

**DR. LINDA A. TREIBER
SYLLABUS-FALL 2013
SOCIOLOGY 4443
MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY
Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-3:15 pm
SOCIAL SCIENCE CLASSROOM BUILDING rm. 2021**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an analysis of the social processes affecting conditions of health and illness and the cluster of social relationships and organizations that comprise the social institutions of health. Emphases include the socio-cultural factors that influence definitions of health and illness, causes, prevention and treatment, cross-cultural and inter-class comparisons of stress, delivery of health care, mental illness, death and dying, and health care professionals.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

INSTRUCTOR: DR. LINDA A. TREIBER
OFFICE: 4070, SOCIAL SCIENCE CLASSROOM BUILDING
OFFICE PHONE: 678-797-2279
E-MAIL: ltreiber@kennesaw.edu
OFFICE HOURS: T/R 1:00-2:00 AND BY APPOINTMENT

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Conrad, Peter. 2009. *The Sociology of Health and Illness, Critical Perspectives, 8th Edition*. New York: Worth.
ISBN: 1-4292-0558-X
Gawande, Atul. 2002. *Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science*. New York: Picador.
ISBN: 0-312-42170-2
Weitz, Rose. 2010 *The Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care: A Critical Approach, 5th Edition*
Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
ISBN: 0495598879

COURSE OBJECTIVES/GOALS:

This course is designed to introduce the student to the area of medical sociology: the ways in which health and illness are socially constructed; inequalities in health and quality of life; the health care delivery system and its various stakeholders. This course builds on knowledge gained in introductory level sociology courses; hence the prerequisite is SOCI 2201. The course is designed for sociology majors, but may also be of interest to students considering careers in health related fields. The teaching methods used in this course include lectures, discussion, individual assignments, in-class group exercises, and films.

TO SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS:

- ✓ Prepare.
- ✓ Contribute.
- ✓ Keep an open mind.
- ✓ Be flexible, adaptive and creative.
- ✓ Take advantage of learning opportunities.
- ✓ Turn written work in on time.
- ✓ Take the exams as scheduled.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Every student is expected to participate in class. This means contributing to class discussions as well as active participation in class exercises, short writing assignments, group discussions and projects. You cannot get credit for participation unless you are in class. Students are responsible for all course material. I require a brief memo of specified course readings, due in class. Students will use these as a basis for class discussion. Absences from class will only be excused for students who have documentation that serious illness, injury, incapacity, or official university business prevented them from being present in class.

EVALUATION AND GRADING:

Take the exams on the dates scheduled.

Each exam will cover approximately one-third of the course assigned readings, lectures, discussions, and films. Although exams are not comprehensive, I assume that knowledge obtained in readings, lectures, etc. is cumulative. Each exam will consist of a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. Make-up exams will only be given to students who have documentation that serious illness, injury, incapacity, or official university business prevented them from being present in class the day of the exam. **MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL ONLY BE ADMINISTERED DURING THE FINAL EXAM PERIOD. The final exam date is non-negotiable. Please make the necessary arrangements to be there.**

Grades will be based upon your percentage of the total number of points on exams, written work, and attendance. A= 90-100%; B= 89.99-80%; C= 79.99-70%; D= 69.99-60%; F= Below 60%. Each exam is worth 20% of your grade; reading summaries are worth 20%; attendance and participation are worth 5%. Your term paper (guidelines to be distributed later in the semester) is worth 15%.

Please do not send your work via email. In the interests of equity and to foster organization, late points will be deducted for work that is not received on time. Students should not save their work to KSU computers. You should either email your work to yourself or bring a personal flash drive. NOTE: having a KSU computer crash or having your work erased or corrupted if it is saved on a KSU lab or classroom computer is not an acceptable excuse for late or missing papers, assignments, and other products.

Evaluation Method	Weight
EXAM 1	20%
EXAM 2	20%
FINAL EXAM	20%
TERM PAPER DUE NOVEMBER 19	15%
READING MEMOS (see syllabus for dates and topics)	20%
ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION	5%
TOTAL	100%

COURSE OUTLINE:

I plan to follow the course outline listed below as closely as possible. If changes are necessary during the semester, I will announce them in advance. Please read the specified material in the text prior to the dates on which they will be discussed. I expect that you will come to class prepared to discuss assigned course material. You will be responsible for all assigned readings, whether they are explicitly covered in class or not. Please ask questions about any information presented in texts or lectures.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT:

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs, Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement.

DISABILITIES:

If you have academic or testing needs, then please make an appointment with me so that we may work together to serve those needs.

CONDUCT:

Several rules of classroom conduct should be followed. **Please do not use cell phones or laptop computers** during class. Arrive on time and do not leave early. If an instructor (including me) or any of your peers says or does anything that you consider racial or sexual harassment, notify the instructor immediately. If this happens in class, you may send me an anonymous note or contact me in person. Belligerent, abusive, profane, threatening and or inappropriate behavior is a violation of the KSU student council regulations. I value and respect your contributions. Please do the same for others in the class.

