase, cite the author and year in the text.

Use of multiple transmitters: Intentionally using another student's PRS transmitter to gain class credit for yourself or the other student is a violation of the FSU academic Honor Code and is strictly forbidden. All students involved in such behavior will automatically lose all PRS credit for the semester and will be subject to the procedures as outlined in the Honor Code.

Please see the following website for a complete explanation of the Academic Honor Policy:
(<http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/forms/honorpolicy.pdf>).

NOTE: SIGNING IN FOR OTHER STUDENTS IS A VIOLATION OF THE ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

ETIQUETTE AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

1. Try not to be persistently late for class. It disrupts the lecture and is inconsiderate of your fellow students. If you have special problems or schedule difficulties, see the instructor.

2. Unless you are ill, try to avoid going to the toilet and/or water fountain when class is in session. Again, it disrupts the lecture and is inconsiderate. If you have a problem or issue, see the instructor.

3. **LAPTOPS are permitted for note taking, unless they become bothersome to the instructor or other students. This policy is subject to change.**

3. **Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and expulsion from the class may result.** This includes but is not limited to:

- **reading newspapers and other material not related to the class**
- **personal grooming**
- **speaking inappropriately**
- **being rude to other class members or to the instructor**
- **using laptops for non-class related activities**
- **phone conversations**
- **gaming and texting**

4. If you are having difficulty understanding the material, please see the professor before the end of the term. Nothing can be done if you wait.

5. Keep up with the assignments. The readings require thought and careful consideration

Reading Assignments and Schedule
W/L= Weiss and Lonnquist
BB=Blackboard Course Library
OL=Online at New York Times

Date	Topic and Assignment
8-25	Introduction to the Sociology of Health and Illness 1. Chapter 1 in W/L
8-27/9/3	The Development of Scientific Medicine 1. Chapter 2 in W/L
9/1	No Class---Labor Day
9-8/9-10	Social Epidemiology 1. Chapter 3 in W/L 2. 60-62 in W/L (Optional) Chapter 4 in W/L
9-15/9-17	Socioeconomic Status (SES) and Health 1. Lahelma, "Health and Social Class" BB 2. Browning and Cagney, "Health, Neighborhood Disadvantage" BB
9/15	Homework #1 Due 9/15
9-22	Race/Ethnicity and Health 1. Frisbie and Hummer, "Race/Ethnicity, Health, and Mortality" BB 2. Willis, "Race and Health" BB
9/24	Gender, Sex, and Health 1. Shinberg, "Women's Health" BB 2. Courtenea, "Constructions of Masculinity" BB
9-29	Exam I 9/29----Materials Covered 8/25 thru 9/24
10-1/10-6	Social Stress and Health 1. Chapter 5 in W/L
10-8/10-13	Health Behaviors 1. Chapter 6 in W/L

	<p>2. McKinlay, "A Case for Refocusing Upstream" BB</p> <p>3. Yancey et al., "Obesity at the Crossroads..." BB</p>
10-8	Homework #2 Due 10-8
10-15/10-20	<p>Illness Behavior, Sick Role, and Medicalization</p> <p>1. Chapter 7 in W/L</p> <p>2. McGann and Conrad, "Deviance, Medicalization of" BB</p> <p>3. Herek, "Aids and Stigma" BB</p>
10-22/10-27	<p>Physicians and the Profession of Medicine</p> <p>1. Chapter 8 in W/L</p> <p>2. Light, "Professional Dominance in Medicine" BB</p>
10-29/11-3	<p>The Physician-Patient Relationship</p> <p>1. Chapter 12 in W/L</p> <p>2. van Ryn & Burke, "The Effect of Patient Race and Socio-economic Status on Physicians' Perceptions of Patients" BB</p>
11-5	Exam #2 11/5--- Material Covers 10-1 thru 11-3
11-10/11-12	<p>Alternative Healers and Healing Practices</p> <p>1. Chapter 11 in W/L</p> <p>2. Schneirov & Geczik, "Alternative Health and the Challenges of Institutionalization" BB</p>
11-17/11-19	<p>The Health Care Delivery System</p> <p>1. Chapter 14 in W/L</p> <p>2. Relman, "The Health Care Industry: Where is it Taking Us?" BB</p> <p>3. Hartocollis, "Cuts in Medicaid May Mean Billion-Dollar Loss to New York for Training Doctors"</p> <p>OL http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/14/nyregion/14cuts.html</p> <p>4. Dewan and Sack, "A Safety-Net Hospital Falls Into Financial Crisis"</p> <p>OL http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/08/us/08grady.html</p>
11-17	Homework #3 Due 11-17
11-24	<p>Health Insurance</p> <p>1. Garland and Greenlick, "Health Insurance" BB</p> <p>2. Gale Encyclopedia of Everyday Law, "Treatment Without Insurance" BB</p>
11-16	No Class---11/26
12-1/12-3	<p>Technology, Health, and Health Care</p> <p>1. Chapter 16 in W/L</p> <p>2. Talbot, "Jack or Jill?"</p> <p>OL http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200203/talbot</p>

	3. Kahn, "Race in a Bottle" BB
12-8	Exam # 3, 12-8 (5:30-6:45 p.m.) Materials Covered 11-5/12-3