

University of Texas at Dallas (UTDallas)
Department of Sociology & Public Health
COURSE SYLLABUS
SOC 4372 Health and Illness

Instructor's Name	Dr. Dorothy Kalanzi
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Office Hours	TBA Online
Meeting Location	TBA - Online

E-MAIL

The best way to reach me is via E-mail provided above. Please feel free to E-mail me if you have questions or concerns. I check my E-mail daily. Try to be brief and on the point to accommodate other students who may wish to communicate with me at the same time. However, if you encounter technical trouble shooting issues contact UTDallas Blackboard Support or UTDallas IT.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

UT Dallas offers comprehensive eLearning technical support 24/7 through the UTD eLearning Helpdesk. Below are the available support services:

- **Blackboard Toll-Free Phone Support:** 1-866-588-3192 for immediate assistance.
- **Email Support:** Send inquiries to eLearning@utdallas.edu.
- **Online Chat Support:** Access live chat at [UTD Helpdesk Chat](#).
- **Walk-in Support:** Visit [Service Desk Hours](#) for in-person help.
- **Atlas Ticket System:** Submit requests through [Atlas Ticket Portal](#).

These resources are available to assist students with any eLearning-related issues at any time. If you experience any issues with your UT Dallas access account, contact the UT Dallas Office of Information Technology Help Desk or call [972-883-2911](tel:972-883-2911). These departments should be more than glad to assist students. Be ready to provide your Blackboard user account information.

COURSE DISCRIPTION

SOC 4372 Health and Illness: 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 health professions, and the formulation and implementation of health policies and programs. **(3 Credit Hours)**.

COURSE MODALITY

This is an online asynchronous course. Synchronous meetings are not necessary for this course. This means that there is no standardized meeting time where all course participants must be present on specific date, at a specific time. Each student may access course material at their own convenient time, any time of the day. However, make sure you follow the syllabus schedule and due date expectations for assessments and readings for success.

REQUIRED ACCESSORIES

Students must have access to computerized equipment, including a webcam. Please note that this course is entirely online. All quizzes and exams will be completed online using LockDown Browser and a webcam as proctoring systems. It is the students' responsibility to ensure they have access to the required equipment by the first day of class. It is also important to note that UTDallas provides computers across campus for your convenience, should you be on campus.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

The Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care: A Critical Approach, 7th edition by Rose Weitz. ISBN: 978-1-305-58370-2

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Students who register for this course should possess basic computer and internet skills as well as knowledge utilizing word processing software packages, especially Microsoft word. If not, be ready to convert attachment files to the PDF format for instructor access.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Apply Medical Sociology epidemiological key concepts.
2. Demonstrate how social forces have historically affected the health of populations.
3. Describe the social epidemiology or health and disability.
4. Compare differences in health across global space.
5. Compare the medical and sociological models of illness, mental health and disability.
6. Illustrate a sociological description of the experience of living with illness or disability.
7. Explain the social construction of medical knowledge and disease, as well as the medicalization of society;
8. Compare the strengths and weaknesses of health care systems in most developed nations.
9. Identify special problems faced by health care systems in poor nations.
10. Discuss the history of hospitals, nursing homes, and hospices in the United States.
11. Analyze the nature and consequences of health care technologies.
12. Discuss the history of the medical profession and how it gained professional dominance.
13. Critique the consequences of the medical values for patients.
14. Discuss the historical evolution of medicine in the U.S. and the related changes in the status and power of physicians and other health service workers.
15. Discuss the institutionalization of bioethics.

ASSESSMENT AND PROCEDURES

EXAMS: There will be **3 examinations** assessing all covered material from course readings, lectures, movies and related activities. Each examination will be worth 100 points. Maximum score for the 3 exams is 300. Students must complete all exams to pass this course.

Students will only be tested once on all covered material. The final will not be compressive. The format for each exam will be discussed in advance. Examination dates are clearly listed in the course outline below. All exams will be taken using lockdown browser. Lockdown Browser is a system utilized by UTA to proctor students taking assessments on line to promote academic integrity as per UTA policy expectation mentioned below.

MAKE UP POLICY: All students are expected to take the **3 exams** as scheduled. **No early or late exams will be given UNLESS** you have a legitimate written excuse such as a written documentation of death or a serious illness, court appearance, or absence on a college sponsored function. These are the only legitimate excuses for failure to show up for any examination. Make sure you understand these policies. Remember that it is your responsibility to contact me if you must miss an exam for any reason.

