

Northeastern State University
College of Liberal Arts
Department of Social Sciences
Tahlequah, OK

Instructor:

Dr. Ande Kidanemariam, Assistant Professor. Office: Seminary Hall 329
Office Hours: M W F - 10:00 - 12:00 am ; T TH - 1:00 - 2:00 and by appointment at other times.
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Course Title and Number:

Soc 4853 - Medical Sociology

Class Days and Time:

11:00 - 12:15 p.m. T TH (SH 207)

Prerequisites:

Introduction to Sociology (soc 1113) and/or Social Theory (soc 4613)

Catalog Description of Course:

Presents students with a basic understanding of what health means and how people direct themselves and organize their societies to obtain and maintain it. Focusing on health care delivery in relation to other systems, the social behaviors within health care institutions, and international patterns of health.

Course Purpose:

This course is an introduction to the field of medical sociology, the primary focus of which is the study of health and illness/disease/ and the social context in which they are embedded. The purpose of the course is to provide a general understanding of the significance of social, cultural, economic, behavioral, and environmental determinants of health and illness.

At the core of medical sociology is the notion that biomedical knowledge is insufficient to explain population health and illness and the ways in which people and institutions deal with health and illness.

In addition to biomedical models of disease, we will explore a variety of sociological models and theories of health and disease in analyzing the "social production of disease."Further, the course

is concerned with the different ways that people perceive and conceptualize disease and illness and the ways they act upon (or not act upon) these when seeking care. It looks at the functions of health care providers and institutions and a comparison of different health care systems from a cross-cultural perspective.

Expected Course Outcomes:

By the completion of the course, students should be able to comprehend the role and significance of the social determinants of health and illness in generating variable health outcomes; the application of medical sociological theories and methodologies in health and medicine; issues of equities or lack thereof in the delivery of health services and the pros and cons of different health care systems as practiced around the world.

Instructional Materials: (Required textbook)

___ Gregory L. Weiss and Lynne E. Lonquist - The Sociology of Health, Healing, and Illness

Instructional Procedures:

The class format will consist of various instructional strategies aimed at optimizing students' learning skills and the acquisition of knowledge. The strategies include, but not limited to, lecture, group discussion/group activities, presentations, and in-class writing assignments.

Student Performance Activities: (Attendance/punctuality)

There is a correlation between class attendance and a good grade. Regular class attendance is expected and required for a successful completion of the course. In case of absence, students are responsible for keeping track of everything done in class while absent. Students will be expected to make up any work missed as a result of absence, whether or not the absence was justified. Too many absences will reduce your final grade for the course. Four absences will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Eight; two letter grades; and nine or more will result in an "F" grade for the course.

Walking out of class - walking out of class while class is in session will lead to a penalty of 5 points to be deducted from a student's test score every time a student walks out of class without instructor's permission.

Make up exams - Make up exams are generally unfair to other students. Students will be permitted to take make up exams only for justifiable excuses, such as, University excused absence, death in the family, illness, and other extenuating circumstances generally considered to be beyond the student's control.

Assignment Due Dates:

All assignments are due at the specified due dates. Detailed instructions and due dates for writing assignments will be given in the course of the semester. Overdue assignments/papers will be subject to point deduction. Your grade will be reduced by 20% every day the assignment is past due.

Student Evaluation:

There will be three exams consisting of either multiple-choice, short answers, or identify questions. Each exam is worth 100 points (a total of 300 points).

Grading Scale:

Performance on all exams and cumulative course average over the course of the semester will convert to letter grades as shown below:

90 - 100 = A

80 - 89 = B

70 - 79 = C

60 - 69 = D

59 and lower = F

Last Day to Drop a Course with “W”

Students are advised that the last date during the semester when they may drop a course with a “W” will be **Friday, April 8, 2005.**

ADA COMPLIANCE:

If any student in the class feels that he/she has a disability and needs special accommodations of any nature whatsoever, the instructor will work with you and the University's Office of Student Affairs to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform in this class. Please advise the instructor of such disability and the desired accommodation at the first class attended.

Tentative Schedule for readings and Exams

We will generally stick to this schedule, but we may make minor adjustments in the pace at which we cover materials based on class needs.

Week 1 (Jan.11-13) Introduction to the sociology of health... - Chap 1

Week 2 (18- 20) - History of Scientific Medicine - Chap 2

Week 3 (25- 27) - Social Epidemiology and Medicine - Chap 3

Week 4 (Feb.1-3) - Society, Disease, and Illness - Chap 4

Week 5 (8-10) - Social Stress - Chap 5

Thursday, Feb. 10 - Exam One

Week 6 (15-17) - Health Behavior - Chap 6

Week 7 (22 - 24) - Experiencing Illness and disability - Chap 7

Week 8 (Mar.1- 3) - Physicians and the profession of medicine - Chap 8

Week 9 (8-10) - Medical Education and the socialization of physicians - Chap 9

Week 10 (15-17-) - **Spring Break - No classes**

Week 11 (22-24) - Nurses and other health care practitioners- Chap10

Friday, March 24 - Exam Two

Week 12 (29-31) - Complementary and Alternative Medicine - Chap 11

Week 13 (5-7) - Physician-Patient Relationship - Chap 12

Week 14 (12-14) -Professional and ethical issues in the Physician- patient relationship- Chap 13

Week 15 (19-21) - Health Care System of the US - Chap 14

Week 16 (26-28) - Health care Delivery and the Social Implications of advanced Health Care Technology- Chaps 15 and 16

Final exam: Tuesday, May 3, 2005, at 11:00 AM