

SOC 4372.001 Health and Illness

Fall 2014 Tuesday/Thursday 4:00 - 5:15 p.m. CN1.102
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Medicine is a social science, as much as it is a biological science. Who gets sick, what they do about it, and what kind of treatment they receive are the result of the interplay of behavioral, cultural, economic, institutional, and political forces. In this course we will examine how health and illness are shaped by social factors; the causes and consequences of health disparities of race and socio-economic status; and the organization and changing nature of health institutions in the U.S. and other countries.

Course requirements include three examinations (on September 23, October 30, and December 9), each of which will cover one-third of the course and will cover both assigned readings and class lectures; and three take home essays (due September 30, November 4, and December 16). The three exams will count 25% each toward the total course grade, and the essays (3-4 double-spaced typed pages each) together will count 25% toward the total course grade.

Course texts

William C. Cockerham *Medical Sociology* (12th edition) (Prentice Hall, 2012, ISBN 978-0-205-05418-3);
Laurie Abraham, *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead* (U of Chicago Press, 1993. ISBN: 9780226001395)
T.R. Reid, *The Healing of America* (Penguin, 2010, ISBN 978-0-14-311821-3).

Course Outline

(subject to revision as announced in class)

August 26	Introduction: Defining Health and Illness	Cockerham, chapter 1
August 28 - September 2	Epidemiology	Cockerham, chapter 2
September 4 – 9	Social Demography of Health I	Cockerham, chapter 3
September 11 – 16	Social Demography of Health II	Cockerham, chapter 4
September 18	Stress	Cockerham, chapter 5
September 23	Examination #1	
September 25 - 30	Health and Poverty	Abraham, all
September 30	ESSAY #1 Due	
October 2 – 7	Health Behavior	Cockerham, chapter 6
October 9 – 14	Illness Behavior	Cockerham, chapter 7
October 16 – 21	The Sick Role	Cockerham, chapter 8
October 23 – 28	Doctors and Patients	Cockerham, chapter 9
October 30	Examination #2	
November 4 - 6	The Profession of Medicine	Cockerham, chapter 11
November 4	ESSAY #2 Due	
November 11 -13	Nurses and Other Health Professionals	Cockerham, chapter 12
November 18 – 20	Health Care Reform	Cockerham, chapter 14
November 25	Comparative Health Systems I	Cockerham, chapter 15
December 2 – 4	Comparative Health Systems II	Reid, all
December 9	Examination #3	
December 16	ESSAY #3 Due	

Policies

University policies related to this class may be found at <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>.