

**SYLLABUS-FALL 2014**  
**SOCI 4443/01 MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY**  
**T/ TH 2:00-3:15 pm**  
**SOCIAL SCIENCES BUILDING rm. 2025**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

**SOCI 4443 - Medical Sociology**

**3 Class Hours 0 Laboratory Hours 3 Credit Hours**

**Prerequisite: SOCI 2201.**

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:**

DR. LINDA A. TREIBER

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OFFICE HOURS: 11-12 T/R AND BY APPOINTMENT

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

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.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Conrad, Peter. 2009. *The Sociology of Health and Illness, Critical Perspectives, 8th Edition*. [Paperback]. New York: Worth. ISBN: 1-4292-0558-X

Gawande, Atul. 2002. *Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science*. [Paperback]. New York: Picador. ISBN: 0-312-42170-2

Weitz, Rose. 2013. *The Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care: A Critical Approach, 6th Edition* [Hardcover] Cengage. ISBN-10: 1111828792; ISBN-13: 9781111828790

**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. 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%.

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	20%
Reaction Papers on Gawande	10%
ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION	10%
TOTAL	100%

**ENROLLMENT STATUS:**

**Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a class; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal. Please refer to the official KSU policy for potential reimbursement if you withdraw from classes.**

**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. **The full policy is published at the following link:** (<https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct>)

**DISABILITIES:**

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to notify the instructor as early in the semester as possible. Verification from KSU Student Disability Services is required. All discussions will remain confidential.

**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:**

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.

**Introduction to Core Concepts: Medical Sociological Perspectives**

August 19-21

Make sure you have texts and can access D2L

Weitz, Chapter 1, "Introduction"

Gawande, chapters 1-2:

"Education of a Knife"

"The Computer and the Hernia Factory"

**Social Epidemiology: What is making us sick? What is making us well?**

August 26-28

Weitz, Chapter 2, "The Social Sources of Illness"

McKinlay, "A Case for Refocusing Upstream: the Political Economy of Illness" in Conrad [48]

Gawande, chapters 3-4:

"When Doctors Make Mistakes"

"Nine Thousand Surgeons"

**Social Inequality and Illness**

September 2-4

Weitz, Chapter 3, "The Social Distribution of Illness in the United States"

McCord and Freeman, "Excess Mortality in Harlem" in Conrad [3]

Gawande, chapters 5-6:

"When Good Doctors Go Bad"

"Full Moon Friday the Thirteenth"

**Illness in Less Developed Countries**

September 9-11

Weitz, Chapter 4, "Illness in the Developing Nations"

Brown, "Popular Epidemiology: Community Response to Toxic Waste-Induced Disease" in

Conrad [6]

FILM: Rx for Survival

**Meanings and Medicalization**

September 16-18

Weitz, Chapter 5, "The Social Meanings of Illness"

Conrad, "The Meaning of Medications: Another Look at Compliance" in Conrad [14]

Barker, "Self-Help Literature and the Making of an Illness Identity: The Case of the Fibromyalgia Syndrome(FMS)" in Conrad [13]

**Chronic Illness and Disability**

September 23-25

Weitz, Chapter 6, "The Experience of Disability, Chronic Pain, and Chronic Illness."

Gawande chapter 7: "The Pain Perplex"

**EXAM 1 September 30**

**HIV/AIDS**

October 2-9

Film: The Age of AIDS, Part 1

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]

**Term paper topic and tentative social consequences due October 2 (not graded)**

**Mental Illness**

October 14

**GAWANDE PAPER 1 due OCT 14 chapters 1-7 pages 1-129**

Weitz, Chapter 7, "The Sociology of Mental Illness."

Gawande, chapters 8-9:

"A Queasy Feeling"

"Crimson Tide"

NO CLASS (Georgia Sociological Association Meetings) October 16

**The US Health Care System**

October 21-23

**Brief outline of term paper and sketch of the theoretical framework is due Oct 21 (not graded)**

Weitz, Chapter 8, "The US Health Care System and the Need for Reform"

Sered and Fernandopulle, "Young, Sick, and Part-Time: The Vulnerability of Youth and the New American Job Market" in Conrad [28]

Gawande, chapters 10-11:

"The Man Who Couldn't Stop Eating"

"Final Cut"

**International Health Systems**

October 28-30

Film: "Sick around the World"

Weitz, Chapter 9, "Alternative Health Care Systems"

Gawande, chapters 12-13:

"The Dead Baby Mystery"

"Whose Body Is It, Anyway?"

**EXAM 2 November 4**

**Health Care Organizations**

November 6-11

Timmermans, "Social Death as Self-Fulfilling Prophecy" in Conrad [30]

Weitz, Chapter 10, "Health Care Settings and Technologies."

Gawande Chapter 14: "The Case of the Red Leg"

**Doctors**

**November 13 GAWANDE PAPER 2 due NOV 13 chapters 8-14 Pages 130-252**

November 13-18

Weitz, Chapter 11, "The Profession of Medicine"

**Other providers**

November 20

Weitz, Chapter 12, "Other Mainstream and Alternative Health Care Providers"

November 25-27 NO CLASS

**Bioethics**

**Term Paper Due in class December 2, 2014**

December 2-4

Weitz, Chapter 13

Wrap-up course

**FINAL EXAM 1:00-3:00 PM Thursday December 11**

**(Note date and time)**