

**University of North Texas at Dallas**  
**Fall 2015**  
**SYLLABUS**

<b>SOCL 3120: Sociology of Health and Illness      3 Hrs</b>			
<b>Department of</b>	<b>Sociology</b>	<b>Division of</b>	<b>Liberal Arts and Life Sciences</b>
<b>Instructor Name:</b>	<i>Syeda S. Jesmin, Ph.D., M.P.H.</i>		
<b>Office Location:</b>	<i>Dallas 2 #324</i>		
<b>Office Phone:</b>	<i>972-338-1589</i>		
<b>Email Address:</b>	<i>Syeda.jesmin@unt.edu</i>		
<b>Office hours</b>	By appointment and Wednesday 10:00 am -1:00 pm		
<b>Class Meeting Days &amp; Times:</b>	100% Online		
<b>Course Catalog Description:</b>	Effects of social factors, such as age, sex, race and social class, on health and illness; differential access to health care services among subgroups of the U.S. population, including Blacks, Hispanics, Indians and the elderly; strains in the organization of the health care delivery system.		
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	<b>None</b>		
<b>Co-requisites:</b>	<b>None</b>		
<b>Required Text:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TITLE: Sociology of Health, Illness &amp; Health Care</li> <li>• AUTHOR: Weitz</li> <li>• EDITION:6th</li> <li>• COPYRIGHT YEAR:2013</li> <li>• PUBLISHER: Cengage Learning</li> <li>• ISBN:9780495598879</li> </ul>		
<b>Recommended Text and References:</b>	<b>None</b>		
<b>Access to Learning Resources:</b>	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: <a href="http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm">http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm</a> UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: <a href="mailto:1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com">1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com</a>		
<b>Departmental Outcomes:</b>	At the end of this course, the student will		
	1. summarize basic patterns of disease distribution, how that distribution has changed in various Societies		
	2. compare and contrast basic theoretical orientations and middle range theories in medical sociology		
	3. explain how sociology contributes to understanding of the impacts of social factors on physical and mental health, such as social stressors, social relations, social control, socio-economic status, etc., and be able to present evidence from research literature to support their argument		
	4. summarize current arguments regarding the social construction of medical knowledge and disease, as well as the medicalization of society		
	5. critically analyze U.S. health care system and suggest specific policy implications of current health care reform legislature		

6. summarize basic issues in the field of medical sociology, including standard vocabulary in social epidemiology and health services research

**Course Goals or Overview:**

The goal of this course is to provide students with an overview of the field of Medical Sociology. The field is diverse and the literature is extensive, yet students should have, by the end of the semester, a working knowledge of this subject area, and familiarity with its language and basic concepts, and literature in at least one topical area. We will attempt to debunk myths about health, illness, and medicine, and to explore such things as: 1) definitions and experience of human health and illness; 2) social correlates of morbidity and mortality; 3) the way illness is defined, distributes, assessed, and treated across populations; and 4) means of distributing and paying for health services.

Class sessions include seminars and lectures. Each session there will be reading assignment for which all students will be responsible. I will lead discussion on the subject of those readings and work to help the class understand the content of the readings and their place in the context of the field. Points of clarification, relevant questions, interesting ideas, and student discussions are actively encouraged. Students are encouraged to use library and Internet resources. Films will be used when pertinent.

Medical sociology continues to attract students and researchers as health-related issues gain prominence in US and international policy debates. Successful completion of this course will equip students to enter more skillfully into those debates whether formal and informal.

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**Learning Objectives/Outcomes:** At the end of this course, the student will be able to



1	demonstrate the ability to use the language of medical sociology, including standard vocabulary in social epidemiology and health services research
2	identify basic patterns of disease distribution
3	identify impacts of social factors on physical and mental health
4	able to describe the typical help-seeking behavior in the US, how that behavior differs from other societies, and why
5	understand medicalization process and it's impact on society
	understand characteristics of U.S. health care system and compare it with other developed countries

**COURSE OUTLINE**

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated by announcements during class.

