

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










<b>SOCL 3110D: Sociology of Mental Health and Illness      3 Hrs</b>			
<b>Department of</b>	<b>Sociology</b>	<b>Division of</b>	<b>Liberal Arts and Sciences</b>
<b>Instructor Name:</b>	Syeda S. Jesmin, Ph.D., M.P.H.		
<b>Office Location:</b>	Dallas Building 2 #324		
<b>Office Phone:</b>	972-338-1589		
<b>Email Address:</b>	<a href="mailto:Syeda.jesmin@unt.edu">Syeda.jesmin@unt.edu</a> (preferred method of communication)		
<b>Office Hours:</b>			
<b>Virtual Office Hours:</b>	Tuesdays 9 am-1 pm		
<b>Classroom Location:</b>	N/A		
<b>Class Meeting Days &amp; Times:</b>	N/A		
<b>Course Catalog Description:</b>	Effects of social stresses and social integration on the mental health of various age, sex, ethnic and other groups within society; mental health care system and problems of access to that system among different subgroups in the population.		
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	None		
<b>Co-requisites:</b>	None		
<b>Required Text:</b>	William C. Cockerham (2010). Sociology of Mental Disorder. 8 <sup>th</sup> edition. Prentice Hall. ISBN# 978-0-205-74806-8		
<b>Recommended Text and References:</b>	None		
<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@fheg.follett.com">1012mgr@fheg.follett.com</a>		
<b>Course Goals or Overview:</b>			
	This course will study various social aspects of mental health and illness. The goal throughout will be to critically examine how our conceptions of mental illness and the mentally ill are shaped by history, institutions, and culture. In particular, we will examine the ways in which a medical model has triumphed in defining the causes and cures for mental illness. Along with a critical examination of the medicalization of mental illness, we will consider the variety of social factors that contribute to the rates and to the experiences of mental illness.		
<b>Learning Objectives/Outcomes:</b> At the end of this course, the student will			
1	Summarize basic issues in sociology of mental health and illness.		
2	Explain how sociology contributes to understanding of mental health and illness.		
3	Be able to identify the major theories and research related to mental health and mental illness.		

4	Demonstrate the ability to identify the nature of mental health services, the interaction of various service providers and linkage between health and mental health systems.
5	Demonstrate an understanding of mental health theories and intervention methods of particular significance for women, minorities of color, and for economically disadvantaged groups.

## 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\* CLASS READINGS & EXAM DATES

Weeks	Topic	Assignments, Exams
Weeks 1 June 2-8	Chapter 1: The problem of mental disorder Chapter 2: Types of mental disorder	<p><b>Introduce yourself</b></p>  <p><b>Online Discussion 1</b></p>  <p><b>Quiz 1</b></p>
Week 2 June 9-15	Chapter 3: Mental disorder: concepts and causes Chapter 4: Mental disorder as deviant behavior	 <p><b>Online Discussion 2</b></p>  <p><b>Quiz 2</b></p>
Week 3 June 16-22	Chapter 6: Social Class Chapter 7: Age, gender, and marital status	<p><b>Assignment 1</b></p>   <p><b>Online Discussion 3</b></p>  <p><b>Quiz 3</b></p>
Week 4 June 23-29	Chapter 9: Race Chapter 10: Help-seeking behavior	 <p><b>Online Discussion 4</b></p>  <p><b>Quiz 4</b></p>
Week 5 June 30-July 4	Chapter 11: Acting mentally disordered	<b>Film Analysis</b>

## Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

### 1. *Online Discussions*

For 4 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 two other students and submit comments to them. Discussion Area submissions are worth total 4X15=60 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" (15 points out of 15) 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).

### 2. Assignment

Students will be required to submit 1 assignment. Detail instructions on the assignment will be announced in class, and 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.

### 3. *Film Analysis*

At the end of the semester, students are required to submit a film analysis. Students will be asked to analyze a film using the topics learned throughout the semester. You will be provided with questions and a set of concepts to apply in the analysis. The purpose of this paper is for you to show me what you have learned over the course of the semester—the more information you have to analyze, the easier that will be.

In this paper, you will be also expected to write in brief what you learned from this class and from this movie analysis about mental health and illness.

#### 4. Exams

There will be four Exams (50 X4). Exams consist of short answer, essay, and/or multiple choice questions. They are not cumulative, although key ideas and concepts will carry over.

**\*Please note that make-up Exams 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.)**

#### Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
4 Online Discussions	4@ 15 points each	60
1 Assignment	1 @ 30 points	30
1 Film Analysis	60 points	60
4 Exams	4 @ 50 points	200
<b>Total:</b>		<b>350</b>

#### Grade Determination:

- A = 315- 350 pts; i.e. 90% or better
- B = 280 – 314 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %
- C = 245 – 279 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %
- D = 210 – 244 pts; i.e. 60 – 69 %
- F = 209 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. For more information, you may visit the Office of Disability Accommodation/Student Development Office, Suite 115 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 conduct and Academic Dishonesty 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 Conduct at [http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student\\_conduct/index.html](http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/index.html) for complete provisions of this code.

### **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.

Class participation is highly encouraged in this course. For each topic that we will discuss in class, feel free to share with the class your well-considered response. As far as participation in class discussion, 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. 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. During the class discussions/debates, students should be courteous to others in the class. That means no YELLING!!, personal insults, threats, profanity as well as other inappropriate

remarks. Sometimes students will disagree with each other. That's okay—disagreements should be expressed politely and intellectually (focusing on the course material).

**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 Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities as the instructor deems appropriate.

**Optional Policies:**

- *Use of Blackboard: Review Blackboard several times per week, if not daily.* Visiting the Blackboard frequently will familiarize you with the resources available on the site as well as alert you to any changes or additions to the Blackboard (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 allow me, the instructor, with **48 hours** to respond to e-mail messages.