

SYLLABUS SPRING 15
SOCIOLOGY 210
SOCIOLOGY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH CARE
M & TH, 9:50-11:10, SCOTT 123, CAC

CONTACT INFORMATION

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GENERAL

I encourage you to contact me for any course-related reason, and I welcome the opportunity to get to know you. You can visit during office hours, arrange an appointment, see me at the end of class, email me, call me, or text me. I am always reachable by email or cellphone. There is no printed syllabus - you can get all course information from the Sakai website.

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday 12:30-2:30.
Davison 132B, Douglass campus.

REQUIRED BOOK

Medical Sociology, **13th edition**, by William Cockerham.
Published by Prentice Hall, 2016.
Available at the Rutgers Bookstore and elsewhere.
You must buy or rent the **new 13th edition** of this book to pass the course.

REQUIRED EXAMS

There are 3 required exams, all of which must be taken to pass the course. Exams are multiple choice. Each exam is worth 1/3 of your course grade. Your course grade is calculated by summing scores on the three tests, and then using a curve to determine the course letter grade. The curve is quite

generous - approximately 30% A's, 30% B's, and 30% C's, with the bottom 10% getting D's and F's. You must attend class and study the book to get a good grade. About half of the questions on each exam will cover material from the book and about half will cover lecture material. Please note that the book and lectures cover different material, so you must study both. You must bring pencils to the exams – pens cannot be used. No electronic devices (cellphones, tablets, laptops, mp3 players, etc.) will be allowed in exams. You must know your RUID so you can write it on the exam, because several people in the class will have the same name.

No makeups will be given unless there are severe, extenuating circumstances. Personal holidays, travel plans, broken alarm clocks, weddings, jobs, exams in other courses, and the Rutgers bus system are not acceptable reasons for missing an exam. If there are conflicts between exam days and your personal schedule, you should withdraw from the course. Makeup exams will be essay tests that some students find more difficult than the regular multiple choice exams - you may get a better grade by taking the regular exams. There will be **no opportunity for extra credit**.

IMPORTANT POINTS

You are responsible for all material presented in both the book and the lectures, whether or not you attend class. If you miss a class for any reason, it is your responsibility to get the notes from a classmate, not from the instructor. Attendance is not taken, but you must attend class regularly to pass the course because the exams cover material from class that is not in the book. Please turn off any devices that make noise and please avoid any behavior that might distract other students. Please be on time to class and please stay for the whole class (i.e. don't walk out in the middle). Finally, cheating will not be tolerated. The University policy on Academic Integrity is available at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>

SCHEDULE

Dates	Topic	Text Chap
1/22	Introduction	
1/26,1/29	Concepts of health and illness	1
2/2,2/5	Epidemiology	2
2/9,2/12	Epidemiology	3,4
2/16,2/19	Personality and disease	6,7

2/23, Monday, **EXAM 1**

bring pencils, 9:50-11:10am, Scott 123

2/26,3/2	Social factors and disease	5
3/5,3/9	Social factors and disease	8
3/12	Healing options	10
3/23,3/26	Health care providers	11
3/30,4/2	Health care providers	9

4/6 Organization of health care
This lecture will be covered on exam 3, not exam 2

4/9, Thursday, **EXAM 2**

bring pencils, 9:50-11:10am, Scott 123

4/13	Organization of health care	12, 13
4/16,4/20	Economics of health care	14
4/23,4/27	Health care delivery	15
4/30,5/4	Health care delivery	16

5/11, Monday, **EXAM 3**

bring pencils, 8-9:20am, Scott 123

STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY

The Rutgers Sociology Department strives to create an environment that supports and affirms diversity in all manifestations, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, social class, disability status, region/country of origin, and political orientation. We also celebrate diversity of theoretical and methodological perspectives among our faculty and students and seek to create an atmosphere of respect and mutual dialogue. We have zero tolerance for violations of these principles and have instituted clear and respectful procedures for responding to such grievances.

LEARNING GOALS

1. Explain and be able to assess the relationship among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in social and historical analysis. Most diseases, and most innovations in health care, are disseminated through human social networks. We demonstrate how the concepts and methods of contemporary sociology help us understand the illness and treatment processes.
2. Identify and critically assess ethical issues in social science and history. Who should decide who gets health care? Health care has always been rationed, whether by the economic marketplace, medical professionals, or insurance companies. The US is unique in letting private, profit-making companies dominate health care decision-making. We consider some of the strengths and weaknesses of various types of health care rationing from both patient and physician perspectives.
3. Apply concepts about human and social behavior to particular questions or situations. Health and illness are not evenly distributed among social groups in the US. We delve into the epidemiological evidence about social group differences in health, and consider what role social factors may have on the causes of disease.