

Syllabus*
SOCI 4851: Medical Sociology

Spring 2008 (3 credits)
Tuesdays, Thursdays 1:00 – 2:25 pm
105 Clement Hall
Office hours: Tuesdays 3:00 – 5:00pm,
and by appointment

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This course is intended to introduce you to sociological perspectives on the study of health and illness in the context of the American health care system. We will consider health, illness, sickness and disease as social phenomena. In particular we will examine ways in which health (and ideas about health and its causation) is shaped by social context, culture, social structure, and social processes. We consider the social organization of health care including health care occupations, the organization of the health care delivery system and related policy issues.

Introductory Sociology (SOCI 1111) is strongly recommended as a prerequisite course.

Evaluation will be based on:

1. attendance
2. active participation in classroom discussions
3. three written exercises
4. a research term paper with annotated bibliography
5. an optional written final

See below for details on grade calculation. Poor attendance can lower your grade, while class participation can raise your grade by up to a full letter grade. **No** extra credit will be awarded in the course.

Required Reading and Materials

Weiss, Gregory L. and Lynne E. Lonquist. 2006. *The Sociology of Health, Healing and Illness*. 5th edition. (Upper Saddle Rive, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall) [WL]

Fadiman, Anne. 1997. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*. (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

Selected readings are available on *reserve* in the McWherter Library Reserve Room and *on-line*.*

Course Requirements

1. **Classroom conduct:** Be present, on time, and prepared to participate.
 - a. **Attendance:** Your regular and punctual attendance in class meetings for this course is required. Students are expected to attend every class, be on time (or even be early), and stay for the entire class period. Students who skip class or are

* This syllabus and other course materials are available on at: <http://www.nfomedia.com>

consistently late and/or leave early can find their final course grade **lowered up to one whole letter grade**. Students who miss class are responsible for the material.

- b. Participation: Students are expected to participate in classroom discussions and activities. To fully participate in class, you will need to complete the assigned reading **before** the class meeting and be prepared to discuss the material (including asking questions about information you did not understand) in a thoughtful and respectful way. Students may find it useful to **bring assigned readings to class** as we will refer to material in them. Students with excellent and enthusiastic class participation, who contribute constructively to class discussions, can find their final course grade **raised up to one whole letter grade**.
 - c. Tough topics: Some of the material we read and discuss may be challenging, controversial or touch on sensitive topics. Students are expected to approach these ideas and their discussion as mature adults.
 - d. Food & Drink: Food and beverages will be permitted in the classroom, as long as the classroom is left in a clean and tidy state at the end of class and as long as such activity is not disruptive during class time.
 - e. ***Cell phones, electronic pagers, and alarms, etc. must be OFF during class.***
2. Written Exercises: There are three (3) exercises due over the course of the semester. All exercises should be carefully written, typed, double-spaced with reasonable margins and fonts (margins no greater than 1 ¼ inches; fonts no larger than 12 point), with a separate cover page that includes your name. Written exercises should be thoughtfully organized and carefully proofread. Pages should be numbered. Please use staples rather than paper clips or report covers. Each exercise will be due in class. **Late work will be penalized one whole letter grade per week late**. Papers that do not conform to these guidelines can be returned to the student ungraded. I will distribute handouts for each exercise with specific details and instructions. These assignments are due in class on:
- | | | |
|------------|-------------|----------|
| February 7 | February 21 | March 13 |
|------------|-------------|----------|
3. Term Paper and Annotated Bibliography: Each student will write a 6 to 8 page research paper on a topic approved by me. This is your opportunity to apply **sociological understandings** to a specific area of health, illness and healing. As a research paper, you will write an annotated bibliography on your topic. You will receive more details on the paper and bibliography later in the semester. A draft of your paper will be due March 27th, and the final version will be due the last day of class, April 22.
4. Optional Final Exam: Students, at their discretion, have the option of taking a written final exam on Thursday, May 1st, 2008, at 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, our assigned exam period. The exam will be comprehensive, with a focus on **WL** chapters 7-9 and 12-14 from the textbook. See below for information on course grading with and without the final exam.
5. No extra credit: Under no circumstances will I accept extra credit assignments from students. Students are responsible for assignments *throughout* the semester, not only at the end of the term.

