

SYLLABUS: Medical Sociology
SYO 4402
Spring, 2009

CONTACT INFORMATION:*

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COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Text:

Weiss, Gregory L. and Lynne E. Lonnquist. 2006. *The Sociology of Health, Healing, and Illness*, 5th Edition. Pearson Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ.

Additional Required Readings are available online in **Assignments Page** of the Blackboard course website.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The primary objectives of this course are to (1) explain why and how social structure influences the distribution of health and illness and (2) illustrate how the medical care system is organized and responds.

In this context, we will focus on the following topics: (1) The distinction between health and illness; (2) The role of social stress in health and well-being; (3) How and why health care services are organized and distributed the way they are; (4) The current state of the American health care system; (5) The role of insurance in financing health care; and (6) Problems of responsibility for health.

There are no prerequisites for enrollment in this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the completion of this course the student will understand

- * The influence of the social environment on health and illness.
- * Prominent current theoretical perspectives in explaining the social distribution of health and well-being
- * The social factors that are prominent in perpetuation of health disparities
- * Health and illness behavior
- *The social implications of advanced health care technology

GRADING/EVALUATION (all students):

Nine quizzes worth a maximum of 10 points each
90 points

Three exams worth a maximum of 50 points each
150 points

Final Examination
100 points

Total
340 points*

Extra Credit:

Quiz # 1 10 points

GRADING/EVALUATION:

The grading scale is as follows: 340-307= A; 306-273 = B; 272-239 = C;
238-205 = D; 204 or less = F.

COURSE CONTENT:

All weekly assignments, are posted in the "assignment" section of your blackboard course website.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE:

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in The Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook. The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community.

Please see the following web site for a complete explanation of the Academic Honor Code.

<http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/codes/honor.html>

<http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/>

The Plagiarized Paper: A Definition

The Internet is changing the methods of obtaining plagiarized material. It is very easy for anyone to obtain papers written by others via the Internet and to extract wholesale sections of documents for insertion into his or her own papers. Hundreds of sites offer papers, research, writing, and editing. The ease with which such material is available over the Internet does not lessen the seriousness of claiming material from the Internet as your own.

Your paper would be considered as "plagiarized" in part or entirely if you do any of the following:

- Submit a paper that was written by someone other than you.
- Submit a paper in which you use the ideas, metaphors or reasoning style of another, but do not cite that source and/or place that source in your list of references.
- Submit a paper in which you "cut and paste" or use the exact words of a source and you do not put the words within quotation marks, use footnotes or in-text citations, and place the source in your list of references.

Deterring and Detecting Plagiarism: Turnitin.com

To deter and detect "Internet plagiarism," FSU has acquired a [site-wide license to Turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). This service scans uploaded materials to see if content has been copied from materials available on the Internet or from papers collected in its database.

Students agree that by taking this course the required assignments they submit may be submitted to Turnitin.com for review.

All submitted papers will become source documents in the Turnitin.com database and used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in papers submitted in the future. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of the use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com website.

Resources for Improving Your Writing and Research, and Avoiding Plagiarism

As an intellectually honest student, you will avoid plagiarism through the ways that you think, learn, formulate, and express your ideas. By performing according to the standards of this university and this course, you will not only avoid failure and dismissal from the

university - you will develop a mental structure that will make your future learning more compelling and productive.

Whether you are "new" or "experienced" in university-level research and writing processes, you should take some time to review the following resources. They include checklists, guidelines, examples, and explanations on how to research and write papers without risk of plagiarism. The last item on the list provides you with a link to FSU's Reading and Writing Center - another resource for all FSU students who wish to improve their research and writing skills.

- A checklist from Purdue University: [Writing Research Papers: A Step-by-Step Procedure](#)
- Guidelines and examples from the University of Alberta: [Handouts and Online Resources for Students](#)
- Practical steps and tips from the Internet Public Library: [IPL Teen Space: A+ Research and Writing](#)
- A multimedia interactive tutorial (requires Authorware plug-in) from the University of Dalhousie: [Information Literacy Tutorials](#)
- [Internet: Citing an Electronic Source](#) for APA, MLA, and other major style manuals, from the FSU Libraries
- Information on how FSU students at any stage of writing may receive tutoring, participate in group sessions, or enroll in courses or online classes to learn process-centered research and writing skills through [FSU's Reading and Writing Center](#)

Would you like clarification about the definitions and examples of plagiarism? Would you like other tips and resources? If so, review the following additional resources.

- A sample quiz to help students identify instances of plagiarism - [What is plagiarism at Indiana University?](#)
- [Examples of Plagiarism](#) from Princeton University
- [Turnitin.com Research Resources](#) for educators and students - definition, tips, guidelines, answers, and printable handouts for educators, and very useful for students

Finally, students in the course will be held to the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a "zero" for that particular assignment or possibly an "F" for the course and may be reported to the University Judicial Office. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated.

COURTESY IN THE CLASSROOM

Classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distractions. Therefore all students are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous manner that is respectful of others. Repeated disruption of class will lead to penalties that reduce your final grade.

Class discussions of political issues can often stimulate strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussions need to be scholarly. Scholarly comments are:

Respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement.

Related to the class and course material. Scholarly comments advance the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs.

Are delivered in normal tones and in a non-aggressive manner.

Food and beverages are not allowed in the classroom. If you bring them into class you will be asked to leave. This policy will be strictly enforced.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the

Student Disability Resource Center
97 Woodward Avenue, South
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
<http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/>

(This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.)

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

