COURSE OUTLINE

SOCI 320
Sociology of Health, Illness and Health Care

Prepared By: Diane Muehl, Ph.D.
A. **TITLE:** Sociology of Health, Illness and Health Care

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** SOCI 320

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE (OPTIONAL):** NO

E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall and Spring

G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:**
   3 lecture hours per week

H. **CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:**

   Using the sociological perspective, this course explores how social factors such as age, gender, social class and race / ethnicity influence personal experiences of health, illness, and health care utilization. This course challenges assumptions about health, illness and health care. Topics include the social construction of illness and health, a critique of the ‘sick role’, the meaning and experience of disability, chronic pain and chronic illness, an exploration of health care systems in the developed and developing worlds, and the challenges and opportunities facing both consumers and providers of health care in the 21st century.

I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-COURSES:**
   Pre-requisite: Junior level status; Introduction to Sociology (SOCl101) or Introduction to Gerontology (HLTH 104) or permission of instructor.

J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):**
   By the end of this course, the student will:

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<th>Course Objective</th>
<th>Institutional SLO</th>
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<tr>
<td>a. Analyze the social construction of illness and health, distinguishing topics such as the experience and meaning of illness, disability, chronic pain, mental illness, and chronic illness in different cultural settings.</td>
<td>2. Critical Thinking</td>
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   | b. Examine the social factors that influence illness and health, separating such factors as the distribution of illness and health care in both the developed and developing worlds. | 1. Communication  
   |                                                                                   | 2. Critical Thinking               |
   | c. Evaluate both mainstream and alternative health care systems, settings, and technologies in the US and around the world, including such topics as the interaction between consumers and providers of | 1. Communication  
   |                                                                                   | 2. Critical Thinking               
   |                                                                                   | 4. Inter-Intrapersonal Skills      |
health care in different cultural settings.

d. Appraise options in health care, including such topics as bioethics, and the interaction between consumers and providers of health care in different cultural settings.

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<td>2. Critical Thinking</td>
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<td>4. Inter-Intrapersonal Skills</td>
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K. **TEXTS:**


L. **REFERENCES:**


M. **EQUIPMENT:** Technology Enhanced Classroom

N. **GRADING METHOD:** A – F

O. **MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

- Research Paper
- Quizzes
- Exams
- Presentations
- Small Group Activities
P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Introduction to the Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care
   A. The Social Construction of Health: A Sociological Perspective
   B. The Social Construction of Illness
      1. An Introduction to Epidemiology
      2. A Brief History of Disease
   C. The Social Distribution of Illness in the United States and the Developed World
      1. Influences of Age
      2. Influences of Gender
      3. Influences of Social Class
      4. Influences of Race and Ethnicity
      5. The Confluence of These Factors
   D. Illness in the Developing World
      1. Disease Patterns Around the Globe
      2. Sources of Disease in Developing Nations
      3. The Influence of Politics, Religion, Economics and Education on Illness and Health Care Availability

II. The Meaning and Experience of Illness
   A. The Social Meaning of Illness
      1. The ‘Sick Role’: A Critique
      2. Medicine as Social Control
   B. The Experience of Disability, Chronic Pain, and Chronic Illness
   C. The Sociology of Mental Illness

III. Health Care Systems, Settings, and Technologies
   A. The US Health Care System
      1. The Current System and the Need For Reform
         a. Availability and Financing of Health Care
   B. Health Care Settings and Technologies
      1. Mainstream and Alternative Health Care
         a. Hospitals
         b. Nursing Homes and Assisted Living
         c. Hospice
         d. Home care
2. Alternative Health Care
   a. Chiropractic
   b. Midwifery
   c. Curanderos and Other Folk Healers
   d. Acupuncture
   e. Naturopathy
   f. Current Practice

IV. Health Care Consumers and Providers
   A. The Professionalization of Medicine
   B. Alternative Health Care Providers
   C. Exploring Health Care Options
   D. Issues of Bioethics

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: None