

Sociology 308 (1), Fall Semester 2018

Sociology of Medicine

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CCC 464

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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, 14th 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.

Discussions and Short Assignments

We will have approximately **12 discussions** about material covered in the readings and lectures. If you participate and demonstrate effort and thought, you will receive **2 points** for each exercise. If you comment on another student's post, you will receive **1 additional point**, for a possible **3 points** (if you make an original post and respond to another post in the same discussion). Complete and thoughtful assignments will also be worth **3 points** each. Collectively, participation in these exercises is worth **20%** (number of earned points divided by number of possible points weighted by 0.2) of your final grade. **Disrespectful postings (at my discretion) will receive no points. Discussion posts will be due by midnight the Sunday after they are assigned.**

Exam

There is a **midterm** and a **final** in this class. The final will NOT be cumulative. Both exams will be a mix of short answer and multiple choice with approximately 35 questions and will cover material from your text, from lectures, and exercises. They will be administered in the **Quizzes tab on D2L**. The exam will be timed for **75 minutes**, so you should be prepared for it. *Evidence of consulting with another student during the exam will be investigated for violation of academic integrity (see below)*. Each exam is worth **15%** of your final grade, for a total weight of **30%**. Please look carefully at the course schedule for the date of the exams.

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

Assignments

There will be **5 individual assignments** for which you will USE the material we cover in class. Collectively, the assignment are worth **50%** of your final grade. I ask that you submit your written assignments in D2L. An assignment worth the full 10 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.

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

The **formula** I will use to calculate your final grade is:

$$\text{Grade} = (\text{Discussion average} \times 0.2) + (\text{Midterm} \times 0.15) + (\text{Assignment average} \times 0.5) + (\text{Final} \times 0.15)$$

You will likely be successful in this course if you fully 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. However, I'm happy to cover missed material during office hours.**

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
Sociology 308 (1) Fall 2018

Date	Topic/Activity	Assigned Readings
	<i>Social Environment and Health</i>	
Week 1 (9/4)	Medical Sociology Defined and Ethics	Chapter 1
Week 2 (9/10)	Epidemiology: History	Chapter 2
Week 3 (9/17)	Epidemiology: Research	
Week 4 (9/24)	Epidemiology: Contemporary Health Issues	
Week 5 (10/1)	Social Epidemiology: SES	Chapter 3
Week 6 (10/8)	Social Epidemiology: Demographics	Chapter 4
Week 7 (10/15)	Health and Stress	Chapter 5
Week 8 (10/22)	Midterm Exam (Chapters 1-5)	
	<i>Health and Illness Behavior</i>	
Week 9 (10/29)	Health Behavior and Lifestyles	Chapter 6
Week 10 (11/5)	The Sick Role	Chapter 8
	<i>Health Care Practitioners and Patients</i>	
Week 11 (11/12)	Socialization of Physicians	Chapter 10
Week 12 (11/19)	No Class	
Week 13 (11/26)	The Hospital in Society	Chapter 14
	<i>Health Care Systems</i>	
Week 14 (12/3)	The U.S. Health Care System	Chapter 15
Week 15 (12/10)	U.S. and Global Health Care	Chapter 16
12/21 (by 5:00 pm)	Final Exam (Chapters 6, 8, 11, 14, 15, 16)	
	(Exam will be available online starting 12/17)	

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