DISCUSSION FORUMS: There will be **13 discussion forums** total. Every student is expected to contribute **2 discussion posts to each discussion forum**. To get full points, each post must be at least 1/2 (half) a page (page size 8 1/2 x 11), Times Roman 12-point font size, double spaced, typewritten. The first post must be original in response to the respective topic of a given forum. The second post must be a response to one other post from a different classmate. Each discussion post will be worth 5 points. The maximum score for all forums will be 130. To maximize your score on discussion posts, make sure they meet the specifics above in addition to the content. Additionally, make sure you have two posts per forum.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Class participation specifically in the form of discussion forums or other online activities is essential for success in this course and it will affect your final grade. **Make sure you complete discussions as scheduled** because your other students will depend on your input to post their work. There may be additional online activities that could be awarded as extra credits based on the examinations' overall performance of the class. Each student is encouraged to engage in class discussions pertaining to text/lecture materials, movies, and other topics relevant to the course. I value your input as well as your contributions, and I will do my best to encourage them by working with you to create a climate that is conducive for your participation. I am sure that all of you will have something to contribute at one time or another. Please do so. I will treat your contributions with respect, and I expect you to do the same for your classmates.

READINGS: The readings for this course are not easy. It is extremely important that you have enough time to devote to your readings. Therefore, if you are not able to read the text and review your notes regularly you will not be successful in this class. It is vital to your success that you do your readings on a timely basis, attend all class sessions, engage in class discussions, take good notes, and ask questions if you fail to understand. Beyond time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 4 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc. I will not remind you of missed assignments, notes, handouts, or any other matter. If you must miss a class meeting, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from fellow students. If your score falls below 70% on any of the given

assignments, don't hesitate to contact me immediately about your performance for help.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to UTDallas's academic integrity policy.

Additionally, the use of Generative AI is prohibited in this course. All work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups.

Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates UT Dallas' standards of academic integrity.

Suspected violations of UTDallas's standards for academic integrity policy will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with the University's policy, which could result in severe consequences that may include the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

CLASS MATERIALS

Class materials are available to all students registered for this class and they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. If these materials are downloaded during the course, they are to be utilized by registered students 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 AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Class Recordings

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the AccessAbility Resource Center has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course.

Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

GRADING SCALE

Your course grade will be based on the number of points you earn. Your responsibility is to earn as many points as possible.

Assignment	Point Value	% Final Grade	Outcomes Assessed	Percentage
				A = 100-90
3 Exams	300	70%	1-10	B = 89-80
13 Discussion Forums	130	30%	1-10	C = 79-70
Total Points	430	100%	1-10	D = 69-60
				F = Below 60

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The University of Texas at Dallas is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all persons

with disabilities. The syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. If you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (2008), you are required to register with the AccessAbility Resource Center (ARC), located in the Administration Building, Suite 2.224. They can be reached by email, calling 972-883-2098, or at their website. To receive academic accommodations for this class, please register and request services by completing the Request for Services form with the proper documentation and meeting with the Director of ARC at the beginning of the semester.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The Student Success Center (SSC) offers assistance to students in the areas of writing, mathematics, communication, multiple science fields, study skills, and other academic disciplines. These services are available through individual appointments, small group appointments, drop-in labs, workshops, and weekly reviews. All undergraduate students enrolled at UT Dallas are eligible to participate in these services. Not all courses will be supported by all services. Please check the website at the beginning of each semester to find out which courses are supported by which services.

The SSC is divided into six units and undergraduate students are able to use as fits their course needs each semester. All services are free of charge.

In **Academic Success Coaching (ASC)**, students can receive help with time management, goal setting, test preparation, and various other study techniques and strategies. Student coaches offer one-on-one appointments and workshops throughout the semester.

The **Communication Lab (CommLab)** offers one-on-one and group appointments where students can gain practical feedback for improving oral and group presentations.

The **Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL)** program provides an active, engaged learning experience for students enrolled in potentially difficult gateway courses. Students who register with PLTL will meet in small groups once a week and are expected to attend every session. Students who regularly attend sessions typically earn a half to a whole letter grade higher than students who do not participate in the PLTL program.

Peer Tutoring (PT) offers math and science tutoring assistance for many of the historically challenging undergraduate courses at UT Dallas. The sessions are designed to address students' individual questions and needs; however, the tutors do not provide answers for homework, quizzes, or exams. Peer Tutoring services include drop-in tutoring for most 1000 and 2000 level courses, one-on-one appointments for a limited number of 3000 and 4000 level courses, and weekly reviews the timings of which vary by semester.

Supplemental Instruction (SI) provides peer-facilitated weekly study sessions for students taking historically difficult courses. SI sessions encourage active, collaborative learning based on critical thinking and transferable study skills. SI Leaders attend lectures and take notes, just like the enrolled students. Students should check the SSC website for supported subjects and session times.

