

Spring 2018 | MW 12:30-1:20 | Classroom: University 203

SOC 374: Medical Sociology

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Course Description

This course provides an overview of the social determinants of health, the experience of illness and being a patient, the organization of the medical profession and doctor-patient relationships, and the health care system in the United States as well as other areas of the world. By the end of the course you should have an understanding of how sociologists approach the study of health and medical care.

Course Details

This course follows a lecture format on Mondays and Wednesdays, though I will provide regular opportunities for engagement with and discussion of the material. In addition, the course includes an online component. The online component will consist of a combination of discussions and quizzes that will be made available each Thursday.

Text

The text for this course is

- Weiss, Gregory L. and Lynne E. Lonnquist. 2017. *The Sociology of Health, Healing, and Illness*. 9th ed. New York: Routledge.

The following additional readings will be made available on Blackboard.

- Berkman, Lisa F. 2009. "Social Epidemiology: Social Determinants of Health in the United States: Are We Losing Ground?" *Annual Review of Public Health* 30:27-41.
- Holmes, Seth M. 2013. *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States*. Berkeley: University of California Press. pp. 88-110.
- Jenkins, Tania M. and Shalini Reddy. 2016. "Revising the Rationing of Medical Degrees in the United States." *Contexts* 15:36-41.

- Link, Bruce and Jo Phelan. 2010. “Social Conditions as Fundamental Causes of Health Inequalities.” pp. 3-17 in *Handbook of Medical Sociology, 6th ed.* edited by C. E. Bird, P. Conrad, A. M. Fremont, and S. Timmermans. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press.
- Stepanikova, Irena. 2012. “Racial-Ethnic Biases, Time Pressure, and Medical Decisions.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 53:329-343.
- Timmermans, Stefan and Mara Buchbinder. 2013. *Saving Babies: The Consequences of Newborn Genetic Screening.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press. pp. 1-33.

Grades

Your grade for the course will be based on three components: (1) participation in online discussions, (2) weekly quizzes, and (3) three exams.

Online Discussions: Understanding a sociological perspective on health and medical care benefits from active engagement with the ideas in the readings. To help facilitate this I will post a couple discussion questions each week (except for exam weeks) on Blackboard and give you the opportunity to offer some thoughts on the questions or respond to other people’s thoughts. Each post you make will count for 1 point and you can receive up a to a total of 20 points, which will count for 10 percent of your grade.

Quizzes: Each week (except for exam weeks) I will post a quiz with a few questions that cover the key points from the material that week. The quizzes are designed to provide a check on your understanding of the material and to give you a sense of what questions on the exams will look like. The quizzes are open-book and will be available to be completed between Thursday and Sunday each week. In total the quizzes will count for 10 percent of your grade.

Exams: There will be two unit exams and a final exam. The unit exams will just include material from the given unit. The final exam will be cumulative but with a focus on the material from the last unit. All of the exams will be completed on Blackboard and will be open-book. The two unit exams will each count for 25 percent of your grade and the final exam will count for 30 percent of your grade.

Grade Distribution: I will use the following standard grading scale for this course.

Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent
A+	96.5% - 100%	C+	76.5% - 79%
A	92.5% - 96%	C	72.5% - 76%
A-	89.5% - 92%	C-	69.5% - 72%
B+	86.5% - 89%	D+	66.5% - 69%
B	82.5% - 85%	D	62.5% - 65%
B-	79.5% - 82%	D-	59.5% - 62%

Accommodations

If you are student with a disability or ongoing medical condition, we can discuss appropriate accommodations. For additional information and resources please visit the [Disability Resource Center](#).

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is one of the highest values that Purdue University holds. Individuals are encouraged to alert university officials to potential breeches of this value by either emailing integrity@purdue.edu or by calling (765) 494-8778.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Date	Topic	Reading
Jan 8	Introduction	Ch 1	Mar 5	Physician relationships	Ch 12
Jan 10	Scientific medicine	Ch 2	Mar 7	Physician relationships	Stepanikova
Jan 15	MLK Day	-	Mar 12	Spring Break	-
Jan 17	Social epidemiology	Ch 3	Mar 14	Spring Break	-
Jan 22	Social epidemiology	Berkman	Mar 19	Ethics	Ch 13
Jan 24	Society, disease, ...	Ch 4	Mar 21	Review for Exam 2	-
			Mar 23	Exam 2	-
Jan 29	Society, disease, ...	Link	Mar 26	Health care in the US	Ch 14
Jan 31	Social stress	Ch 5	Mar 28	Health care in the US	-
Feb 5	Health behaviors	Ch 6	Apr 2	Health care delivery	Ch 15
Feb 7	Review for Exam 1	-	Apr 4	Class Canceled	-
Feb 9	Exam 1				
Feb 12	Experiencing illness	Ch 7	Apr 9	Technology	Ch 16
Feb 14	Experiencing illness	Holmes	Apr 11	Technology	Timmermans
Feb 19	Medical profession	Ch 8	Apr 16	Comparative health	Ch 17
Feb 21	Medical education	Ch 9	Apr 18	Comparative health	-
Feb 26	Medical education	Jenkins	Apr 23	TBD	-
Feb 28	Nurses, ...	Ch 10	Apr 25	Review for final exam	-
Apr 30-May 5 Final Exam					