



Course Syllabus

SOC 4371.001: Mental Health and Illness

The University of Texas at Dallas

Spring 2013

T/TR: 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM

JSOM 1.212

Instructor:

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520-850-0520

Office Hours:

T/TR 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM → GR 3.610

* Additional appointments may be made in coordination with the instructor in order to accommodate your academic and employment schedules.

Purpose:

The intent of this course is to provide students with a general understanding of how sociological elements are related to the field of mental health and illness. A great deal of attention will be paid to the ways in which race, class, gender, residential location, and socioeconomic status are linked with the onset of mental disorders. Major theoretical underpinnings will be utilized in order to understand both historical and current trends in the medical world as they pertain to mental health. Specifically, framing mental illness as a subjective, social construct will be of utmost importance. Accordingly, the etiology of mental disorders will be couched in terms of social factors rather than the product of purely psychological or chemical processes.

Prior courses in medical sociology will surely benefit students but are not prerequisite for success in this course. At times, students may be asked to analyze, interpret, and extrapolate sociological concepts and explain them in both verbal and written form. The sociology of mental health and illness encompasses a wide variety of topics. An exhaustive examination cannot be fully paid to each topic given the timeframe of this class. Upon completion of this course, students will be better prepared to excel in future courses related to both sociology and medicine.

Text:

Sociology of Mental Disorder by William C. Cockerham, 8th edition, 2007. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson-Prentice Hall.

*Other assigned readings will be supplied to students as necessary. These will either be uploaded to eLearning or handed out in hard copy form.

Students With Disabilities:

Students who require special accommodations should register with the Office of Student AccessAbility and bring me the required paperwork as early in the semester as possible. I will gladly work with you and the OSA office to make sure these accommodations are made. You can contact OSA by phone at 972-883-2098 or by online at www.utdallas.edu/studentaccess/resources/.

Grading Structure:

3 Exams – 20% each

Quizzes – 20%

Writing assignments – 20%

- All exams will consist of 25-30 multiple choice, short answer and essay questions
- Each quiz will be composed of 3-4 multiple choice questions and 1 short answer question. Quizzes will be administered during the first 10 minutes of class and will NOT be announced prior to class.
- Attendance is not mandatory but will benefit you greatly throughout the semester. Those who attend regularly tend to earn the best grades.

* Make-ups for exams or quizzes will only be administered if proper documentation pertaining to the nature of the absence is provided. Ex. doctor's note, traffic ticket, university sanctioned event.

* I am aware that UT-Dallas is largely a commuter school. Please make the appropriate travel preparations in order to arrive early or on time. This will minimize disruptions and give you the best opportunity to obtain all relevant material. Also, be certain that you turn off cell phones or other mobile devices while class is in session. Laptops and voice recording devices are allowed but students should refrain from using these devices for non-course related activities.

* All graded material will be posted to eLearning and then handed back in class. Make sure to pick up your graded work and keep it in an accessible location. Thousands of papers pass through my office each semester. Inevitably, a few get lost in the shuffle. DO NOT wait until the end of the semester after grades have been posted to inform me of a missing grade. I WILL NOT change your grade. Be proactive about staying on top of your grades and I will gladly make the appropriate changes before the end of the semester.

Plagiarism:

Although this course does not require a great deal of written work, there may be some instances where you are required to turn in assignments based on concepts from class. As such, it is imperative that you do not copy the work of others. Moreover, be certain that you cite any potential sources used in your work. If you are unfamiliar with plagiarism or how to properly cite books, articles, or other publications, please contact one of the many friendly and helpful librarians at McDermott Library for assistance.

Class Schedule:

<i><u>Date</u></i>	<i><u>Unit and Topic</u></i>
Week of January 15	Unit 1: Introduction and Medical Model
Week of January 22	Unit 2: Types of Mental Disorders
Week of January 29	Unit 3: Concepts, Causes, and Cures
Week of February 5	Unit 4: Mental Disorders and Deviant Behavior
Week of February 12	<u>Exam 1</u>
Week of February 19	Unit 5: Social Epidemiology
Week of February 26	Unit 6: Social Class
Week of March 5	Unit 7: Age, Gender, and Marital Status
Week of March 12	Spring Break!
Week of March 19	Unit 9: Urban vs. Rural Living and Migration
Week of March 26	<u>Exam 2</u>
Week of April 2	Unit 10: Race and Ethnicity
Week of April 9	Unit 11: Help Seeking Behavior
Week of April 16	Unit 12: The Mental Hospital Patient
Week of April 23	Unit 13: Residing in the Community
Week of April 30	Unit 14: Community Care and the Law
Week of May 7	<u>Exam 3: Final</u>

* All material and dates of exams listed on this syllabus are preliminary and subject to change throughout the course of the semester.