

SOC 4372.HN1 Health and Illness

Fall 2017	Tuesday/Thursday 2:30 - 3:45 p.m.	Classroom: GC 1.208B
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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, social, and institutional forces, as well biomedical factors. This course will prepare students to 1) recognize the role of culture and social structure in shaping health and illness behavior; 2) identify key social and demographic factors that are associated with disparities in health and illness, particularly socio-economic status, race/ethnicity, and gender, and understand the mechanisms through which these factors operate; 3) recognize patterns in the interaction of health professionals and patients and contextualize them within the evolving nature of American health professions; and 4) understand the distinct institutional aspects of the American health care system as they have developed, both historically and in comparison to other advanced industrial nations. The class will involve (some) lectures by the instructor, (more) seminar discussion, and occasional guest lectures.

Course requirements include 11-13 short quizzes covering material from each week's class lectures/discussion and assigned readings (4% each, totaling 40% of the course grade – ten highest quiz grades will count) and five take home essays that will include critical reviews of assigned course readings, reflective writing on personal health experiences, and/or analyses of contemporary health care issues (10% each; 50% of the course grade). Ten percent (10%) of the course grade will be awarded for class participation, including regular attendance, keeping up with assigned readings, and participation in class discussion (or lack thereof). Readings will primarily be assigned from the four books listed below. Additional required readings include the articles listed below, as well as additional readings that may be announced in class.

Required Books (purchase strongly recommended):

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* (2nd edition), The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014. ISBN: 9781421414751 (First edition is OK, but it does not include a chapter on disparities in child health disparities.)

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)

Articles (to be posted on eLearning)

Boyer, Carol A., and Karen E. Lutfey. 2010. "Examining Critical Health Policy Issues within and beyond the Clinical Encounter: Patient Provider Relationships and Help-seeking Behaviors." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 51:S1 S80-S93.

Conrad, Peter. 2005. "The Shifting Engines of Medicalization" *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 46:1 3-14.

McKinlay, John, and Lisa Marceau. 2008. "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 1481-1491

John B. McKinlay and Sonja M. McKinlay, 1977. "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, pp. 405-428.

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

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

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

August 22 & 24	Introduction & Definitions	Barr, chapter 2
August 29 & 31	Social Factors in Health	McKinlay and McKinlay
September 5 & 7	Culture and Health I	Fadiman, pp. 3-153
September 12 & 14	Culture and Health II	Fadiman, pp. 154-306
September 19 & 21	Health and Inequality	Barr, chapters 1,3,4,7
September 26 & 28	Health and the Banes Family	Abraham, chapters 1-5
October 3	Health, SES, and Race	Barr, chapters 5-6
October 5	Guest lecture – Dr. Zachary Simoni	
October 10 & 12	Health in the Inner City	Abraham, chapter 6-14
October 17 & 19	Physicians and Patients	Boyer and Lutfey
October 24 & 26	Physicians & Health Disparities	Barr, chapters 8-11
Oct. 31 & Nov. 2	Gender and Health	Snow
November 7 & 9	Medicalization	Conrad, Zola
November 14 & 16	The Profession of Medicine	McKinlay and Marceau
November 21 & 23	FALL BREAK	No class meetings
Nov. 28 & 30	Comparative Health Systems	Reid, all
December 5	Closing Thoughts	no assigned reading

Policies

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