Grading**Without Final Exam:**

A. Written Exercises	60 pts
3 exercises (20 points each)	
B. Term Paper.....	30 pts
C. Annotated Bibliography.....	10 pts
TOTAL.....	100 points

Assignments are given letter grades and converted to points (e.g, a written exercise graded “A” is worth 20 points). Points are summed and then divided by the total possible number of points earned ($\div 100$ without a final exam or $\div 120$ including the final exam). Attendance and participation adjustments are made before final grades are posted.

Final Grade**With Final Exam:**

A. Written Exercises	60 pts
3 exercises (20 points each)	
B. Term Paper	30 pts
C. Annotated Bibliography	10 pts
D. Final Exam	20 pts
TOTAL.....	120 points

A+ =	98-100%	C+ =	78-79%
A =	92-97%	C =	72-77%
A- =	90-91%	C- =	70-71%
B+ =	88-89%	D+ =	68-69%
B =	82-87%	D =	60-67%
B- =	80-81%	F =	0-59%

No extra credit assignments will be given in this course. Late assignments will be downgraded. Students who are concerned about their performance in this course should arrange to meet with me as early in the semester as possible. ***And, remember that final grades may be raised by up to a full letter grade for excellent classroom participation and/or lowered by up to a full letter grade for poor attendance.***

Other Issues

1. Students with Disabilities: I am committed to providing an accessible and facilitating learning environment for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with the Student Disability Services (SDS) office (located in 110 Wilder; Phone 901-678-2880 V/TTY; FAX 901-678-3070; <http://saweb.memphis.edu/sds/>) in order to receive appropriate course-related accommodations and services. Students who formally register their disabilities with SDS are entitled to reasonable accommodations, as well as confidentiality with respect to their specific disability. If you have registered with SDS, please be certain that I receive an official memo that outlines your accommodation requirements so that we may maximize your learning experience.

2. Academic Misconduct: Academic misconduct on the part of students will not be tolerated in this course and may result in one or more of the following: a zero (0) on the assignment; a failing grade in the course (an “F”); and/or expulsion from the University. Academic misconduct includes acts of cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes (but is not limited to) using any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes or tests; using sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers or other assignments; and misrepresenting assignments as the product of a student’s sole independent effort. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to) the use of the published or unpublished work of another person without full or clear acknowledgment. This includes paraphrasing or direct quotation without references as well as copying directly off the Internet! Please refer to the University’s Code of Student Conduct in the *Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities* at <http://saweb.memphis.edu/judicialaffairs/pdf/CSRR.PDF> for more information.

3. Keeping in touch with me: The best way to reach me is by email, dshinbrg@memphis.edu, by courseware email (via nfomedia.com), or see me during my office hours. You may also call me in my office and leave a voice message for me if I'm not available. As I may not check my voice mail every day, in urgent circumstances I also strongly encourage you to also contact the Sociology office (901-678-2611). The office staff generally knows my whereabouts and can contact me quickly if the need arises. If you are unable to complete an assignment on time or expect to be late or absent or must leave class early, I expect to hear from you *before* the deadline, class meeting or office appointment.

4. Submitting assignments: Assignments are due in class on the date designated in the syllabus. I accept electronic assignments via Online only (not by regular email). Late work will be penalized one letter grade per week late. **Do not slide your paper under (or on) my office door.** It will get stepped on, kicked or otherwise misplaced. If I'm not in my office, take your assignment to the Sociology Office (Clement 231) and ask the secretary to *sign and date* it and place it in my mail box. In extreme circumstances only, I will also accept assignments by U.S. mail or by fax (901-678-2525). Be certain to correctly address and identify your assignment.

5. Resubmitting revised assignments: You can revise and resubmit graded exercises once for a new grade, if you do the following: (a) let me know *in advance* that you intend to substantially revise your assignment (for each assignment you choose to revise); (b) revise *the substance* of your essay (simple formatting, grammatical and other minor revisions will not result in a new grade); and (c) attach your original assignment (including supporting documents, e.g., your field notes) to your revised exercise. Revised assignments that were originally submitted late (after the initial due date) may continue to be docked for lateness. The last day to submit revised *exercises #1 or #2* is **in class on March 27, 2008**. The last day to submit a revised *exercise #3* is **in class on April 22, 2008**. The last day to submit a *revised the term paper or annotated bibliography* is during our scheduled exam time, **Thursday, May 1st, 2008, no later than 10:30 am**. Revised assignments will **not** be accepted from students who did not indicate their intentions in advance.

