

Course Syllabus
SOC 4372.001: The Sociology of Health and Illness
The University of Texas at Dallas
Fall 2011
T/TR: 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM
Classroom – SOM 1.107

Instructor:

John Malek-Ahmadi, M.A.

jhm0083@unt.edu, jhm110020@utdallas.edu

520-850-0520

Office Hours:

T/TR 1:00 - 2:00 PM - Room GR3.610

* Additional appointments may be made in coordination with the instructor.

Course Description:

Like many topics in sociology, the examination of health and illness in society can be rather contentious. For the purposes of this course, the primary focus will be to apply an array of sociological concepts to the processes taking place in the medical field. The material covered will encompass individual, institutional and theoretical approaches to health and illness. Furthermore, the ways in which certain groups in our society perceive and access healthcare will be of paramount importance. Particular attention will be paid to the discrepancies in healthcare delivery with respect to the way American society is stratified. Finally, the creation and implementation of new healthcare legislation will be scrutinized.

Prior courses in health and illness will surely benefit students but are not prerequisites for success in this course. At times, students may be asked to analyze, interpret, and extrapolate sociological concepts while explaining them in both verbal and written form. The sociology of health and illness encompasses a wide variety of topics. An exhaustive examination cannot be fully paid to each topic. Nonetheless, I will take suggestions for potential lecture topics as the semester reaches its end. In this way, a more tailored learning experience will be fostered. When the course does come to a close, students should possess the ability to frame issues related to health and illness within their “sociological imagination” and subsequently build on it in any field of study they choose to pursue.

Text:

Medical Sociology 12th Edition by William C. Cockerham

*Other assigned readings will be supplied to students as necessary through the eLearning website.

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 - 25% each

Quizzes - 15%

Miscellaneous assignments/participation -10%

- All exams will consist of 25-30 multiple choice questions; short answer and essay
- Quizzes will NOT be announced prior to class
- Attendance is not mandatory but will benefit you greatly throughout the semester

* 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.

* I am aware that UT-Dallas is largely a commuter school. As such, 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, please turn off cell phones or other mobile devices while class is in session.

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:

Date

Chapter and Topic

Week of August 25

Introduction: Core Concepts

Week of August 30

Chapter 1: Medical Sociology

Week of September 6

Chapter 2: Epidemiology

Week of September 13

Chapter 3: Social Class

Week of September 20

Chapter 4: Gender, Age, and Race

Week of September 27

Exam 1

Week of October 4

Chapter 5: Social Stress and Health

Week of October 11

Chapter 6: Health and Lifestyle

Week of October 18

Chapter 7: Illness Behavior

Week of October 25

Chapter 8: Death and Dying

Week of November 1

Exam 2

Week of November 8

Chapter 9: Doctor-Patient Interaction

Week of November 15

Chapter 10: Healing Options

Week of November 22

Chapter 11: Physicians

Week of November 29

Chapter 12: Nurses and PA's

Week of December 6

Chapter 13: Healthcare Reform

Finals Week

Exam 3: Final Exam

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