

## **Sociology 354: Survey of Medical Sociology (SPRING 2015)**

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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*. 7<sup>th</sup> 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:** (20% 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:** (20% of course grade): 2 short papers. You will need to turn your papers in early for instructor review, dates will be provided. Papers should be 4-5 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** (20% of course grade). Students will contribute in writing a minimum of one entry per week to the online discussion on Laulima. 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:** (20% 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.*

**Final Exam:** (20% of course grade): The final exam will be a cumulative assessment of the student’s understanding of the overall course material. *I will not give make-up examinations, except in the case of serious and documented medical emergencies.*

**Grading Scale and Percentages:**

A =	95-100	A- =	90-95	B+=	85-90	B=	80-85
C+=	75-80	C =	70-75	D =	60-69	F =	below 60

<b>Quiz Grades=</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Discussion Participation</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Reflection Papers =</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Final Paper=</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Final Exam=</b>	<b>20%</b>

**Absence Policy:** Regular and punctual attendance for 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. More than 3 missed classes will result in reduction of 1 letter grade. More than 3 late arrivals, early departures will also result in the reduction of your grade by 1 letter (ie: earned A= B etc). Please just attend class regularly.

### **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.

### **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: All three of the reflective paper assignments are to be no more than 5 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**

<b>Week of</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
01/26/15	Get familiar with each other & Introduction to the course  FILM: John Q	
02/02/15	Sociology <i>OF</i> and <i>IN</i> Medicine	Chapter 1
02/09/15	The Social Source of Illness	Chapter 2
02/16/15	The Social Distribution of Illness	Chapter 3
02/23/15	Quiz 1  John Q Final Draft	
03/02/15	John Q Final Draft Due Illness in Developing Nations	Chapter 4
03/09/15	The Social Meaning of Illness	Chapter 5
03/16/15	Chronic Illness	Chapter 6
03/30/15	QUIZ 2  FILM: Wit	
04/06/15	The Sociology of Mental Illness	Chapter 7
04/13/15	U.S. Health Care Needs Reform Initial Draft of FINAL PAPER DUE 04/18/14	Chapter 8
04/20/15	Issues in Bioethics	Chapter 13
04/27/15	Quiz 3  Wit Final Draft	
05/04/15	Final Paper Due 04/27/15 12pm HST	
04/27/15	Final Exam Due 5/15/15 at Midnight	