**Tentative Schedule\***

<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>Assignment/work due</b>
<b>WEEKS 1-2</b> 8/24- 9/6 Chapter 1: The Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care Chapter 2: The Social Sources of Illness	Discussion Forum # 1 Quiz 1
<b>WEEKS 3-4</b> 9/7- 9/20 Chapter 3: The Social Distribution of Illness in US	Discussion Forum # 2 Quiz 2  <b>ASSIGNMENT 1</b>
<b>Weeks 5-6</b> 9/21-10/4 Chapter 4: Illness and Death in the Developing Nations Chapter 5: The Social Meanings of Illness	Discussion Forum # 3 Quiz 3

Weeks 7-8 10/5-10/18 Chapter 6: The Experience of Disability, Chronic Pain, and Chronic Illness Chapter 7: The Sociology of Mental Illness	Discussion Forum # 4 Quiz 4
Weeks 9-10 10/19-11/1 Chapter 8: The U.S. Health Care System Chapter 9: Health care around the globe	Discussion Forum # 5 Quiz 5 <b>ASSIGNMENT 2 due</b> 
Weeks 11-12 11/2-11/15 Chapter 10: Health care settings and technologies Chapter 11: The Profession of Medicine	Discussion Forum # 6 Quiz 6
WEEKS 13-14 11/16-11/29 CHAPTER 12: OTHER MAINSTREAM AND ALTERNATIVE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS Chapter 13: Issues in bioethics	Discussion Forum # 7 Quiz 7
Weeks 15-16 11/30-12/6	<b>Research Paper</b> 

## COURSE EVALUATION METHODS

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course. If you are having a problem with your performance in this course, please schedule an appointment with me as soon as possible so that together, we can figure out what needs to be done. I am willing to help solve any problem you might experience involving this course, except failure to read the assigned materials or missing class.

### 1. ASSIGNMENTS

Students will be required to submit 2 assignments. The 2 assignments together will be worth of 100 points (50 X2). Detail instructions on these assignments will be posted on Blackboard.

It is the student's responsibility to approach the instructor **in advance** of a due date if further explanation is necessary. **Students who miss a deadline must document an illness or family emergency to become eligible for turning in assignments without penalty.** Failure to do so will result in an assigned zero. The qualifying student will be given 7 calendar days following the missed date. Beyond the 10-day period, except under extreme circumstances, no late assignments will be allowed and a zero will be assigned.

To safeguard against any errors in recording your grades, it will be your responsibility to retain all exams/assignments returned to you. If there is a discrepancy, you will then have on hand the original score and based on this, the proper corrections can be made.

## 2. ONLINE DISCUSSIONS

For 7 times throughout the semester students will be asked a specific question or questions related to course materials. These questions will be posted in the Blackboard. You will have a minimum of THREE DAYS to post your response, read statements from other students and submit comments to them. Discussion Area submissions are worth total 10X7=70 points.

Here are some guidelines regarding your participation in these class discussions.

1. For each question or questions that I've designated for a particular chapter, submit your well-considered response. Then, take a look at what others have said on the topic. Respond to at least ONE of your fellow students with at least one comment/question regarding something he/she has said.
2. As far as evaluating your discussion responses, I will be interested in whether a response shows an understanding of what sociology is and the sociological perspective. Integrate sociological concepts into your responses. Applying these concepts accurately shows your familiarity with the reading as well as your ability to apply it. Avoid simply repeating what others have already said in their responses. Take some time to offer different examples or ways of analyzing the issue. Also, it's important to remember that this isn't a talk show where it's adequate to simply state your personal opinion. Earning an "A" (9 points out of 10) on the discussions requires going beyond the minimal requirements of the assignment.
3. Remember, this isn't The Jerry Springer Show. Occasionally, it's apparent that a response is meant to be cute or funny, but not serious and thoughtful. I'm not looking for comedic talent. The discussions require more than having a conversation with your colleagues in the class.
4. I strongly recommend that you take the time to compose your discussion response (e.g., in your software program like Microsoft Word or Works), save it and then post it in the Discussion Area. Always keep a copy of your discussion responses in case of a technical problem on the course website.
5. As mentioned in the section above, students should be courteous to others in the class. That means no YELLING!!, personal insults, threats, profanity as well as other inappropriate postings in the Discussion Area. Sometimes students will disagree with each other. That's okay—disagreements should be expressed politely and intellectually (focusing on the course material).