COURSE OUTLINE:

DATE	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT
August 20	Introduction to Core Concepts: The Sociological Perspective	Make sure you have texts and can access WebCT Vista
August 22		Weitz, Chapter 1, "Introduction"
August 27	Social Epidemiology	Weitz, Chapter 2, "The Social Sources of Illness"
<u>August 29</u>	A Critical Look at Health What is making us sick? What is making us well? Memo #1 McKinlay due CLASS DISCUSSION 1	McKinlay, "A Case for Refocusing Upstream: the Political Economy of Illness" in Conrad [48]
September 3	Social Inequality and Illness	Weitz, Chapter 3, "The Social Distribution of Illness in the United States"
<u>September 5</u>	Memo #2 McCord & Freeman and Brown due CLASS DISCUSSION 2	McCord and Freeman, "Excess Mortality in Harlem" in Conrad [3] Brown, "Popular Epidemiology: Community Response to Toxic Waste-Induced Disease" in Conrad [6]
September 10	Illness in Less Developed Countries	Weitz, Chapter 4, "Illness in the Developing Nations"
September 12		FILM: Rx for Survival
September 17	Meanings and Medicalization	Weitz, Chapter 5, "The Social Meanings of Illness"
<u>September 19</u>	Memo # 3 Barker and Conrad due CLASS DISCUSSION 3	Barker, "Self-Help Literature and the Making of an Illness Identity: The Case of the Fibromyalgia Syndrome(FMS)"in Conrad [13] Conrad, "The Meaning of Medications: Another

		Look at Compliance” in Conrad [14]
September 24	Chronic Illness and Disability	Weitz, Chapter 6, “The Experience of Disability, Chronic Pain, and Chronic Illness.”
<u>September 26</u>	<u>EXAM 1</u>	
October 1	HIV/AIDS	Film: The Age of AIDS, Part 1
October 3		FILM: In the Age of AIDS, continued You should have the topic of term paper to me
<u>October 8</u>	Memo #4 Herek and Armstrong, Carpenter, & Hojnacki due CLASS DISCUSSION 4	Herek, “AIDS and Stigma” in Conrad [11] Armstrong, Carpenter, and Hojnacki, “Whose Deaths Matter? Mortality, Advocacy, and Attention to Disease in the Mass Media” in Conrad [12]
October 10	No Class	No Class
October 15	Mental Illness	Weitz, Chapter 7, “The Sociology of Mental Illness.”
October 17	The US Health Care System	Weitz, Chapter 8, “The US Health Care System and the Need for Reform” Gawande, chapters 1-3 “Education of a Knife” “The Computer and the Hernia Factory” “When Doctors Make Mistakes”
<u>October 22</u>	Memo #5 Weiss and Sered & Fernandopulle due CLASS DISCUSSION 5	Weiss, “Uninsured in America” in Conrad [27] Sered and Fernandopulle, “Young, Sick, and Part-Time: The Vulnerability of Youth and the New American Job Market” in Conrad [28]
October 24	International Health	Film: “Sick around the World” Gawande, chapters 4-6 “Nine Thousand Surgeons” “When Good Doctors Go Bad” “Full Moon Friday the Thirteenth”
October 29		Weitz, Chapter 9, “Alternative Health Care Systems”
<u>October 31</u>	Memo #6 Timmermans and Hartley due CLASS DISCUSSION 6	Hartley, “The ‘Pinking’ of Viagra Culture: Drug Industry Efforts to Create and Repackage Sex Drugs for Women” in Conrad [23] Timmermans, “Social Death as Self-Fulfilling Prophecy” in Conrad [30]

<u>November 5</u>	<u>EXAM 2</u>	
November 7	Hospitals	Weitz, Chapter 10, "Health Care Settings and Technologies." Gawande chapter 7, "The Pain Perplex"
<u>November 12</u>	Nursing Homes, Hospice Memo #7 Gawande Pages 1-129 due CLASS DISCUSSION 7	Gawande (memo on pages 1-129, chapters 1-7)
November 14	Doctors	Weitz, Chapter 11, "The Profession of Medicine" Gawande, chapters 8, 9, 10 "A Queasy Feeling" "Crimson Tide" "The Man Who Couldn't Stop Eating"
<u>November 19</u>	TERM PAPER DUE A point deduction of 5 points per day (including weekends) will be assessed on any late papers Other Health Care Providers	TERM PAPER DUE Weitz, Chapter 12, "Other Mainstream and Alternative Health Care Providers"
November 21	Bioethics	Weitz, Chapter 13 Gawande, chapters 11, 12, 13 "Final Cut" "The Dead Baby Mystery" "Whose Body Is It, Anyway?"
<u>November 26</u>	Memo #8 Gawande Pages 130-252 due CLASS DISCUSSION 8	Gawande Chapter 14 "The Case of the Red Leg" (Gawande memo pages 130-252, chapters 8-14)
December 2	LAST DAY	Wrap up course
<u>Thursday December 5</u>	<u>FINAL EXAM</u>	<u>FINAL EXAM</u> <u>1:00-3:00 PM</u> <u>(Note: earlier time)</u>