



Course Syllabus

SOC 4372.001: The Sociology of Health and Illness

The University of Texas at Dallas

Fall 2012

T/TR 10:00 – 11:15 AM

Classroom – GR 4.428

Instructor:

John Malek-Ahmadi, M.A.

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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 social 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 stratified nature of American society. 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 area given the timeframe of the course. 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%

Writing assignments/participation -10%

- All exams will consist of 25-30 multiple choice and 6 - 7 short answer questions
- 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. If you foresee a conflict with an exam date on the syllabus, please let me know ahead of time. I am more than willing to allow you to take exams a couple of days early if necessary.

* 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.

* Any quality sociology class will provide students with a forum to voice their thoughts and opinions on the material presented. Keep in mind that some topics may be controversial and can create noticeable tension. Every student should approach course material with a critical lens while remaining respectful of other students' viewpoints. This is all part of the learning process and we must allow all classmates to speak their mind freely. A significant part of any educational experience is gaining insight from fellow classmates. As such, I encourage a great deal of discussion during lectures. However, sometimes this can become problematic if one or two students dominate every discussion. Please remember to allow others the opportunity to speak.

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

Week of August 28

Week of September 4

Week of September 11

Week of September 18

Week of September 25

Week of October 2

Week of October 9

Week of October 16

Week of October 23

Week of October 30

Week of November 6

Week of November 13

Week of November 20

Week of November 27

Week of December 4

Week of December 11

Finals Week December 14 -19

Chapter and Topic

Introduction: Core Concepts

Chapter 1: Medical Sociology

Chapter 2: Epidemiology

Chapter 3: Social Class

Chapter 4: Gender, Age, and Race

Exam 1

Chapter 5: Social Stress and Health

Chapter 6: Health and Lifestyle

Chapter 7: Illness Behavior

Chapter 8: Death and Dying

Exam 2

Chapter 9: Doctor-Patient Interaction

Chapter 10: Healing Options

Chapter 11: Physicians

Chapter 12: Healthcare Reform

Chapter 13: Student Selected Topics

Exam 3: Final

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