

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
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  - 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	Chap. 1 Text
	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	Chap. 2 Text

Epidemiological Methods and Measures  
 Disease and Modernization  
 Social Causes of Disease and Illness  
 AIDS and Coronary Heart Disease

Readings:

Link, Bruce and Jo Phelan. 2000. "Social Conditions as Fundamental Causes of Disease." Pp. 3-18 in Readings in Medical Sociology. Eds. W.C. Cockerham and M. Glasser. Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ.

Weeks 3 & 4	Social Distribution of Health and Illness Age Race & Ethnicity Socioeconomic Status Gender	Chap. 3 Text
Week 5	Social Stress, Coping, and Social Support Symbolic Interactionism and Stress Functionalist Theory and Stress Emile Durkheim Social Support Social Factors and Stress	Chap. 4 Text

Readings:

Thoits, Peggy A. 2000. "Stress, Coping, and Social Support Processes: Where are We? What Next?" Pp. 53-88 in Readings in Medical Sociology. Eds. W.C. Cockerham and M. Glasser. Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ.

Exam #1

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

Readings:

Ross, Catherine E. and Chloe E. Bird. 2000. "Sex Stratification and Health Lifestyle: Consequences for Men's and Women's Perceived Health." Pp. 91-111 in Readings in Medical Sociology. Eds. W.C. Cockerham and M. Glasser. Prentice Hall: Upper

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:

Radley, Alan. 2000. "The Aesthetics of Illness: Narrative, Horror, and the Sublime." Pp. 115-128 in Readings in Medical Sociology. Eds. W.C. Cockerham and M. Glasser. Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ.

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:

Hardey, Michael. 2000. "Doctor in the House: The Internet as a Source of Lay Health Knowledge and the Challenge to Expertise." Pp. 241-252 in Readings in Medical Sociology. Eds. W.C. Cockerham and M. Glasser. Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ.

The Professions of Medicine and Nursing		
Weeks 9 & 10 Physicians		Chap. 10 Text
	The Professionalization of the Physician	Chap. 11 Text
	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:

Hafferty, Frederic W. and Donald W. Light. 2000. "Professional Dynamics and the Changing Nature of Medical Work." Pp. 255-281 in Readings in Medical Sociology. Eds. W.C. Cockerham and M.

Glasser. Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ.

Exam #2

Week 11	Nurses and Physician Assistants 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	Chap. 12 Text
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Readings:

Porter, Sam. 2000. "Women in a Women's Job: The Gendered 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 Religion and Health Care Faith Healers Folk Healers Alternative Medicine Chiropractors	Chap. 7 Text
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The Health Care System in the United States, Other Developed Nations, and Developing Nations

Week 13	The U.S. Health Care System 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	Chap. 14 Text
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Weeks 14&15	Health Care in Developed and Developing Nations Socialized Medicine 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	Chap. 15 Text Chap. 16 Text
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Final Exam

Evaluation:

First Exam	25%
Second Exam	25%

Final Exam	25%
Writing Assignment	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
- a. No additional cost to students
- b. Texts for the course
  - Cockerham, William C. 2001. Medical Sociology, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Prentice-Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ.
  - Cockerham, William C. and Michael Glasser. 2001. Readings in Medical Sociology, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Prentice- Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ.
- c. 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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