
SOC 4372 – HEALTH AND ILLNESS
FALL 2013 COURSE SYLLABUS
TUESDAY & THURSDAY 10:00 AM – 11:15 AM. CN 1.102

COURSE INSTRUCTOR(S)

Mathias Akuoko, PhD

Office location:

Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 11:30 – 12:30 pm and by apt.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The examination of Health and Illness, just like Medicine, is both a Social Science and a Biological Science. The leading causes of illnesses and death are a reflection of the way and manner we live in our societies. In as much as certain societal attributes such as social class, gender, age, and race influence our health, they also influence us on how we manage stress, adopt healthy lifestyle, interact with healthcare providers, and from whom and how we receive care for injuries and illnesses.

In this course we will use Sociological theories, methods, and perspectives to examine health and illness as shaped by social factors. We will examine the social conditions and correlates of diseases, the social behavior of the sick, health institutions, the role of physicians, nurses, and other allied healthcare providers, as well as other alternative forms of healing. We will also look at the US health care “system” in comparison with others; the way people perceive and access healthcare, and some health disparities emanating from differences in healthcare delivery. Finally we will look at the processes leading to the creation and implementation of the new healthcare reform law.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course requirements include three (3) examinations including final examination, quizzes and one group essay paper. Each exam will cover up to the material covered. You will be paired in groups of about five (5) and prepare a 4-6 paged paper on a health related topic. Instructions on the paper will be given in class and through Blackboard.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)

Medical Sociology 12th Edition by William Cockerhand.

- Other assigned readings will be supplied to students as necessary through Blackboard.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING POLICY

Course grades will be based on the course director's/instructor's evaluation of each student's or group's performance on the required components of the course according to the following scale:

Three Examinations	70% (20 each for Exam 1& 2; 30 for Final Exam)
Group Paper	10%
Quizzes	15% (8-10 quizzes)
Class Participation	5% (Discussion Board)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Course Session Topic	Assigned Readings
1	Aug. 27 th	Introduction and Course Requirements	None
	Aug. 29 th	Medical Sociology: Defining Health and Illness	Chapter 1
2	Sept. 3 rd – 5 th	Epidemiology	Chapter 2
3	Sept. 10 th – 12 th	The Social Demography of Health: Social Class	Chapter 3
4	Sept. 17 th – 19 th	The Social Demography of Health: Gender, Age, and Race	Chapter 4
5	Sept. 24 th	Exam 1	None
	Sept. 26 th	Health Behavior and Lifestyles	Chapter 6
6	Oct. 1 st -3rd	Social stress and Health Group paper instructions distributed	Chapter 5
7	Oct. 8 th – 10 th	Illness Behavior	Chapter 7

8	Oct. 15 th – 17 th	The Sic Role	Chapter 8
9	Oct. 22 nd – 24 th	Doctor Patient Interaction	Chapter 9
10	Oct. 29 th	Healing Options	Chapter 10
	October 31 st	Exam 2	None
11	Nov. 5 th – 7 th	Physicians	Chapter 11
12	Nov. 12 th – 14 th	The Physician in a changing society	Chapter 12
13	Nov. 19 th – 21 st	Nurses, PA's, Pharmacists, and Midwives Group Paper Due After Class	Chapter 13
14	Nov. 26 th	The hospital in society	Chapter 14
	Nov. 28 th	Thanksgiving (NO Class)	None
15	Dec. 3 rd – 5 th	Health Care Reform	Chapter 15
16	Dec. 12 th - 14 th	Global Health Care (Sick Around the World)	Chapter 16
	Dec. 17 th	Review	
	Dec. 19 th	Exam 3 (Final Exam)	

The course syllabus is a guide for this class, but it is subject to change. Students will be informed in writing of any change in content or exam/assignment dates.