

**SOCI 311/411 Spring 2008**  
**HEALTH, ILLNESS AND SOCIAL BEHAVIOR**  
**M-W 12:30-1:45**

Professor: Gary T. Deimling, Ph.D.  
Office: 231A Mather Memorial  
Phone: 365-5173 or 368-2700  
e-mail [gtd@case.edu](mailto:gtd@case.edu)

Office Hours: M-W 1:45-2:45  
or by appt on TH

### **Course Objective and Description**

Course Objective: This course's primary objective is to examine the reciprocal relationships between health, illness and social behavior. The course will examine these relationships through the conceptual and theoretical models provided by the sociological perspective. Relevant topics to be covered include social epidemiology, health beliefs, health promotion, the sick role, medical compliance, health professions and careers.

Course Requirements: The basic course requirements are for the student to attend class regularly, participate in class discussion, and complete the course exams and project/presentations as assigned. In order for us to have an informed class discussion, students need to **read the relevant text and readings prior to the class covering the topic**. In order to successfully complete the exams students need to thoroughly review all class materials and integrated these material with that provided in class.

### **Evaluation**

The final grade will be based on the following criteria:

<u>Undergraduates</u>		<u>Graduate Students</u>	
Exam 1 (in class)	35%	Exam 1 (in-class)	30%
Exam 2 (take-home)	35%	Exam 2 (take-home)	30%
Term Paper	30%	Term Paper/Presentation	40%

### **Testing Format**

Exams will be primarily essay in format, with some term identification items included. The **first exam (week 8 day to be announced)** will cover all assigned readings and material presented during the first 7 weeks of the course. Student will **write the exam during the regular class period**, and then take the exam home to type it turning it in the following Tuesday. Details on this process will be provided the week prior to the exam.

The **SECOND EXAM will be a take-home exam** (provided the 12<sup>th</sup> week of the course and **due THE LAST CLASS OF THE SEMESTER**). It will primarily focus on readings and materials presented during the last seven weeks of the semester, but will also include questions that require a synthesis of material from the first half of the course. Details on this exam will be provided when the exam is handed out.

### **THERE IS NO EXAM SCHEDULED FOR THE FINAL EXAM PERIOD**

**LATE EXAMS WILL BE PENALIZED 5% PER DAY** until I turn in grades **May 8<sup>th</sup>** at which time they are scored "0" and averaged into the other course grades.

### **Term Paper**

Graduate students will work with the instructor on the development of an extensive review of the literature (15-20 pages) in a specific area of health and social behavior. Each student will choose a topic area of personal/professional interest that corresponds to major topics in the text and class discussion and review recent articles from major journals and manuscripts. A handout will be provided on the specific requirements of this project during the early part of the semester.

Undergraduates will develop a brief (7-10 pg) paper that summarizes and critiques a journal article in the area of health and social behavior. A list of appropriate journals will be provided early in the semester along with an outline for the paper's format.

The paper is due **May 1<sup>st</sup> by noon**. **LATE PAPER WILL BE PENALIZED 5% PER DAY** until I turn in grades on May 9<sup>th</sup> at which time they are scored "0" and that score averaged into other course grades.

### **Class Presentations**

Graduate students will make a class presentation on a topic related to their papers. Further details will be provided in a handout early in the first half of the course with presentations beginning during the second half of the semester.

### **General Policy**

Grades of **Incomplete ARE NOT** assigned because a student does not complete the course requirements, or completes them late. Materials received late are penalized as noted above or scored "0". An incomplete is assigned at the discretion of the instructor and **only in cases of serious illness or a personal or family emergency**. They will only be assigned after I receive a written or e-mail request **accompanied by verification of the illness/emergency**. A **written plan to complete the work** and date for submission (usually before the next semester begins) must be received by the last class of the semester. Change of grade will then be made at the instructor's convenience.

Text: THE SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH, HEALING AND ILLNESS (5<sup>rd</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> Edition)  
by Weiss and Lonquist, Prentice Hall, 2006/2008 (text paperback).

THE WOUNDED STORYTELLER  
by Arthur Frank, University of Chicago Press, 1997 (paperback)

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>WEEK</b>	<b><u>Weiss text</u></b>	<b><u>Frank</u></b>	<b><u>Readings on "blackboard"</u></b>
What is Health/Illness?	1-2	1-2	1	Section 1
Sociological Aspects of Health and Illness	3-6	3-5	2-3	Section 2
Health and Illness Behaviors	7-11	6-7	4-7	Section 3
Patients and Practitioners	12-15	8-13	8	Section 4

NOTE: The articles posted on the course's "blackboard" are also available in a binder and many are also available on-line through the CWRU library holdings or MEDLINE. Articles marked with an asterisk are required for all students. Announcements will be made in class on the specific order that the readings will be discussed.