

Sociology 308 (1), Fall Semester 2020

# Sociology of Medicine

Online

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Off-site

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## Course Overview

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or injury.” Medical Sociology recognizes the critical role **social factors** play in determining or influencing the health of individuals, groups, and the larger society. Topics of interest to medical sociologists include the social causes and patterns of health and disease, the social behavior of health care personnel and their patients, the social functions of health organizations and institution, and the relationship of health care delivery systems to other social systems. We will cover these topics in four sections of the course: 1) the relationship between the social environment and health and illness; 2) health and illness behavior; 3) health care practitioners and their relationship with patients; and 4) health care institutions and systems.

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## Course Objectives

- Trace the history of Medical Sociology and Social Epidemiology as fields of inquiry.
- Investigate the social causes and risk factors for health and illness.
- Identify current issues in domestic and global health and illness.
- Define the “sick role.”
- Explore the relationships between health care providers and patients.
- Evaluate the U.S. health care system.

## Text

The required textbook is available at the campus bookstore.

Cockerham, William C. *Medical Sociology, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition.*

## Investigation Level Course

This course is designated as an investigation level course for the General Education Program (GEP). Assignments and activities will focus on the following learning outcomes for the social sciences.

- Define the major concepts and methods used by social scientists to investigate, to analyze, or to predict human or group behavior.
- Explain the major principles, models, and issues under investigation by the social sciences.
- Examine how the individual or groups of individuals are influenced by social, cultural, or political institutions both in their own culture and in other cultures.

## Discussions

We will have about 9 on-line discussions. These will be due by midnight of the Sunday after the chapters and lectures are assigned. These are graded on a scale of 1 to 10, and the grade will be a percentage from 0 to 100%. You will get 6 points for a **thoughtful post**, using **information from the course**, about the assigned topic, and 4 points for a thoughtful and supported (with empirical information) response to the post of ONE other student. Saying you agree with or like their post is NOT enough. You must add some information to their post. Collectively, the discussions are worth **20%** of your final grade. (Please see a more complete description and schedule for the discussion in the Assignment section on Canvas.) You will receive no points for disrespectful (at the professor's discretion) response to another's post.

**There will be no make-up discussions without documentation of legitimate emergency reasons for missing discussion due dates.**

## Exams

There are two exams in this class administered through the quiz tab in Canvas. **Neither of these will be cumulative.** They will be a mix of short answer and multiple choice exams with approximately 30 questions each and will cover material from your text, from lectures, and from in- and out-class exercises. They will be graded as the percentage correct (with the standard A – F criteria). I insist that you **complete the exams on your own without the help of another person**. In addition, **do not search for and cut and paste from answers on the internet**. Each exam is worth **25%** of your final grade. (Please see a more complete description and schedule for the exams in the Assignment section on Canvas.)

*Please look carefully at the course schedule for the dates of each exam.*

**There will be no make-up exams without documentation of legitimate emergency reasons for missing exam dates.**

## Assignments

There will be 4 individual assignments for which you will USE the material we cover in class. Collectively, the assignments are worth **30%** of your final grade. Assignments will be submitted through drop boxes in Canvas. Each will be due on a Sunday by midnight. An assignment worth the full 100 points is thorough (each assignment is completed in its entirety), and thoughtful (you have given more than minimal effort). Any citations should be in APA style.

**There will be ABSOLUTELY NO make-ups of missed assignments.**

## Grading Scale

93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C

70-72	C-
67-79	D+
60-66	D
0-59	F

You will likely be successful in this course if you come to class prepared, participate in discussions, follow the rules for academic integrity (see below), and put thought and effort into your assignments and exams.

### **Important University and Course Policies and Procedures**

Students with Special Need: Students with special needs as documented by the Office of Disability Services should identify themselves at the beginning of the term. The Department of Sociology and Social Work is dedicated to providing these students with the necessary academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to facilitate their participation and performance in the classroom.