The **Writing Center (WC)** is a collaborative learning environment for students interested in developing stronger writing skills. One-on-one appointments are offered, as are weekly workshops. Scheduling an appointment is strongly recommended, but drop-in hours are also available.

The **Student Success Center's main office** is located in the McDermott Library Building on the first floor, MC 1.302, and can be contacted by calling 972-883-6707 or by email.

The **Student Counseling Center** offers confidential services to students either for individual appointments or as part of groups. Initial appointments must be made in person in the Student Counseling Center, which is located in SSB 4.600, on the fourth floor of the Student Services Building. Their main number is 972-883-2575 and the 24/7 Crisis Hotline is 972-883-8255 (972-UTD-TALK).

The **Testing Center**, run by the Education Technology Services, offers a 300-seat computer lab, providing UT Dallas students access to a comfortable and secure test environment for online/paper exams, quizzes, instructional testing, and assessments. The Testing Center is located in Room 11.175, the first floor of the Synergy Park North 2 (SP2) building and can be contacted by calling 972-883-2460 or by email. If you experience issues taking an exam in eLearning, please contact the UTD eLearning Helpdesk.

EMERGENCY EXIT PROCEDURES

EMERGENCY NUMBERS	
Police 911	Recorded Information: 972-883-7669
University Police: 972-883-2222	University Village: 972-792-9100

Visit the UTDallas safety and support page at <https://www.utdallas.edu/safety/>. Additionally, emergency callboxes (*orange in color with a blue light above, which illuminates at dusk*) are strategically located on the UTD Campus designed for emergency situations. Callboxes are connected directly to the Police Communication Center and have a button to push for service. The button must be pushed and held in while talking. If at any time a callbox button is pushed and you are unable to answer, an officer will be dispatched to that location immediately.

FINANCIAL AID AND VERIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE

According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

At the end of each term, you will be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey. You are strongly urged to participate. Your response will not affect your performance in this course as instructors do not see survey responses, except after grades have been submitted.

EEOC STATEMENT

Nondiscrimination: UT Dallas prohibits all forms of discrimination (including harassment) based on race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. UT Dallas further prohibits all forms of sex-based discrimination (including sex-based harassment). Students who believe they have been discriminated against or harassed in violation of university policy, or who believe that someone else has been discriminated against or harassed, are encouraged to directly report these incidents to the Office of

Institution Compliance by making a report online or by calling the Office of Institution Compliance at 972-883-2306. For more information, see the University’s Nondiscrimination Policy and Sexual Misconduct Policy. For additional support and resources, see the Office of Institutional Compliance (Support Services & Resources) webpage.

PROJECTED TOPICS AND READING SCHEDULE

(This schedule may change at the discretion of the instructor. “As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. Dr. Dorothy J. N. Kalanzi)

Date/Module	Readings	Assessments
Aug 25 - 31 Module 00	Course Introduction	Extra Credit Discussion
Sept 01 - 07 Module 01	The Sociology of Health and Health Care	Discussion # 01 - Required
Sept 08 - 14 Module 02	The Social Sources of Modern Illness	Discussion # 02 - Required
Sept 15 - 21 Module 03	The social distribution of illness in US	Discussion # 03 - Required
Sept 22 - 28 Module 04	Illness and death in developing nations	Discussion # 04 - Required
Sept 29 – Oct 05 Module 05	The social meaning of illness	Discussion # 05 - Required
EXAMINATION # 01 - Required Accessible Sept 29 – Oct 12, 11:59 p.m.		
Oct 06 - 12 Module 06	The experience of disability, chronic pain	Discussion # 06 - Required
Oct 13 - 19 Module 07	The sociology of mental illness	Discussion # 07 – Required
Oct 20 - 26 Module 08	The US health care & the need for reform	Discussion # 08 – Required
Oct 27 – Nov 02 Module 09	Health care around the globe	Discussion # 09 - Required
EXAMINATION # 02 - Required Accessible Oct 27 – Nov 09, 11:59 p.m.		
Nov 03 - 09 Module 10	Health care settings and technologies	Discussion # 10 – Required
Nov 10 - 16 Module 11	The profession of Medicine	Discussion # 11 - Required
Nov 17 - 23 Module 12	Other mainstream & alternative health providers	Discussion # 12 – Required
Nov 25 - 30 Module 13	Issues in Bioethics	Discussion # 13 – Required
Dec 01 - 09	Review and Final Exam	
December 10 - FINAL EXAMINATION - Required ACCESSIBLE – (Must be completed by midnight, December 10th, 11:59 p.m.)		
ALL THE BEST, GOOD LUCK ON ALL YOUR FINALS		