6. Confidentiality: To ensure confidentiality of student information, *under no circumstances* will I send grades over email or discuss your grade over the telephone or voicemail.

7. Class room conduct: Students are expected to approach controversial and/or sensitive topics as mature adults. Food and beverages will be permitted in the classroom, as long as the room is left in a clean and tidy state at the end of class and as long as such activity is not disruptive during class time. **Cell phones, electronic pagers, and alarms, etc. must be off during class.** I reserve the right to ban laptops and other electronic devices from use during class time.

Summary of Important Dates

February 7	Exercise #1
February 21	Exercise #2
March 13	Exercise #3
March 27	Term paper draft for comments Last day to submit revised exercises #1 and #2
April 22	Term paper and annotated bibliography Last day to submit revised exercise #3
May 1	Final Exam (optional) 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Last time (10:30 am) to submit late/revised term paper or annotated bibliography

Course Schedule[†]
SOCI 4851: Medical Sociology

Week 1	January 15	<u>Introduction to Medical Sociology</u>
	January 17	<u>Sociological Perspectives on Health</u> WL Ch. 1: Introduction & Ch. 2: The Development of Scientific Medicine Mechanic, David. 1994. "Conceptions of Health." <i>Inescapable Decisions: The Imperatives of Health Reform</i> . (New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers) Ch. 4: 101-117. [<i>Reserve; Online</i>]
Week 2	January 22	<u>Who gets sick?</u> WL Ch. 3: Social Epidemiology Scott, Janny. 2005. "Life at the top in America isn't just better it's longer." <i>The New York Times</i> . May 16, 2005. [<i>Online</i>] <i>Resource:</i> NCHS. 2006. <i>Health, United States, 2006: Chartbook on Trends in the Health of Americans With Special Feature on Pain</i> [<i>Online:</i> http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm]
	January 24	<u>Who gets sick? continued</u> WL Ch 4: Society Disease & Illness Wilkinson, Richard and Michael Marmot (eds.). 2003. "Social determinants of health: the solid facts." 2nd edition (Denmark: WHO Regional Office for Europe) [<i>Online</i>]
Week 3	January 28	<i>Last day to drop courses</i>
	January 29	<u>Health Behaviors</u> WL Ch 6: Health Behaviors In class film & discussion: <i>Supersize Me</i> Foxhall, Kathryn. 2006. "Beginning to Begin: Reports From the Battle on Obesity." <i>American Journal of Public Health</i> . Vol. 96 (12): 2106-2112. [<i>Online</i>]
	January 31	<u>Health Behaviors</u> Review of WL Ch 6: Health Behaviors
Week 4	February 5	<u>Social Stress</u> WL Ch 5: Social Stress
	February 7	<u>Meanings of Illness and Disability</u> WL Ch. 7: Experiencing Illness and Disability Fadiman <i>The Spirit Catches You...</i> Ch. 1-4 DUE: Exercise #1

[†] Schedule and reading are subject to change.

