

University of Texas Dallas
School of Economic, Political & Policy Sciences
Department of Public Affairs & Sociology
SOCI 4372 SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH & ILLNESS

Fall 2016

Instructor: Jacquelyn Cheun, MS, DTR

Class time: Monday & Wednesday 1600-1715

Classroom: JSOM 1.212

Office: GR 3.610

Office hours: Monday & Wednesday 1000-1200 or by appointment

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Course Description:

The sociology of health and illness is founded on the idea that in addition to our biological makeup, our social environment also affects our health and illness. This course will explain in detail how social, political, economic, and cultural factors influence an individual's health and illness. Additionally, the course will cover topics such as history of scientific medicine, health disparity, social meaning of illness, doctors-nurses-patients relationships, socialization of physicians, health care system and health care delivery, and medicalization. Ultimately, this course is designed to equip students with current theoretical and practical knowledge to enable independent investigation of important questions related to health and illness in society from a medical sociology perspective.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Understand the relationship between social conditions and health
2. Begin to grasp the connection between social structure and illness
3. Use key sociological theories to explain the distribution of health and illness
4. Identify important variables that influence the individuals health and illness
5. Understand the current problems with the U.S. health care system and how it differs from other systems around the world
6. Explain the nature of doctor-patient relationships

Required Course Texts:

Weitz, R. (2012). *The Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care: A Critical Approach*. Boston: Cengage.

Conrad, P. (2007). *The Medicalization of Society*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins.

Reading Assignments & Participation:

Students are responsible for reading the assigned materials from the text *before* each class session. You will be expected to discuss the readings and participate in all class activities. The lecture notes **will not** be available online, so it is in your best interest to attend every class.

Top Hat

We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message.

You can visit tinyurl.com/TopHatStudentGuide for the Student Quick Start Guide which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system. An email invitation will also be sent to your school email account (if you don't receive this email, you can register by visiting our course website <https://app.tophat.com/e/694817>).

Top Hat will require a paid subscription, and the standard pricing for the cheapest option is \$24 for 4-months of unlimited access. For a full breakdown of all subscription options available please visit www.tophat.com/pricing.

Online Discussions:

There will be six online discussions throughout the semester. Beginning with Sunday, August 28. Students must create a discussion thread (by Tuesday at 2359) AND reply to one other students' thread (by Saturday at 2359). Written discussions give you the chance to reflect critically on the readings and to practice writing. I will post a critical thinking question, video, or journal article related to the topic from the past week. Students who provide more reflection and critique in their posts and less summary receive better grades. Students who identify areas of controversy, uncertainty, or particular interest from the material will receive better grades. You will never be penalized for your viewpoints, but you will be penalized for writing only opinion or if it is obvious that you have not read the material. Show me that you read and understood the readings. Your posts are pieces of scholarly writing, and you must cite when necessary.

Each post must be 250 words or more (not including references). Each reply should be around 100 words. No late posts will be accepted. The six discussions are worth 30% of your grade.

Exams:

There will be 3 exams (100 points each). All exams will be posted in eLearning and are open book/notes. Exams will be available from 00:01 – 23:59 the day listed in the syllabus, but you only have 1 hour and 15 minutes to complete the exam once started. While the exams are open book/notes, the expectation is that you treat them as an in-class exam. Students will not have enough time to look-up every answer.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure they have a reliable Internet connection. It is highly recommended students take the exam on campus (in the library or in a computer lab). You are only allowed one exam reset during the entire semester due to Internet connectivity issues.

Make-up exams will not be given without documentation for a serious illness, death in the family, or required university-sponsored event.

Work Book:

The work book will be available on eLearning. Please read the instructions on eLearning. Answers must be submitted in person the start of class on the due date.

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance will be mandatory. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class, via TOPHAT. Students who miss a class must obtain the notes from another student. Excused absences will only be given in the event of a serious illness, an emergency, or a mandatory school function. Documentation is required. Documentation will only be accepted prior to or 1 day after the missed class. Documentation can be turned in-person or via email. **Four or more unexcused absences will result in serious grade reduction. Please see grading for more information.**

Grading:

Exams	3 at 100 points each	300 points	40%
Online Discussions	6 at 20 points each	120 points	15%
Attendance & Top Hat Participation	More than 4 unexcused absences = 0	150 points	20%
Work Book	1 at 165 points	165 points	25%
Total		735 points	100%

Range of Points	Range of Percentages	Grade
735-658	89.5% - 100%	A
657-584	79.5% - 89.4%	B
583-511	69.5% - 79.4%	C
510- 437	59.5% - 69.4%	D
436- 0	0% - 59.4%	F

Grades will be posted to eLearning throughout the course- students are expected to be aware of their status in the course as the course progresses. Students should contact the instructor to discuss any concerns with their course grade prior to the end of the semester. Also, in regard to a specific assignment grade (exam, in-class, etc.) the student must wait 24 hours after the grade has been posted to contact the instructor with any concerns. Students have up to five days of the grade being posted to discuss any concerns over specific assignments or within 5 days of the assignment due date if no grade was posted.

