Medical Sociology – Soc 147 California State University, Fresno

Fall 2014 – MWF: 11:00-11:50

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Office Hours: MWF: 9-10; TTH 1-2 *or by appointment*

Course Goals: This course examines the complex relationship between social factors, health and illness, and health care delivery systems nationally and cross-culturally. Causes, consequences, and definitions of health and illness will be explored. Sociological perspectives, theories and methods will be used to study concepts of wellness and illness and health care services and personnel. Topics to be covered range from the effects of age, gender and socioeconomic status on the health of the human groups to the interrelationships between healers, patients and social institutions.

Primary Learning Outcomes: On completion of this course, students should be able to:

a.) analyze the relationship between health, illness, social factors and systems of care nationally and cross-culturally

b.) compare and contrast the effects of age, race, gender, social class on the health status of these groups

c.) utilize sociological theories to explain the role of health care systems in society

d.) describe the relationship dynamics between healers, patients and social institutions

e.) formulate their own conclusions about the advantages and limitations of biomedicine in the context of the political economy of the nation today

Text: There is one required text *and* one required reader for this course. They are listed below and are available in the campus bookstore.

Cockerham, W. (2012). Medical sociology (12/E). Upper Saddle River, NJ:

Pearson.

Cockerham, W. and Glasser, M. (2001). Readings in medical sociology (2/E).

Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Course Requirements: Your grade in this class will be based on total points earned out of a possible 300. Points are earned on exams, quizzes and writing assignments. There are no bonus points available. Class lectures, videos, handouts and discussions will provide information on which you will be tested and which is not available in the text or reader. **All assignments must be completed and submitted to pass this course.**

Computers: At CSU Fresno, computers and communications links to remote resources are recognized as being integral to the education and research experience. Every student is required to have his/her own computer or have personal access to a workstation (including a modem and a printer) with all the recommended software. Computer labs are available on campus.

Disabilities: If you have any medical or learning disabilities that might affect your work in this course, it is your responsibility to inform me and contact the University's Service to Students with Disabilities in the Library at 278-2811 so that reasonable accommodations can be made.

Honor Code: "Members of the CSU Fresno academic community adhere to principles of academic integrity and mutual respect while engaged in university work and related activities." You should:

a. understand or seek clarification about expectations for academic integrity in this course (including no cheating, plagiarism and inappropriate collaboration.

b. neither give nor receive unauthorized aid on examinations or other course work that is used by the instructor as the basis of grading

c. take responsibility to monitor academic dishonesty in any form and to report it to the instructor or other appropriate official for action.

Cheating and Plagiarism: "Cheating is the actual or attempted practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving one's grade or obtaining course credit; such acts also include assisting another student to do so. Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating that consists of the misuse of the published and/or unpublished works of another by misrepresenting the material (i.e., their intellectual property) so used as one's own work" (University Catalog). *Be aware that penalties for cheating and plagiarism range from a 0 or F on a particular assignment or exam through an F for the course or expulsion from the University*. For more information on the University's policy on cheating and plagiarism, refer to the University Catalog.

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Classroom Etiquette: The most critical component of the classroom environment is respect. If we do not respect one another, we all lose the ability to grow and learn, which is the purpose of the classroom. University policy states that "*Student conduct which disrupts the learning process shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from the class*." **Do not use your cell phone** during class; if you are observed doing so, I will deduct points from your quiz scores: 2 points for the first warning, 5 for the second, and 10 points for the third and every subsequent warning. Please do not "zip up" prior to the end of class; class begins and ends at the designated time. Do not begin packing up or stacking your stuff until then. Do not call or email me and ask if you missed anything. It is your responsibility to get notes and announcements from a classmate. Please do not engage in "private whispering." If you have a comment to make, share it with us or refrain from commenting. If you need to leave early, please let me know prior to class. While I may appreciate your reasons for being late or absent, the absence still exists and quizzes cannot be made up.

Exams: There are three scheduled exams, including the final. The first two exams are each worth 50 points and the final, which includes cumulative material, is worth 75. The exams cover lectures, text, reader and Blackboard articles, handouts, videos, and discussion materials. Exams include multiple choice, true-false, short answer and essay questions. No exposed screens will be permitted during exams. If you have a *documented* emergency, you may schedule a makeup which will consist entirely of essay questions.

Writing Assignments: There are two writing assignments. Each is due at the beginning of class on the date noted in the syllabus. Five points per class session are deducted for late papers. Points are earned for content, organization, mechanics, and documentation. Papers can be APA, ASA or MLA format; they must be word-processed, double-spaced, standard font and proofed for errors. Do *not* use folders. You may use your text and reader as sources for both writing assignments.

***Writing Assignment 1*:**This short (2-3 pages) paper focuses on demographics. Select **one** of the following topics and present data to support and illustrate your points. You must cite at least three academic references; do NOT use *Wikipedia*, a dictionary or a thesaurus as an academic reference. This paper is worth 25 points and is due September 8.

