

SOC 4372.HN1 Health and Illness

Fall 2014	Tuesday/Thursday 1:00 - 2:15 p.m.	Classroom: GC 1.208B
Dr. Richard Scotch	Email: scotch@utdallas.edu	Phone: 972-883-2922
Office: GR3.510	Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. and by appointment	
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TA Office hours: Thursday 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. and by appointment		

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, social, and institutional forces, as well biomedical factors. In this course, students will learn about 1) patterns and trends in health and illness behavior; 2) social and demographic factors associated with health and illness, including socio-economic status, race/ethnicity, and culture; 3) the nature of American health professions, and how health professionals interact with their patients; and 4) institutional aspects of the American health care system in comparison to other advanced industrial nations. The class will involve (a few) lectures by the instructor, (a great deal of) seminar discussion, and occasional guest lectures.

Course requirements will include 11-13 short quizzes covering material from the class lectures and discussion as well as the assigned readings (4% each, totaling 40% of the course grade – ten highest quiz grades will count); five take home essays, one each on the four required texts and a reflective essay on personal experiences with the health care system (8% each, totaling 40% of the course grade); and a take-home final essay examination (20% of the course grade). While there is no formal grade for class participation, regular attendance and participation in class discussion (or lack thereof) will be taken into account in determining the course grade.

Primary course readings will be assigned from the four supplemental books listed below, as well as several eReserve and eLearning articles.

Laurie Abraham, *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure of Health Care in Urban America*, The University of Chicago Press, 1993. ISBN: 9780226001395

Donald A. Barr, *Health Disparities in the United States: Social Class, Race, Ethnicity, and Health*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780801888212

Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors and the Clash of Two Cultures*, Farrar, Strauss, & Giroux (either 1998 or 2012 edition is OK) ISBN: 9780374533403

T.R. Reid, *The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care* (Penguin, 2010, ISBN 978-0-14-311821-3)

Course Outline (Schedule is subject to revisions announced in class.)

August 26- 28 Introduction to the Course; The Social Nature of Disease

Barr, chapter 1

John B. MacKinlay and Sonja M. McKinlay, “The Questionable Contribution of Medical Measures to the Decline of Mortality in the United States in the Twentieth Century” *Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly* 55:3 (Summer 1977), pp. 405-428.

Course Outline (continued)

September 2 – 4 Health and SES

Barr, chapters 2-4

September 9 – 16 Poverty, Race, and Health Care

Barr, chapters 5-10

September 18 – 25 Health and the Banes Family

Laurie Abraham, *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure of Health Care in Urban America*, all.

September 30 – October 1 Gender and Health

Patricia P. Rieker, Chloe E. Bird, and Martha Lang, “Understanding Gender and Health: Old Patterns, New Trends, and Social Directions” in Bird et al. (eds) *Handbook of Medical Sociology (Sixth Edition)* Vanderbilt University Press, 2010. Pp. 52-74.

Rachel C. Snow, “Sex Gender, and Vulnerability” *Global Public Health*, 2008. 3(S1): 58-74

October 7 – 9 Health Behavior

Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, chapters 1-9

October 14 – 16 Illness Behavior and the Sick Role

Peter Conrad and Kristin Barker, “The Social Construction of Illness: Key Insights and Policy Implications” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 51:S1 (2010) S67-S79.

David A. Rier, “The missing voice of the critically ill: a medical sociologist’s first-person account” *Sociology of Health and Illness* 22:1 (2000) 68-93.

October 21 – 23 Social Capital and Health

Eric Klinenberg, “Dying Alone: The Social Production of Urban Isolation” *Ethnography*, (2001) 2: 501-531.

October 28 – 30 Culture and Health

Fadiman, chapters 10 – 19

November 4 – 6 Doctor – Patient Interaction

Renee R. Anspach, “Notes on the Sociology of Medical Discourse: The Language of Case Presentation” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* (1988) 29:4 357-375.

Irving Kenneth Zola, “Culture and Symptoms – An Analysis of Patients’ Presenting Complaints” *American Sociological Review* 31:5 (1966) 615-630.

November 11 – 13 Medicalization

Peter Conrad, “The Shifting Engines of Medicalization” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* (2005) 46:1 3-114.

Irving Kenneth Zola, “Medicine as an Institution of Social Control” *Sociological Review* (1972) 20:4 487-504.

November 18 – 20 The Profession of Medicine

Frederic W. Hafferty and Donald W. Light, “Professional Dynamics and the Changing Nature of Medical Work” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 35 (1995) (Extra Issue): 132-153.

John MacKinlay and Lisa Marceau, “When there is no doctor: Reasons for the disappearance of primary care physicians in the US during the early 21st century” *Social Science and Medicine* 67 (2008) 1481-1491.

November 22 Health Policy and The Affordable Care Act

No assigned reading

November 25 – 27 FALL BREAK

No class meetings

December 2 - 9 Comparative Health Systems

T.R. Reid, *The Healing of America*, all

December 2 FINAL EXAM DISTRIBUTED

December 11 FINAL EXAM DUE AT 2:15 P.M. IN GR3.510