Classroom Etiquette:

Arriving late in class and leaving early are very disruptive to the instructor and other students. Please let an instructor know prior to the beginning of class if you absolutely must leave early and make sure your exit distracts others as little as possible. Please make every effort to respect others.

Disagreements are allowed and expected, but the focus should be on ideas rather than on the individual who expresses them. Signs of disrespect that will not be tolerated include but are not limited to, having background conversations when others are talking, packing up early when others are still talking or asking questions, and working on material for other classes. **Cell phones must be turned on SILENT.**

Contacting the Instructor:

The best way to contact the Instructor is through the UTD email system. Please put in the subject of your email the course you are in and your topic. For example, EPPS 2301: Question on Syllabus. Please allow 1-2 *business days* for a response. In regards to grades, please wait 24 hours after grade is posted to email your concerns to the instructor.

Acceptable Student Behavior:

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UTD. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated UTD's Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. UTD's Code of Student Conduct can be found at <http://policy.utdallas.edu/utdsp5003> .

Disability Statement:

Students requesting accommodations and services due to a disability are required to provide the authorization letter issued by the Office of Student Access Ability (OSA) before their requests can be processed. Attempts will be made to meet all certified requirements. For more information contact the Office of Student Access Ability (OSA) at 972-883-2098 or <http://www.utdallas.edu/studentaccess/>.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

Helpful Resources

The Office of Student Success operates the Student Success Center

(SSC, <http://www.utdallas.edu/studentssuccess>), which offers assistance to students in the areas of writing, mathematics, communication, multiple science fields, reading, study skills, and other academic disciplines. These services are available through individual and small group appointments, workshops, short courses, and a variety of online and instructional technologies. All students enrolled at UT Dallas are eligible for these services.

Academic Integrity

Academic Dishonesty: The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Academic dishonesty can occur in relation to any type of work submitted for academic credit or as a requirement for a class. It can include individual work or a group project. Academic dishonesty includes, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and collaboration/collusion. In order to avoid academic dishonesty, it is important for students to fully understand the expectations of their professors. This is best accomplished through asking clarifying questions if an individual does not completely understand the requirements of an assignment.

Additional information related to academic dishonesty and tips on how to avoid dishonesty may be found here: <http://www.utdallas.edu/deanofstudents/maintain/>.

Definitions:

The following were found in UT Dallas's Student Code of Conduct:

Plagiarism: The adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images or works of another person as one's own without proper acknowledgement.

Cheating: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. Academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit or hours.

Fabrication: Falsification or creation of any information, data or citation in an academic exercise.

Collaboration and/or Collusion: Seeking or providing aid to another student in completion of any assignment submitted for academic credit without permission from the faculty member.

*****All assignments including (but not limited to) online discussions and papers will have APA citations and in-text references. If a student fails to submit these with coursework it will be a zero.**

NOTE: I reserve the right to alter the syllabus to better suit the needs of the class.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignments
1	Aug 22 Aug 24	Review of Syllabus/ Intro to Health & Illness The Social Sources of Modern Illness	Chap. 1 & 2 (Weitz)
2	Aug 29 Sept 31	The Social Distribution of Illness	Chap. 3 & 4 (Weitz) Online Discussion #1
3	Sept 5 Sept 7	No School The Meaning & Experience of Illness	Chap 5 (Weitz)
4	Sept 12 Sept 14	Medicalization	Chap 1 (Conrad) Online Discussion #2
5	Sept 19 Sept 21	Experience of Chronic Illness Exam 1 (Weitz Chap 1-5)	Chap 6 (Weitz)
6	Sept 26 Sept 28	Cases of Medicalization	Chap 2-5 (Conrad) Online Discussion # 3
7	Oct 3 Oct 5	Medicalization cont.	
8	Oct 10 Oct 12	Consequences of Medicalization	Chap 6-8 (Conrad) Online Discussion # 4
9	Oct 17 Oct 19	Sociology of Mental Illness	Chap 7 (Weitz)
10	Oct 24 Oct 26	Health Care Systems	Chap 8 -9 (Weitz) Online Discussion # 5
11	Oct 31 Nov 2	Exam 2 (Medicalization Conrad & 6-7 Weitz) Affordable Care Act	
12	Nov 7 Nov 9	The Profession of Medicine	Chap 11 (Weitz) Online Discussion # 6
13	Nov 14 Nov 16	Doctor-Patient Relationships	
14	Nov 21 Nov 23	No Class FALL BREAK	
15	Nov 28 Nov 30	Alternative Medicine Issues in Bio-Ethics/Genetics	Chap 12, 13 (Weitz)
16	Dec 5 Dec 7		

Final Exam is on Weitz Chap 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13

Final Exam day is to be determined.