Classroom etiquette: We will be discussing several controversial topics in this course. **I respect your opinions and will be respectful to you as a participant. I expect the same from you to me and to YOUR CLASSMATES.** I will call out and subtract grade points for anyone who is being disrespectful to me or to a classmate. This includes disrespectful posts, responses, emails, and phone calls. We can and often do disagree, but we can make our points respectfully. **My virtual classroom will be safe and civil.**

Contacting Me: Please contact me using the following methods in this order of preference: 1) email; 2) cell phone. I will make every effort to respond to questions that are NOT time-sensitive (e.g., about the course schedule, material, assignments, and similar) within 24 hours. Please only use my cell phone for time-sensitive issues such as last-minute emergencies that interfere with your submission of assignments.

Academic Misconduct: Academic integrity is central to the mission of this institution. UWS 14 defines academic misconduct as any “action which a student:

1. seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
2. uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
3. forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
4. intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
5. engages in conduct aimed at making false representations of a student’s academic performance;  
and
6. assists other students in any of these acts.”

USW 14 allows for disciplinary sanctions that range from an oral reprimand to suspension or expulsion from the University. You can obtain a copy of the full academic misconduct policy through the Student Services office.

The rules regarding academic misconduct can sometimes be confusing for students, so I encourage you to come talk to me about questionable issues regarding assignments and exams. If you have questions about a particular assignment, you should come talk to me before the assignment is due. Ignorance or misunderstanding of the UW System policy for academic misconduct is not an acceptable excuse for academic misconduct.

If I observe or suspect academic misconduct, I will request a meeting with the responsible student or students, and I will follow the procedures set out in the UWS 14 document.

**Course Schedule  
Sociology 308 (1) Fall 2020**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic/Activity</b>	<b>Assigned Readings</b>
	<u>Social Environment and Health</u>	
9/2-6 <b>9/6</b>	Medical Sociology Defined and Ethics <b>Discussion 1 (Research Ethics) due at Midnight</b>	Chapter 1
9/7-13 <b>9/13</b>	Epidemiology: History <b>Discussion 2 (The Plague) due at Midnight</b>	Chapter 2
9/14-20 <b>9/20</b>	Epidemiology: Research <b>Assignment 1 (Contagion) due at Midnight</b>	
9/21-27 <b>9/27</b>	Epidemiology: Contemporary Health Issues <b>Discussion 3 (Fracking) due at Midnight</b>	
9/28-10/4 <b>10/4</b>	Social Epidemiology: SES <b>Discussion 4 (In Sickness...) due at Midnight</b>	Chapter 3
10/5-11 <b>10/11</b>	Social Epidemiology: Demographics <b>Discussion 5 (Native American Health) due at Midnight</b>	Chapter 4
10/12-18 <b>10/18</b>	Health and Stress <b>Discussion 6 (Social Stress and Health) due at Midnight</b>	Chapter 5
<b>10/19-25</b>	<b>Midterm Exam (Chapters 1-5) – <u>DUE 10/25</u> by Midnight</b>	
	<b><u>OPEN 10/19</u> at 8:00 am</b>	
	<u>Health and Illness Behavior</u>	
10/26-11/1 <b>11/1</b>	Health Behavior and Lifestyles <b>Assignment 2 (Health Behaviors) due at Midnight</b>	Chapter 6
11/2-8 <b>11/8</b>	The Sick Role <b>Discussion 7 (Big Pharma) due at Midnight</b>	Chapter 8
	<u>Health Care Practitioners and Patients</u>	
11/9-15 <b>11/15</b>	Socialization of Physicians <b>Discussion 8 (Bedside Manor) due at Midnight</b>	Chapter 11
11/16-22 <b>11/22</b>	The Hospital in Society <b>Assignment 3 (Hospital) due at Midnight</b>	Chapter 14
<b>11/23-29</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	

Health Care Systems

11/30-12/6  
12/6

The U.S. Health Care System  
**Discussion 9 (Our System) due at Midnight**

Chapter 15

12/7-13  
12/13

U.S. and Global Health Care  
**Assignment 4 (Global Health Care) due at Midnight**

Chapter 16

12/14-18

**Final Exam (Chapters 6, 8, 11, 14, 15, 16)**

**DUE 12/18 by Midnight; OPEN 12/14 at 8:00 am**

***I reserve the right to change the syllabus due to unforeseen scheduling issues and the pedagogical needs of the class.***