## 3. Quizzes

There will be 7 bi-weekly Quizzes (7X 40=280 points). Each quiz will be based on the readings assigned for the particular weeks. For example, Quiz 1 will be given on Chapters 1 and 2 and will remain open on the last Friday to Sunday of Week 2. Quizzes will include true/false, multiple choices, and short essay questions. Quiz 2 will be given over chapter 3 and will remain open on Friday to Sunday of the 4<sup>th</sup> week.

**\*Please note that make-up quizzes are all essay and are given during the week of final exams. They are ONLY given in the event of a DOCUMENTED excused absence. (Reasons for excused absence include hospitalization, death in the family, etc.) If you miss, be prepared to provide proof for having done so. It is in your best interest to not miss an exam. (Prior arrangements can be made on an individual basis if you will be absent on exam day and you know that ahead of time.)**

## 4. RESEARCH PAPER:

Students are required to submit a research paper (50 X1=50 Points). This is to be a short formal paper to be written in a formal style (i.e. in-text footnotes, etc.) using the information students collect, and drawing on the knowledge they have already gained from this class about health and illness. Students can

work in a group of no more than 4 to complete this paper and submit one paper as a group to TurnItIn Assignment Link (see **TurnItIn Student Manual on your Research Paper assessment link**).

### Grading Matrix

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Assignments	2 assignments at 50 points each	100
Research Paper	1 paper at 50 points	50
Online Discussion	7 @ 10 points each	70
Quizzes	7 @ 40 points each	280
<b>Total:</b>		<b>500</b>

#### Grade Determination:

A = 450-500 pts; i.e. 90% or better

B = 400-449 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %

C = 350-399 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %

D = 300 – 349 pts; i.e. 60 – 69 %

F = 299 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

## University Policies and Procedures

### Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

*The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Building 2 or call Laura Smith at 972-780-3632.*

### Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

*The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.*

### Assignment Policy:

If you are unable to submit the assignments due to serious illness where you are physically incapacitated (e.g., hospitalized), medical documentation is required to resolve the missed assignment. *Be sure to speak with me immediately if you fail to meet the assignment submission deadline.*

### Exam Policy:

*Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook). If you are unable to take an exam due to serious illness where you are physically incapacitated (e.g., hospitalized), medical documentation is required to resolve the missed exam. **If you miss any exam, then you will be given an essay make-up exam.** Be sure to speak with me immediately if you miss an exam. Remember, you must submit official documentation in order for this policy to apply to you.*

### Academic Integrity:

*Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at [http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic\\_Integrity.pdf](http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf) for complete provisions of this code.*

*In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:*

**On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.**

**Bad Weather Policy:**

*On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website [www.unt.edu/dallas](http://www.unt.edu/dallas). Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.*

**Attendance and Participation Policy:**

*The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.*

**Diversity/Tolerance Policy:**

*Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Life as the instructor deems appropriate.*

**Optional Policies:**

- *Use of Blackboard: **Review the course website several times per week, if not daily.** Visiting the website frequently will familiarize you with the resources available on the site as well as alert you to any changes or additions to the website (e.g., possible changes to the syllabus, due date reminders posted in the calendar, instructions for discussions).*
- *Grade of Incomplete: You should discuss with me in advance if an “I” has to be assigned.*
- *Please provide me, the instructor, with **48 hours** to respond to e-mail messages.*
- *Please provide me, the instructor, with about a week to grade and provide feedbacks to your submitted works.*