

SPRING 2021

Syllabus

SOC 368 – Sociology of Mental Health



Instructor

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During the courses please e-mail the instructor through Canvas

General Information

Description: This class will introduce students to the sociology of mental health and illness. The sociology of mental health and illness focuses on collective behavior that is attributed to the general organization of society

Student Expectations

In this course, you will be expected to complete the following tasks:”

- read textbook
- communicate via email
- complete basic internet searches
- download documents from the Canvas LMS
- read documents online
- view online videos
- participate in an online discussion
- complete quizzes and tests online
- upload documents to Canvas

Course Learning Outcomes

The course learning outcomes are:

1. Examine and describe the problem of mental disorders from a sociological perspective
2. Become familiar with the major issues and research findings in the sociological literature on mental disorders,
3. develop an understanding of underlying sociological theories and conceptual models that help to explain the social factors associated with mental disorders,
4. explore the patients’ perspectives of mental illness -- a perspective typically ignored in the professional literature, and
5. examine organizations and community resources available to the mentally ill and their families.

Students with Disabilities

The University has a legal responsibility to provide accommodations and program access as mandated by Section 54 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The university's philosophy is to not only provide what is mandated but also convey its genuine concern for one's total well-being. If accommodations are needed, please contact the instructor as well as the Disability and Assistive Technology Center (DATC), located in 609 LRC. DATC contact information: (715) 346-3365 (Voice), (715) 346-3362 (TDD only) or via email at datctr@uwsp.edu.

Grades

Letter grades will be assigned based on the percentage of the possible points that are earned.

Grade	Percent	Assignments	
A	93-100		
A-	90-92	Midterm Exam	100 points
B+	87-89	Final Exam	100 points
B	83-86	Class essays	90 points - 6 options—select two, 30 points each
B-	80-82	Class discussions	50 points— 5 discscions-10 points each
C	73-76		
C-	70-72	Total points	340 points
D+	67-69		
D	60-66		
F	59 & below		

Late Policy

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines posted on Canvas—typically there are no make-up assignments or quizzes, or late work accepted without a serious and compelling reason and instructor approval. However, in light of COVID-19, I will be as accommodating as possible.

Rights and Responsibilities

This class will adhere to all guidelines established in the UWSP Community Rights and Responsibilities. If you are not fully aware of these rights and responsibilities please see the Student Rights and Responsibilities available in PDF format at <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx> (Links to an external site.) , specifically, you may wish to examine Chapter 14—Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures.

SOC 368 class essays preview

Throughout the semester essays will be posted based upon class material. Students are required to complete two of these essays. Each essay is assigned as the material is being covered and have separate due dates. Please read all essays, as they are assigned, this material may be on the exams. Please do not complete essays before they are assigned. This essay preview is provided to assist you in making your essay sections and plan your schedules accordingly.

Essay 1

Write an essay that summarizes the video "Madness: A History" (assigned week one). In this summary be sure to discuss specific practices previously used in the treatment of the mentally ill. Also, provide a personal reaction to this video presentation. Assigned week 2, due 2/8 at 11:59 PM

Essay 2

After completing your class reading and viewing the film "Mental Disorder" provide an essay that distinguishes between the different approaches to mental disorders/illnesses that were presented. How does a sociological examination of mental health and illness differ from other examinations? What kinds of topics might be explored from a sociological perspective? Assigned week 3, due 2/15

Essay 3

What are "stressful life events" and how do these events contribute to physical and mental health? What factors are thought to make a difference in whether or not "stressful life events" lead to illness? Please discuss the Holmes and Rache social readjustment rating scale and how has this scale been used in the past to connect life events with mental illness. What are some of the criticisms of the Holmes and Rache social readjustment rating scale? Relate the stressful events in your life to your class readings on stress. How did you cope? Did you receive support or assistance from others and, if so, how helpful was it? How did the stressful experience affect you in the short run? In the long run? Assigned week 3, due 2/22

Essay 4

Please clearly present the basic premise of the structural and agency perspectives. In doing so be sure to compare and contrast these perspectives and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each of these and to include examples. Assigned week 6, due 3/8

Essay 5

After completing the assigned reading on social class reading assigned this week, write an essay which provides an overview of the three rationales for the relationship between social class and mental disorder. In your overview, be sure to compare and contrast the three rationales. Assigned week 9, due April 5

Essay 6

Please write a summary essay on the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and the primary purpose of this organization. In this essay, be sure to describe the primary goals of NAMI and overview the various programs NAMI offers. Be sure to discuss specific NAMI programs including, but not limited to NAMI Basics, Family to Family, In Our Own Voices, and Peer to Peer. Also, include any other information on NAMI you discovered and the thing is useful. Assigned week 13, due 5/3