

Sociology 354: Survey of Medical Sociology (Fall 2017)
(CRN#75185)

Meeting time: M W 12:00-13:15pm

Meeting place: ARCH 101A

Instructor: Dr. Wei Zhang

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Office hours: by appointment

TA: Megan Floyd

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Office: Saunders Hall 219

Office hours: M W 13:30-14:30pm

Course Description

(From the Catalog): Social factors in disease and treatment; illness behavior, roles of patients and healers; nature of healing professions; use of medical services, alternative systems of medical organization.

(From the Instructor): 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.

This course particularly examines the health status of different gender groups, of groups occupying different socioeconomic status, and of different racial/ethnic 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 the U.S. society. Topics covered include: racism and its effects on health; race/ethnicity and health; social inequality and its effects on health; health problems among the poor; the impact of other social factors such as neighborhood, social relations, religion and spirituality, and immigration on health; trends in population health over time etc.

Student Learning Objectives

By the end of this course:

- Students will have an understanding of core theories and empirical findings in medical sociology.
- Students will have knowledge of social factors and social contexts that influence the distribution of diseases and illnesses in our society.
- Students will be able to evaluate, compare, and contrast health care systems in the U.S. and other countries.
- Students will be able to communicate understanding of health related topics by writing short sociological essays.

Required Readings

- Ross Weitz. *The Sociology of Health, Illness, & Health Care: A Critical Approach*. Seventh Edition. Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, 2017.
- Other readings will be posted on Laulima.

Outline of Course Requirements and Due Dates

	Total points	Due dates
Class participation	10	N/A
Midterm1	20	09/25
Midterm2	20	11/01
Paper presentation	30	12/04 and 12/06
Final exam	20	12/11
Total	100	

Final Grade

A+	97-100	C+	77-79
A	94-96	C	74-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-73
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	84-86	D	64-66
B-	80-83	D-	60-63
		F	< 60

Class Participation (10%)

Class participation is evaluated on the basis of (a) regular attendance; and (b) participation in class assignments and activities.

Exams (60%)

Two midterms and a final cumulative examination, each counting 20 points, will be given. The exams will focus on all of the required readings and lecture material covered throughout the course. The format for exams will be multiple choices, short answers, and essay questions. Make-up exams will be given only in rare circumstances. I will require a physician's note or other suitable documentation to allow a make-up exam.

Paper and presentation (30%)

Each student will pick a health or health care related topic to write a research proposal or research paper. You may refer to the potential topics listed in the table below. The paper/proposal should meet the following requirements:

- 1,000-1,500 words
- Double spaced
- Time New Roman 12 font
- Grammatically correct
- ASA/APA citation style

Suggested topics for paper and presentation

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Education and Health | • Immigration and Health |
| • Social support and Health | • Health of Asian Americans |
| • Neighborhood and Health | • Health of Pacific Islanders |
| • Religion, Spirituality, and Health | • Aging and Health |
| • Work and Health | • Health Care and Health |
| • Stress and Health | • Culture and Health |

- **For the research proposal**, you need to have: (1) a brief literature review that synthesizes your areas of interest on the topic, (2) research questions that address gaps in the literature, (3) a description of possible data sources and methods that could be used to answer your research questions and (5) a reference list.
- **For a complete research paper**, you need to have: (1) a literature review that synthesizes your areas of interest on the topic, (2) research questions that address gaps in the literature, (3) a description of data sources and methods that used in your study, (4) a results section that analyzes your major findings, (4) a discussion section that points out the significance and implications of your findings, and (5) a reference list.
- Final research proposal/paper grading is based on the following criteria:
 - Is the literature review well-organized, and well-written?
 - Are the arguments clear and follow a fluent logic flow?
 - Are the gaps in the literature clearly identified?
 - Are the research questions clearly addressed and manageable?
 - Are there clear connections between research questions, methods, and data?
- **Paper Presentation:** On 12/04 and 12/06, a 5-minute oral presentation of your final research proposal/paper is required. Grading is based on the following criteria:
 - Is the presentation clear and well-organized?
 - Are the slides clear and well-written if you choose PowerPoint presentation?
 - Is your presentation dynamic and interesting?

Extra credits (5%)

A voluntary short extra-credit paper (one page single-spaced) worth up to 5 points will be possible. **The paper is due on Nov. 8**, one week after the second mid-term exam.

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.

Course Outline

Date	Topic	Textbook
08/21/17	Introduction	Chapter 1
08/23/17	Epidemiology and Epidemiological Transition	Chapter 2
08/28/17	Refocusing Upstream	Chapter 2
08/30/17	Sociological Theories on Health Behaviors	Chapter 2
09/04/17	Holiday	
09/06/17	Social Structure, Stress, and Well-Being	Chapter 2
09/11/17	Poverty as A Public Health Issue	
09/13/17	Socioeconomic Status and Health	Chapter 3
09/18/17	Illness Behaviors and the Sick Role	Chapter 5, Chapter 6
09/20/17	Review for Exam1	
09/25/17	Exam1	
09/27/17	Doctor-Patient Relationship	Chapter 11
10/02/17	Gender Differences in Health and Well-Being	Chapter 3
10/04/17	Social Relationships and Health	
10/09/17	Unnatural Causes (documentary) I	
10/11/17	Unnatural Causes (documentary) II	
10/16/17	Violence: A Public Health Problem	
10/18/17	Health Care in the United States (Documentary Sicko)	Chapter 8
10/23/17	Alternative health care systems I	Chapter 9
10/25/17	Alternative health care systems II	Chapter 9
10/30/17	Review for Exam2	
11/01/17	Exam2	
11/06/17	Health Care Settings in the United States	
11/08/17	Health Care Settings in Hawaii and in other Cultures	Chapter 10
11/13/17	The Sociology of Mental Illness	
11/15/17	Race, Racism, and Health	Chapter 7
11/20/17	Health of African Americans	Chapter 3
11/22/17	Health of Hispanics and Native Americans	Chapter 3
11/27/17	Health of Asian Americans	Chapter 3
11/29/17	Review for Final Exam	Chapter 3
12/04/17	Paper presentation I	
12/06/17	Paper presentation II	
12/11/17	Final Exam (12:00-2:00 pm) in our classroom	