

Sociology 308 (1), Fall Semester 2017

Sociology of Medicine

Monday and Wednesday, 5:00-6:15, CCC 204

Dr. Sue Bailey

CCC 464

Office Hours: Monday 3-4:30, Thursday 12-1:30
and by appointment

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Course Overview

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or injury.” Medical Sociology recognizes the critical role **social factors** play in determining or influencing the health of individuals, groups, and the larger society. Topics of interest to medical sociologists include the social causes and patterns of health and disease, the social behavior of health care personnel and their patients, the social functions of health organizations and institution, and the relationship of health care delivery systems to other social systems. We will cover these topics in four sections of the course: 1) the relationship between the social environment and health and illness; 2) health and illness behavior; 3) health care practitioners and their relationship with patients; and 4) health care institutions and systems.

Course Objectives

- Trace the history of Medical Sociology and Social Epidemiology as fields of inquiry.
- Investigate the social causes and risk factors for health and illness.
- Identify current issues in domestic and global health and illness.
- Define the “sick role.”
- Explore the relationships between health care providers and patients.
- Evaluate the U.S. health care system.

Text

The required textbook is available at the campus bookstore.

Cockerham, William C. *Medical Sociology, 12th Edition.*

Investigation Level Course

This course is designated as an investigation level course for the General Education Program (GEP). Assignments and activities will focus on the following learning outcomes for the social sciences.

- Explain or apply major concepts, methods, or theories used in the social sciences to investigate, analyze, or predict human behavior.
- Examine and explain how social, cultural, or political institutions influence individuals or groups.

Class Attendance

You are required to attend class. If you miss a class and the in-class group activity, you will not get credit for that exercise or quiz. You must be present to get credit. If you have an important reason (in my judgment) to miss class and documentation of the reason, I will allow make-ups of work missed as well as assistance with material missed.

If you miss class and it's unexcused, DO NOT CONTACT ME about what you missed. Ask a classmate.

In-Class Group Activities and Quizzes

We will have about 10 in-class activities and quizzes. All of these will be group activities. Each of these is worth 2 points toward a total of **20%** of your grade.

Exams

There are two exams in this class. **Neither of these will be cumulative.** They will be a mix of short answer and multiple choice exams with approximately 30 questions each and will cover material from your text, from lectures, and from in- and out-class exercises. They will be graded as the percentage correct (with the standard A – F criteria). Each exam is worth **25%** of your final grade.

Please look carefully at the course schedule for the dates of each exam.

There will be no make-up exams without documentation of legitimate emergency reasons for missing exam dates.

Assignments

There will be 5 out-class individual assignments for which you will USE the material we cover in class. Collectively, the assignment are worth **30%** of your final grade. I ask that you submit your written assignments in D2L. An assignment worth the full 6 points is thorough (each assignment is completed in its entirety), and thoughtful (you have given more than minimal effort).

There will be ABSOLUTELY NO make-ups of missed assignments without documentation of legitimate emergency reasons for missing class and/or not being able to complete the assignment on time.

Grading Scale

93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-79	D+
60-66	D
0-59	F

You will likely be successful in this course if you come to class prepared, participate in discussions, follow the rules for academic integrity (see below), and put thought and effort into your assignments and exams.

Important University and Course Policies and Procedures

Students with Special Need: Students with special needs as documented by the Office of Disability Services should identify themselves at the beginning of the term. The Department of Sociology and Social Work is dedicated to providing these students with the necessary academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to facilitate their participation and performance in the classroom.

Classroom Etiquette: I ask that you arrive on time to class and turn off your cell phones (not silenced but OFF please). I reserve the right to ask anyone texting to LEAVE the classroom. I would prefer that you do not use laptops or tablets in the classroom unless it is a necessary learning tool. If you are talking while I'm talking and it is distracting to me or to your fellow students, I will stop talking until you are done talking. If you have a question, **ask me**.

We will be discussing several sensitive topics in this class, such as inequalities, racism, and drug abuse. I encourage open, yet respectful discussions concerning these issues. I truly respect your opinions and ideas, and I ask the same from you. I also insist that you are respectful to your classmates concerning their opinions.

Contacting Me: Please contact me using the following methods in this order of preference: 1) email; 2) cell phone. I will make every effort to respond to questions that are NOT time-sensitive (e.g., about the course schedule, material, assignments, and similar) within 24 hours. Please only use my cell phone for time-sensitive issues such as last minute emergencies that interfere with your class attendance. **DO NOT CONTACT ME about material covered in a class that you missed without excuse.**

Academic Misconduct: Academic integrity is central to the mission of this institution. UWS 14 defines academic misconduct as any "action which a student:

1. seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
2. uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
3. forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
4. intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
5. engages in conduct aimed at making false representations of a student's academic performance;
and
6. assists other students in any of these acts."

USW 14 allows for disciplinary sanctions that range from an oral reprimand to suspension or expulsion from the University. You can obtain a copy of the full academic misconduct policy through the Student Services office.

The rules regarding academic misconduct can sometimes be confusing for students, so I encourage you to come talk to me about questionable issues regarding assignments and exams. If you have questions about a particular assignment, you should come talk to me before the assignment is due. Ignorance or misunderstanding of the UW System policy for academic misconduct is not an acceptable excuse for academic misconduct.

If I observe or suspect academic misconduct, I will request a meeting with the responsible student or students, and I will follow the procedures set out in the UWS 14 document.

Course Schedule
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Date	Topic/Activity	Assigned Readings
	<i>Social Environment and Health</i>	
9/6-13	Medical Sociology Defined and Ethics	Chapter 1
9/18-20	Epidemiology: History	Chapter 2
9/25-27	Epidemiology: Research	
10/2-4	Epidemiology: Contemporary Health Issues	
10/9-11	Social Epidemiology: SES	Chapter 3
10/16-18	Social Epidemiology: Demographics	Chapter 4
10/23-25	Health and Stress	Chapter 5
10/30	Midterm Review	
11/1	Midterm Exam (Chapters 1-5)	
	<i>Health and Illness Behavior</i>	
11/6-8	Health Behavior and Lifestyles	Chapter 6
11/13-15	The Sick Role	Chapter 8
	<i>Health Care Practitioners and Patients</i>	
11/20	Socialization of Physicians	Chapter 11
11/22	No Class	
11/27-29	The Hospital in Society	Chapter 14
	<i>Health Care Systems</i>	
12/4-6	The U.S. Health Care System	Chapter 15
12/11	U.S. and Global Health Care	Chapter 16
12/13	Wrap-up and Reviews	
12/22	Final Exam (Chapters 6, 8, 11, 14, 15, 16)	
	2:45-4:45, CCC 204	

I reserve the right to change the syllabus due to unforeseen scheduling issues and the pedagogical needs of the class.