

Sociology 354: Survey of Medical Sociology (Fall 2016)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In general, this course aims to provide insight into the role of sociological processes in affecting the distribution of disease and illness, and in providing and receiving medical services. Sociological concepts and principles will be applied to examine the social factors in disease and the treatment of disease. Examples in the U.S., China, and other countries will be provided and open to discussion. The interdisciplinary nature of the course should be useful to sociology majors as well as to all students interested in careers in health-related fields.

Specifically, this course critically examines the health status of various social groups in the United States. Attention will be focused on the patterned ways in which the health of these groups is embedded in the social, cultural, political, and economic contexts and arrangements of U.S. society. Topics covered include: economic status and its effects on health; social inequality and its effects on health; health problems among the poor; the impact of social factors on medical care use; trends in population health over time; and a global comparative of health systems throughout the world.

REQUIRED READINGS

- Weitz, Rose. *The Sociology Health, Illness, and Health Care*. Fifth Edition. Thomson Wadsworth, 2007.
- Conrad, P. *The Medicalization of Society*. 7th Edition. John Hopkins University Press, 2007.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Recognize and discuss class, gender and cultural aspects of medical sociology.
- Effectively communicate understanding by writing on health topics.
- Evaluate macro- and micro-level factors that influence health in our society .
- Compare and contrast issues and theories using a sociological point of view.
- Discuss issues and concerns related to health

Course Requirements

Quizzes: (25% of course grade): There will be 3 quizzes. Each will consist of short answer questions and 2 essay questions. The quizzes will cover readings, lectures, and discussions (in other words, everything) from the preceding week. For more detail, see below. Each examination will be worth 30 points, or 15% of your course grade. ***I will not give make-up examinations, except in the case of serious and documented medical emergencies.***

Reflection Papers: (25% of course grade): 2 papers. You will need to turn your papers in early for instructor review prior to final revision to give a chance for you to edit; dates will be provided. Papers should be 4 pages in length (double-spaced, 12-point type, one inch margins) and should summarize all of the main points of all of the film as the guide sheet provides. ***I will not accept late papers.***

Participation in Discussions/Chats (25% of course grade). Students will contribute in writing a minimum of two posts per week to the online discussion on Lualima (3-4 paragraphs each). In addition, additional discussion forums/theory debates will be presented for your participation. Assessment of the quality of the entry made will be based on the following criteria: (1) relevance to the topic and the textbook/readings assigned, (2) personal or applied experience that relates to the topic presented, (3) questions about why world development is the way it is (with a bonus for students who suggest alternatives).

Final Paper: (25% of course grade). This paper will be the capstone writing assignment for the course. The book is titled *The Medicalization of Society* is the text for the final paper. This paper should be approximately 10 pages in length. A guide sheet will be provided. ***I will not accept late papers.***

Grading Scale and Percentages:

A+ = 97-100	A = 94-96	A- 90-93	B+ = 87-89
B = 84-86	B- = 80-83	C+ = 77-79	C = 74-76
C- = 70-73	D+ = 67-69	D = 64-66	D- = 70-73
F = below 60			

Quiz Grades =	25%
Discussion Participation	25%
Reflection Papers =	25%
Final Paper =	25%

Absence Policy: Regular and punctual participation in all scheduled classes and activities is expected of all students and is regarded as integral to course credit. When extended absences are

caused by illness or extraordinary conditions, the student has recourse through the official withdrawal procedure; otherwise, the grade reported will be F.

Departmental Statements

Kokua Program

If you feel you need reasonable accommodations based on the impact of a disability, please contact the KOKUA Program, located in room 013 of the QLCSS or telephone 956-7511 or 956-7612; 2) speak with me privately to discuss your specific needs. I will be happy to work with you and the KOKUA Program to meet your access needs.

Plagiarism

The following definition of plagiarism comes from the UH-Manoa Student Conduct Code: *Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms.*

(University of Hawai`i at Manoa Student Conduct Code (1992), p. 6)

It is ultimately each student's responsibility to learn about plagiarism and how to avoid it. Ignorance of the rules, saying "I forgot about that" or "I made a mistake" is not considered a valid excuse when it comes to plagiarism.

Contemporary Ethical Issues Focus Designation

This course has a Contemporary Ethical Issues (E) Focus designation. Contemporary ethical issues are fully integrated into the main course material and will constitute at least 30% of the content. At least 8 hours of class time will be spent discussing ethical issues. Through the use of lectures, discussions and assignments, students will develop basic competency in recognizing and analyzing ethical issues; responsibly deliberating on ethical issues; and making ethically determined judgments.

WI FOCUS REQUIREMENTS:

Writing Intensive Course (WI: This course has been designated WI. Writing is a kind of learning tool, like listening, reading, observing and experimenting. Various forms of writing will be used:

- a. Reflective Papers: Both of the reflective paper assignments are to be 3 pages in length. At least one draft must be reviewed with the instructor prior to final submission. Researching additional articles for relevant information to be included in your discussions may be a good idea. Follow the generally accepted format of sociological writing for publication is important and will be noted in your submissions. The final draft dates of the three papers will be announced.
- b. Final Paper: Not less than 10 pages based on the book *The Medicalization of Society*. A guide sheet will be provided.

Papers will be graded based on the following general criteria:

- c. Thoroughness and depth of analysis (40%)
- d. Relevance or appropriateness of contents (20%)
- e. Organized and logical presentation (20%)
- f. Clear and concise writing (20%)

Course Outline

Course Outline:

Week of 09/05/16

Introduction to the course and each other

The Sociology of Health, Illness and Health Care

Discussion

Chapter 1

Week of 09/12/16

The Social Source of Illness

Discussion

Chapter 2

Week of 09/19/15

The Social Distribution of Illness in the United State

Discussion

Quiz 1

Chapter 3

Week of 09/26/16

Illness and Death in Developing Nations

Film: John Q Initial Draft Due 10/05/15

Discussion

Chapter 4

Week of 10/03/16

The Social Meaning of Illness

Discussion

Chapter 5

Week of 10/10/16

Chronic Illness

Discussion

Quiz 2

Film: John Q Final Draft Due 10/19/15

Chapter 6

Week of 10/17/16

Initial Draft of Final Paper: The Medicalization of Society Due 10/26/15

Week of 10/24/16

The Sociology of Mental Illness

Film: Initial Draft of Wit Due 11/02/15

Discussion

Chapter 7

Week of 10/31/16
Health Care in the United States
Discussion

Chapter 8

Week of 11/07/16
Issues in Bioethics
Discussion

Chapter 13

Week of 11/14/16
Quiz 3
Film: Final Draft Wit Due 11/14/16

Week of 11/21/16
Health Care Settings and Technologies
Final Draft of the Medicalization of Society Due 11/21/16

Chapter 9

Week of 11/28/16
Study Week
Class Evaluations

Week of 12/05/16
Final Exam due by the end of Friday 12/16/16

I reserve the right to change the syllabus as needed throughout the course. Notice will be provided as applicable.