

# SOCL 3803-X30 Medical Sociology

Summer 2025

PROFESSOR: Beverly L. Stiles, Ph.D.

OFFICE: O'Donohoe 124

OFFICE HOURS:

There are no actual office hours during second summer session, but I am happy to meet with you if you need me.

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Use this email only for emergencies since we do everything through D2L.

TEXT: The Sociology of Health, Healing, and Illness, 11<sup>th</sup> edition. Denise A. Copelton and Gregory L. Weiss. ISBN: 978-1-032-41812-4. There may be additional readings or videos for which I'll provide the links throughout the chapter discussions.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Medical sociology analyzes patterns of disease and illness, health and illness-related behaviors, the health care professions, and the health care system.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Identify the socio-cultural context of health and illness
- Address the role of medical specialists and patients in modern society
- Compare and contrast various social organizations in the health care continuum
- Describe social forces influencing changing patterns of health care delivery
- Understand the intersection between gender, race, social class and medical care, and health policy.

## EXAMS AND GRADING:

There will be three (3) exams, including the final (the final is not comprehensive).

Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. You will have 60 minutes for each exam. You cannot cheat since every student gets a different exam. There is a pool

of questions randomly selected from a large bank of questions. Once you open the exam, your 60 minutes begins. The time allotted is not meant to provide you with time to use your books, so 60 minutes is more than fair. Although, if you have read the material, I would expect that you will indeed have time to look up an answer or two, maybe more. However, if you haven't read and studied prior to the exam, you will find that you don't have time to finish. I do intend to add 10 points to your lowest exam grade, which often is the first exam since the first exam helps folks understand how a professor tests or how the person creating the test bank, constructs questions. I add the 10 points at the end when I am averaging grades by hand. However, if for any reason you need to take an exam late, I do not add the 10 points to your lowest exam grade and I will also deduct 10 points for taking it late to be fair to everyone else who took it on time and since that means that you had extra time.

There is also a paper due at the end of the semester, worth 30 points.

Exam Dates will be listed on the Calendar.

Below are the chapters covered by each exam.

**Exam 1:** Introduction to the course. What is Medical Sociology? The Structure of Medical Sociology. **June 9th**

Chapter 1: "A brief Introduction"

Chapter 2: "The Development of Scientific Medicine"

Chapter 3: "Social Epidemiology"

Chapter 4: "Society, Disease and Illness"

**Exam 2:** Health and Illness Behavior and Service Providers. **June 22nd**

Chapter 5: "Health Behavior"

Chapter 6: "Illness and Disability"

Chapter 7: "Physicians and the Profession of Medicine"

Chapter 8: "Medical Education and the Socialization of Physicians"

Chapter 9: "Nurses, Advanced Providers, and Allied Health Workers."

Chapter 10: "Complementary and Alternative Medicine"

**Exam 3: Open from July 3<sup>rd</sup> -July 4th**

Chapter 11: "The Physician-Patient Relationship"

Chapter 12: "Professional and Ethical Obligations of Physicians"

Chapter 13: "The United States Health Care System"

Chapter 14: "Health Care Delivery"

Chapter 15: "The Social Implications of Advanced Health Care Technology"

Chapter 16: "Comparative Health Care Systems"

The following grades total to 400 points and is the basis for your grade. Notice that the chapter discussions and the current event/movie analysis totals an exam grade.

Exam 1: 100 points

Exam 2: 100 points

Exam 3: 100 points

Chapter discussions: 70 points

Paper Assignment: Current Event article/movie: 30 points

I will divide your total points by 4 to average your grade.

### Discussion/Participation Assignments:

You will also receive a grade for your chapter discussions at the end of the semester (worth 70 points). When you add the chapter discussion points to the movie or current event analysis which is due at the end of the semester and is worth 30 points, they equal 100 points, so together they equal a test grade. Each chapter discussion is worth 5 points. This participation will be based on responses to the discussion questions that I post and the responses to your classmates post as well as what you read from the other students postings. The D2L system does keep track of everything you do so I can keep track of this. It's really an amazing system. I will post one to four questions for each chapter. I want actual dialogue here rather than simply responding by saying "I agree" or "I disagree." I want to see some thought put into your responses and some evidence of support for what you say. I want to see that you are drawing from the chapter when you respond so that I can tell that you have indeed read the chapter. Please remember to be civil. This is defined as no cursing, don't put someone down, but provide each other with an open environment for discussing and disagreement. I will post discussion questions for each weekly chapter discussion, sometimes I do this a few days in advance

for those who read ahead or so that students know what questions will have to be answered as they're reading the chapter. Notice that there are 16 chapters but I have combined a couple chapters into one discussion because of their ease, so you will only have 14 discussions total. You are to post your response to the questions by the due date at 11:00 pm. This gives everyone the following day to respond to the postings of at least 3 other students. This is required. Please know that it is unfair for you to not post your initial posting by the due date at 11:00 pm because if you post your initial posting later, that doesn't give your classmates to opportunity to respond to your posting. You will therefore not be given credit if you do not post on time as I have specified. Remember also that part of your participation grade is based on your reading the postings of the other students too.

### Grading for Participation:

The chapter discussions are worth 5 points and are graded according to the following:

Plus 2 points for posting your initial posting by due date at 11 pm \*and\* for responding to the postings of your classmates by the following day at 11pm, which is the closing day for each chapter discussion. So, you will spend 2 days per chapter, one day posting your initial response, and the second day responding to at least 3 others and making certain that you have read four-fifths of all postings for the chapter before it closes. You will get a zero if you only post your initial response but do not follow through and post all remaining responses.

Plus 1 point for reading at least 4/5 (four-fifths) of the postings of your classmates by the closing day, at 11 pm for each chapter discussion.

Plus 2 points for posting such that it is evident that you are drawing from material that you have read for the current chapter (quality). I don't want you to just spout off and reply or make statements without drawing from the text. I need to see that you are actually reading the text material. You need to refer to the material in the chapter when responding both to the initial posting and the response postings to your classmates. Others reading your posting should learn something new not posted in the post to which you are responding.

### Paper Assignment:

You can either use a current event or a movie for your paper assignment. I want you to analyze the current event or the movie in terms of the concepts from your text. You will need to be sure to do a thorough analysis and site page numbers for the material you use. I also want the concepts bolded in your paper to make it easier for me to find them

and to look them up in the text by the page numbers. So, for example when I teach this class on campus, I have used the movie, "The Doctor" because it is so perfect for so many concepts, but especially for doctor and patient relationships as well as doctor and nurse relationships. I have used the movie, "Patch Adams" previously as well. These movies might be difficult to find unless you ordered them from Amazon or half.com. If you decide to do that, I would recommend using "The Doctor" as it is by far the easiest one. There is a foreign film with subtitles that might be good to use as well, "The Country Doctor, or another title for the same movie is "Irreplaceable." Another film is Wit with Emma Thompson. You may also choose a current event (no older than 2 yrs. old) from some magazine such as Time, Newsweek, The Atlantic, etc. You must tell me the title, date, and author, and where you got the article. I just want you to choose something that has enough for you to analyze using concepts from the text. I want you to integrate concepts from the text and tell me how they relate to the issues in the article. Again, be certain to provide page numbers. You will receive a zero for not referencing. This will be submitted through dropbox.