- Week 5 February 12 Meanings of Illness and Disability, continued
 In class film & discussion: *Murderball*
 Koch, Tom. 2001. "Disability and Difference: Balancing Social and Physical Constructions." *Journal of Medical Ethics*. Vol. 27 (6): 370-377. [Online]
 Fadiman *The Spirit Catches You...* Ch. 5-8
- February 14 Medicalization, Social Control & the Sick Role
 Review of **WL** Ch. 7: Experiencing Illness and Disability
 Zola, Irving Kenneth. 1983. "Medicine as an Institution of Social Control." *Sociomedical Inquiries: Recollections, Reflections, and Reconsiderations*. (Philadelphia: Temple University Press) Ch. 23: 247-268. [Reserve; Online]
- Week 6 February 19 Medicalization, Social Control & the Sick Role, continued
 Welch, H. Gilbert, Lisa Schwartz and Steven Woloshin. 2007. "What's Making Us Sick Is an Epidemic of Diagnoses." *The New York Times*. [Online]
- February 21 Medicine as a Profession
WL Ch. 8: Physicians and the Profession of Medicine
 Fadiman *The Spirit Catches You...* Ch. 9-12
DUE: Exercise #2
- Week 7 February 26 Medicine as a Profession, continued
WL Ch. 9: Medical Education and the Socialization of Physicians
 Fadiman *The Spirit Catches You...* Ch. 13-15
- February 28 Doctor-Patient Interactions
WL Ch. 12: The Physician-Patient Relationship: Background and Models
- Week 8 March 4 & 6 Spring Break! No class.
- Week 9 March 11 Doctor-Patient Interactions, continued
WL Ch. 13: Professional & Ethical Obligations of Physicians in the Physician-Patient Relationship.
 Freidson, Elliott. 1989. "Dilemmas in the Doctor-Patient Relationship." *Medical Work in America: Essays on Health Care*. (New Haven: Yale University Press) Ch. 2: 15-30.
 [Reserve; Online]
 Fadiman *The Spirit Catches You...* Ch. 16-19
- March 13 Nurses and Other Health Care Practitioners
WL Ch. 10: Nurses, Mid-level Health Care Practitioners & Allied Health Workers.
 In class film & discussion: *Sentimental Women Need Not Apply*
DUE: Exercise #3

	March 14	<i>Last day to withdraw from courses</i>
Week 10	March 18	<u>Nurses and Other Health Care Practitioners, continued</u> Chambliss, Daniel F. "What It Means to Be a Nurse." [<i>Reserve; Online</i>] Melosh, Barbara. "More the 'The Physician's Hand:' Skill and Authority in Twentieth-Century Nursing." [<i>Reserve; Online</i>]
	March 20	<u>Complementary and Alternative Medicine</u> WL Ch. 11: Complementary and Alternative Medicine In class film & discussion: <i>Gray's Anatomy</i>
Week 11	March 25	<u>The U.S. Health Care System</u> WL Ch. 14: The Health Care System of the United States
	March 27	<u>The U.S. Health Care System, continued</u> Quadagno, Jill. 2004. "Why the United States Has No National Health Insurance: Stakeholder Mobilization Against the Welfare State, 1945–1996." <i>Journal of Health and Social Behavior</i> . Vol. 45 (Extra Issue): 25–44. [<i>Online</i>] In class film & discussion: <i>Critical Condition: The Idealistic HMO</i> DUE: Draft of Term Paper DUE: Last day for revised/late exercises # 1 & 2
Week 12	April 1	<u>The U.S. Health Care System, continued</u> Review of WL Ch. 14: The Health Care System of the U.S
	April 3	<u>Other ways of organizing health care: what do other nations do?</u> WL Ch. 17: Comparative Health Care Systems
Week 13	April 8	<u>Other ways of organizing health care: what do other nations do? continued</u> University of Maine, Bureau of Labor Education. 2001. "The U.S. Healthcare System: Best in the World, or Just the Most Expensive?" [<i>Online; http://dll.umaine.edu/ble/U.S.%20HCweb.pdf</i>] In class film & discussion: <i>Sicko</i>
	April 10	<u>The Structure and Organization of Health Care</u> WL Ch. 15: Health Care Delivery
Week 14	April 15	<u>The Structure and Organization of Health Care, continued</u> Starr, Paul. 1982. "The Coming of the Corporation." <i>The Social Transformation of American Medicine</i> . (New York: Basic Books) Ch. 5: 420-449. [<i>Reserve; Online</i>] Wailoo, Keith. 2001. "Pain and Policy at the Crossroads of Managed Care." <i>Dying in the City of the Blues</i> . (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press) Ch. 7: 197-224. [<i>Reserve; Online</i>]

	April 17	<u>Health Care Change</u> *Special Class Assignment* In class film & discussion: <i>Sicko</i>
Week 15	April 22	Social Issues and Medical Debates WL Ch 16: The Social Implications of Advanced Health Care Technology Last Day of Class DUE: Term Paper and Annotated Bibliography DUE: Last day to submit late/revised exercise #3
Exam Week	May 1	Optional Final Exam (10:30 am – 12:30 pm) Final time (10:30 am) to submit late/revised term paper & annotated bibliography