

SOC 4372 Health & Illness Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Number/Section SOC 4372.OW1
Course Title Health & Illness
Term Spring, 2023

Professor Contact Information

Professor Galen Dickey, MSPH, MCHES
Email Address GLD190001@utdallas.edu
Office Location Green Hall 3.530

Office Hours By appointment – link for virtual in OLS or come in person. Standing office hours are Tuesday from 2:30-3:30

Course Modality and Expectations

Instructional Mode	This is an online course. There are no lectures and we do not meet as a class.
Course Platform	Course will be delivered through Blackboard
Expectations	Students may work on course each week at their own pace, but must meet assignment deadlines each week. Participation in discussion is vital for an online class and this is part of your grade. I encourage you to get your work done early and not wait until the last minute – if everyone is posting late, it's harder to get a good discussion going.

Class Participation

Regular class participation is expected regardless of course modality. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade for this course is directly tied to your participation in this class. It also includes engaging in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on homework assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures (and/or labs). Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Class Recordings

There are no recordings for this class, it is completely online.

Class Materials

The Instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course, however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Course Description

An introduction to medical sociology, this class examines the social causes of health and disease, health and illness behaviors, medicalization and the social construction of illness, global health disparities, history of and current practices in medical school and the health professions, and the formulation and implementation of health policies and programs.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

- Acquire an understanding of the major areas of medical sociology.
- Understand the history of medicine and how it influences the field.
- Be able to use concepts developed from different disciplines to analyze relevant research/writings.
- Critically assess how health is influenced through social, political, economic and cultural forces on macro and micro levels.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Required Texts

Barkin, S., Health, Illness, and Society: An Introduction to Medical Sociology. 2nd Ed. Rowan and Littlefield: New York.

Choose 1 (ONE) of the following for your paper: (See full instructions/book descriptions in Blackboard)

- Venters, Homer - Life and Death in Rikers Island
- Hotez, Peter – Blue Marble Health.
- Gunter, Jen – The Vagina Bible
- Pascoe, C.J. – Dude You're a Fag, Masculinity and Sexuality in High School
- Royte, Elizabeth – Garbage Land
- Kalanithi, Paul – When Breath Becomes Air
- Schlosser, Eric – Fast Food Nation
- Fadiman, Anne – The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down
- Moore, Wendy – The Knife Man

- Krakauer, Jon – Missoula: Rape and the Justice System in a College Town
- Bobrow-Strain, Aaron – White Bread, a Social History of the Store-Bought Loaf

Textbooks and some other bookstore materials can be ordered online or purchased at the [UT Dallas Bookstore](#). Thriftbooks.com is a good used bookstore.

Technical Requirements

In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements on the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage.

Course Access and Navigation

This course can be accessed using your UT Dallas NetID account on the [eLearning](#) website.

Please see the course access and navigation section of the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage for more information.

To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage.

UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The [eLearning Support Center](#) includes a toll-free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service.

Communication

This course utilizes online tools for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools such as regular email and a web conferencing tool may also be used during the semester. For more details, please visit the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage for video demonstrations on eLearning tools.

Student emails and discussion board messages will be answered within 3 working days under normal circumstances.

Distance Learning Student Resources

Online students have access to resources including the McDermott Library, Academic Advising, The Office of Student AccessAbility, and many others. Please see the [eLearning Current Students](#) webpage for more information.

Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The University is committed to providing a reliable learning management system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity,

the instructor will provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the online [eLearning Help Desk](#). The instructor and the eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Academic Calendar

WEEK/ DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	What you should read	What you are being graded on	DUE DATE
1 1/18- 1/22	Introduction/Overview	Chapter 1	Read the syllabus/ Intro	1/22
2 1/23- 1/29	Social History of Health & Illness	Chapter 2	DB #1	1/29
3 1/30- 2/05	Health Behavior	Chapter 3		2/05
4 2/06- 2/12	Illness Behavior & Illness Experience	Chapter 4	Exam 1 Chapters 1-4	2/12
5 2/13- 2/19	Social Causes of Health & Health Problems	Chapter 5 <i>See additional reading in BB classroom</i>	Video Reflection 1	2/19
6 2/20- 2/26	Global Health Disparities	Chapter 6	DB #2	2/26
7 2/27- 3/05	Training Medical Providers in the US	Chapter 7		3/5
8 3/06- 3/12	Physicians & Patients	Chapter 8	Video Reflection 2	3/12
9 3/13- 3/19	Spring Break	R*E*L*A*X		
10 3/20- 3/26	Allopathic Alternatives	Chapter 9	DB #3	

WEEK/ DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	What you should read	What you are being graded on	DUE DATE
11 3/27- 4/01			Exam 2 Chapters 5-9	4/2
12 4/03- 4/09	Work on book review		Video Reflection 3	4/6 4/09
13 4/10- 4/16			Book Review due	4/16
14 4/18- 4/24	Healthcare Settings	Chapter 10	DB #4	4/21 4/24
15 4/24- 4/30	US Healthcare System	Chapters 11 & 12		4/30
16 5/01- 5/07	Healthcare Reform	Chapter 13	DB #5	5/07
17 5/08- 5/12	FINALS WEEK			

Assignment/Test	points	Percentage of your grade
Discussion board posts & responses/	500 (5 x 100)	30% (6% each)
Video reflection	300 (3 x 100)	15% (each is 5%)
Book Review Paper	100	25%
3 Exams	300 (3 x 100)	30% (each is 10%)
Total	1200	100%

Grading Policy

Please note: Your grade is based on the points you earn. If you get an 89, 79, etc., please don't ask me to bump you up. It's not fair to the rest of the class, who might have gotten an A+ instead of an A and didn't ask. I know how awful it feels to barely miss the better grade, but I cannot change grades. It is not hard to be successful in my class, but you have to do the work and keep up.

Course Policies

Make-up exams

Exam dates are posted ahead of time. If for some reason you cannot complete an exam on that date, you must tell me in advance. You cannot miss an exam with no notice and make it up later (unless there's an emergency), but I will work with you in advance to plan.

Extra Credit

There are no extra credit opportunities, please don't ask.

Late Work

I understand that life happens. You will have 1 one-week grace period on assignments other than final. Assignments that are two weeks late have a 50% penalty, three weeks is a 75% penalty and no assignments are accepted over 3 weeks late. There is some leeway:

If something unusual has occurred (you lost internet access, you had to drive your mom to a sick relative, you are having a really bad week, etc.) PLEASE COMMUNICATE THIS INFORMATION TO ME SO THAT I CAN TAKE IT INTO ACCOUNT.

Class Participation

You must participate in online discussions in order to pass this class.

Classroom Citizenship

You are expected to treat each other with respect. We will not always agree, and that is a good thing. When you disagree, please reply in a thoughtful way. Attacking someone, slurs, or positions not supported with appropriate citations are not allowed.

Land Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that the territory on which the University of Texas at Dallas stands is that of the Wichita, Tawakoni, Kickapoo, and Jumanos People. Our classroom and UTD's campus are places to honor and respect the history and continued efforts of the Native and Indigenous community leaders which make up this country. This statement is one small step in acknowledging the history that brought us to reside on this land, and to help us seek understanding of our place within that history. Ownership of land is itself a colonial concept; many tribes had seasonal relationships with the land we currently inhabit. Today, Texas is still home to indigenous peoples, with many from tribes that are not recognized by the federal government. For more information about indigenous peoples in Texas: <http://societyofnativenations.org/about.html>

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

"As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."

Academic Support Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students.

Please go to [Academic Support Resources](#) webpage for these policies.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to [UT Dallas Syllabus Policies](#) webpage for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.