Eastern Illinois University  
New Course Proposal  
SOC 4820, Sociology of Health and Health Care

1. Catalog Description
   a. Sociology 4820
   b. Sociology of Health and Health Care
   c. 3-0-3
   d. S
   e. Soc of Health
   f. This course provides a sociological analysis of health, illness, and health care systems. Substantive topics covered include the social distribution of health and illness, the illness experience, the socialization and development of health care workers, and the social organization of medicine.
   g. Prerequisite: SOC 1838G or permission of the instructor

2. Objectives of the Course
   The key objective for this course is to provide a sociological analysis and overview of the health care institution. More specifically, the following objectives will be addressed in detail:

   · An understanding of the contributions that sociology makes to knowledge about health and illness; and the ways in which the field of medicine illustrates sociological concepts and theories.
   · An understanding of the social distribution of disease and illness in society, with particular attention on the roles of race, social class, and gender.
   · An understanding of both health lifestyles and the illness experience.
   · An understanding of the socialization experiences and professional development of physicians, nurses, and physician assistants.
   · An understanding of the social organization of the health care system in the United States.
   · An understanding of the social organization of health care systems in other nations, both developed and developing.

   This course is writing-active.

3. Outline of the Course
   Sociological Perspectives on Health & Illness
   Week 1 Organization and Orientation  
     Introduction to Sociology of Health and Health Care
     Development of Medical Sociology
     Health Care as a Social Institution
     Definitions
     Core concerns
     Theories and Theoretical Perspectives
   Week 2 Social Epidemiology

Effective Spring 2002
Effective Fall 2009, with revisions
Epidemiological Methods and Measures  
Disease and Modernization  
Social Causes of Disease and Illness  
AIDS and Coronary Heart Disease  

Readings:


Weeks 3 & 4  Social Distribution of Health and Illness  Chap. 3 Text  
Age  
Race & Ethnicity  
Socioeconomic Status  
Gender  

Week 5  Social Stress, Coping, and Social Support  Chap. 4 Text  
Symbolic Interactionism and Stress  
Functionalist Theory and Stress  
Emile Durkheim  
Social Support  
Social Factors and Stress  

Readings:


Exam #1  

Health and Illness Behaviors  
Week 6  Health Lifestyles  Chap. 5 Text  
Classical Social Theory and Health Lifestyles  
Max Weber  
Gender Differences in Health Lifestyles  
Preventive Care  
Health Belief Model  
Health Lifestyles in the United States  

Readings:

Saddle River, NJ.

Week 7  Illness Behavior                  Chap. 6/8  Text
Recognizing Symptoms and Coping With Illness Symptoms
The Illness Experience
Illness as Deviance
    Functionalist Theory and Deviance
The Sick Role
Chronic Disease and the Sick Role
Labeling Theory and Illness Behavior
Self-Care
Seeking Care

Readings:

Week 8  Doctor-Patient Interaction       Chap. 9  Text
Models of Interaction
Misunderstandings in Communication
Cultural Differences in Communication
Patient Compliance
New Technologies and Doctor-Patient Interaction
    Internet & Health Care Information

Readings:

The Professions of Medicine and Nursing
Weeks 9 & 10 Physicians                   Chap. 10  Text
The Professionalization of the Physician
The Socialization of the Physician
Social Control and the Physician
The Power Structure of American Medicine
Changing Roles of the Physician
Corporate Medicine and the Physician

Readings:
Exam #2

Week 11  Nurses and Physician Assistants  Chap. 12 Text
The Emergence of Nursing as an Occupation
Past, Present, and Future Trends in Nursing
Nursing: A Gendered Occupation
The Doctor-Nurse Game
Physician Assistants: A New Health Care Worker

Readings:

Experience of Nurses.” Pp 307-320 in Readings in Medical
Sociology. Eds. W.C. Cockerham and M. Glasser. Prentice Hall:
Upper Saddle River, NJ.

Week 12  Alternative Sources of Health Care  Chap. 7 Text
Religion and Health Care
Faith Healers
Folk Healers
Alternative Medicine
Chiropractors

The Health Care System in the United States, Other Developed Nations, and
Developing Nations

Week 13  The U.S. Health Care System  Chap. 14 Text
Social Organization of Health Care in the U.S.
HMOs and PPOs
Access to Health Care as a Social Problem
Escalating Costs and Availability
Health Care: Right or Privilege?
The American Medical Association and Health Care Reform

Weeks 14&15  Health Care in Developed and Developing Nations  Chap. 15 Text
Socialized Medicine  Chap. 16 Text
Canada and Great Britain
Decentralized National Health Care Programs
Japan and Germany
Health Care in Developing Nations
Mexico, Kenya, and China
Benefits and Drawbacks of Government Sponsored Medicine
Course Conclusion: What do We Know?
Future of Health and Health Care in the United States

Final Exam

Evaluation:
First Exam  25%
Second Exam  25%
Graduate Students will be evaluated on a different scale. Notably, they will have an additional writing assignment to complete.

**Evaluation for Graduate Students:**
- First Exam: 20%
- Second Exam: 20%
- Final Exam: 20%
- Writing Assignment #1: 20%
- Writing Assignment #2: 20%

4. **Implementation**
   a. **Initial instructor:** Darren Hendrickson
   b. **No additional cost to students**
   c. **Texts for the course**
   d. **Sociology 4820 will be offered Spring 2002**

5. **Rationale**
   a. **Purpose and Need**
      In recent years medical sociology has emerged as substantive topical area within the field of sociology. Issues of health and health care have proven to be a fruitful area for research and an application of sociological concepts and theories. Furthermore, in an external review of the sociology and anthropology department conducted in 1998, the reviewers noted that courses covering some major social institutions were absent from the curriculum. Specifically, they indicated that a course in the Sociology of Health and Health Care should be added to the list of course offerings when possible. Finally, with the rapid growth of the health care industry over the last few decades, more and more students can expect to work in some health related field. As such, it is critical to provide sociology majors, as well as students in health related majors, with a sociological understanding of the various aspects of the health care institution. The course offers graduate students in the Gerontology program exposure to critical material and is also relevant to undergraduates in Health Studies, the Medical Professions programs, Sociology and other programs at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.
   b. **Justification of the level of the course and prerequisite**
      This course is numbered SOC 4820 because the content, expectations, and workload are consistent with senior and graduate level work. Additionally, it is common in many sociology departments to have courses that provide a critical analysis of a social institution, such as the health care institution, to be offered at the senior level. And, as is indicated above, graduate students enrolling in this course will have to write an additional paper and will be evaluated using a separate grading scheme. The prerequisite of Principles Sociology (SOC 2710)
ensures that students have sufficient exposure to the discipline of sociology before introducing students to a sociological analysis of health and health care. Permission of the instructor as an alternative prerequisite enables students in health related majors to take the course.

c. Similarity to existing courses and/or effect upon programs in other departments
This course does not duplicate any other course offerings, there is no other course that provides a sociological analysis of health, illness, and health care systems. There is recognized overlap with some courses in the Department of Health Studies. However, this course does not duplicate any courses offered in the Health Studies Department, largely because it provides a unique disciplinary perspective to issues of health and health care. In fact, the Health Studies Department is planning to include this course as an elective for both the Health Studies major and the Health Communications minor.

d. Required or Elective
This course will be an elective for sociology majors and minors.

6. Community College Transfer
Not Applicable

7. Date Approved by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology 4-2-01

8. Date Approved by the College of Sciences Curriculum Committee 4-20-01

9. Date Approved by the Council on Academic Affairs 6-21-01

10. Date Approved by the Council on Graduate Studies 9-18-01

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