1. What are the most common co-morbidities today? Why? What are the consequences for the individual and society?
2. What are “diseases of affluence”? How do these conditions, their outcomes and their economic impact differ between richer and poorer countries?
3. How does the US infant mortality rate compare to that of other nations? How does the rate for whites and minorities in the US differ?

***Writing Assignment 2*:** This is a 3-4 page position paper in which you select and research **one** of the following issues, summarize the opposing viewpoints and conclude the paper with your position, supported by data. This paper must include a reference list of at least 4 academic references. This assignment is worth 50 points and is due Nov. 10.

1. Explain what is right and what is wrong with biomedicine, using specific examples and data to support your assertions.
2. Would taking the profit motive out of healthcare change it? How? Would it improve it or decrease the quality?
3. Compare American attitudes toward universal healthcare to those of citizens of other countries. Analyze the sociological differences that have produced such variations.

Attendance: At unscheduled times during the semester, we will have pop quizzes; each will be worth 5 points for a total of 50. Since this is a device to measure attendance, there are no makeups. These may be given at any time during class. If you arrive after the quiz or leave before it, you may later ask to be allowed to put your name on a blank quiz for 2 points. Your pattern of attendance, evidenced through these scores, will be an important part of calculating your course grade.

The grading scale is as follows

Total points Percent of Total Final Grade

270-300 90-100% A

240-269 80-89% B

195-239 65-79% C

150-194 50-64% D

under 150 under 50% F

Course Schedule:

Assigned readings are to be completed **before** the date for which they are listed. Blackboard articles and handout articles are also required readings.

Week 1

August 22 Syllabus Discussion and Course Overview

No reading

Week 2

August 25 Key Concepts

Chapter 1

August 27 Key Concepts/Epidemiology

Chapters 1 and 2

August 29 Epidemiology

Chapter 2

Week 3

September 1 Labor Day - holiday

September 3 Epidemiology and Social Demography

Chapters 2 & 3

Reader: Link and Phelan*: Social Conditions*

September 5 Social Demography

Chapter 4

Blackboard: *Tests of Trainee Doctors*

Handout*: Pain Relief in U.S. ER’s*

Week 4

September 8 **Writing Assignment 1 due**

Social Demography

Chapter 4

Reader: Ross and Bird: *Sex Stratification*

September 10 Stress

Chapter 5

Handouts

September 12 Stress

Chapter 5

Reader: Thoits*: Stress, Coping and Social Support*

Week 5

September 15 Health Behavior

Chapter 6

September 17 Health Behavior

Chapter 6

September 19 Review for Exam 1

Week 6

September 22 **Exam 1**

September 24 Illness Behavior

Chapter 7

September 26 Illness Behavior

Blackboard*: Hmong in Transition*

Week 7

September 29 Sick Role

Chapter 8

October 1 Sick Role

Chapter 8

October 3 Doctor-Patient Interaction

Chapter 9

Week 8

October 6 Doctor-Patient Interaction/Healing Options

Chapters 9 & 10

October 8 Healing Options

Chapter 10

October 10 Reader: Abrums: *Jesus Will Fix It*

Week 9

October 13 Physicians

Chapter 11

Handout: *Hippocratic Oath*

October 15 Physicians

Chapter 11

Blackboard: *On the Death of a Baby*

October 17 Physicians in a Changing Society

Chapter 12

Week 10

October 20 Physicians in a Changing Society

Handout: *It’s Over, Debbie*

October 22 Reader: Weitz: *Watching Brian Die*

October 24 Nurses, Physician Assistants, Pharmacists and Midwives

Chapter 13

Week 11

October 27 Nurses, Physician Assistants, Pharmacists and Midwives

Chapter 13

Blackboard: *Motherwit*

October 29 Review for Exam 2

October 31 **Exam 2**

Week 12

November 3 Hospitals

Chapter 14

Blackboard*: Just Another Routine Emergency*

November 5 Hospitals

Chapter 14

November 7 Hospitals

Reader: Rier: *Missing Voice of the Critically Ill*

Week 13

November 10 **Writing Assignment 2 due**

Health Care in the US

Chapter 15

November 12 Health Care in the US

Chapter 15

November 14 Health Care in the US

Chapter 15

Week 14

November 17 Political Economy of Health Care

Reader: *Updates on Health Care in* *Canada*

November 19 Political Economy of Health Care: Affordable Care Act Handouts

November 21 ACA requirements and debates

Handouts

Week 15

November 24 Health Care in Other Nations

Chapter 16 and Handouts

November 26 Thanksgiving - holiday

November 28 Thanksgiving - holiday

Week 16

December 1 Health Care in Other Nations

Chapter 16 and Handouts

December 3 Medical Ethics and debates

Handouts

December 5 Medical Ethics and debates

Week 17

December 8 Begin review for final exam

December 10 Review for final exam

Last day of instruction

December 12 Faculty Consultation Day - no classes

Final Exam: Monday, December 15: 11-1

This course syllabus is subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.