

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
Department of Sociology.
SOCI 3120: Health and Illness,
Spring, 2026, M/W, 2:00-3:20, GAB 105

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ideally by appointment
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I. Learning Objectives:

- A. To gain knowledge of the social factors contributing to one's health condition;
- B. To gain knowledge of the social consequences that occur as a result of one's health condition;
- C. To understand the U.S. health care system including its organization, financing, and delivery
- D. To be familiar with the health care systems in other countries.
- E. To understand the Affordable Care Act, 2010 and the Inflation Reduction Act, 2022

II. Learning components

- A. Readings: To help meet the objectives, the following book and handout are required (book available on Amazon or at UNT bookstore).

Weitz, Rose (2020 eighth edition). The Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care, Boston, MA: Cengage learning.

Handouts

- B. Class time: will be focused on the objectives through lectures, class discussions, movies, small group activities, and/or guest lecturers.

III. Course Policies

- A. Class Attendance: regular and punctual class attendance is expected. It will be difficult to master all the material if class is missed. While students will not usually be penalized for missing class they will be penalized for coming to class late or leaving class early since these disrupt the class. If you will need to come late or leave early, please let me know. Students can gain extra credit points by attending and paying attention in class (i.e., not using phone or laptop for other things). Students who miss a lot of class (i.e., 75% of classes) will be given NO leeway in grading and will lose points from their final grade while students who miss no or only a few classes will be given MUCH leeway in grading and may gain points. For example, a recent student missed more than 75% of the classes, had a test grade average of 69, and wanted one point added to their final grade in order to receive a "C". The student got a "D". Another student missed only a few classes had an average grade of 88 and was given two extra points to receive an "A".

- B. Academic integrity: as the student guidebook points out, academic integrity is required. Plagiarism and cheating will result in failure and a report to the Dean.
- C. Acceptable Student Behavior: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012>
- D. Mental Health and Special Needs: UNT's counseling center provides free career and personal counseling to UNT students (up to 8 sessions per year). Appointments can be made by calling 940-565-2741. For our class, appropriate adjustments and auxiliary aid are available for persons with disabilities. See me and/or call 817-565-2456 (TDD access 1-800-735-2989).
- E. Cell Phones and texting: you should know that many professors and instructors find it insulting when a student is constantly texting or otherwise using their phones during class. Consequently, if the time comes that the student could use some "leeway" in their grade, and my assessment is that the student has excessively used their phone during multiple classes, no leeway will be given and points will be removed from the student's final grade.
- F. Laptops: if you use a laptop in class, please refrain from using it for anything other than our class.
- G. Office Hours: I enjoy greatly getting to know students. I learn a lot and I hope they do as well. Please email me (yeatts@unt.edu) so we can find a day/time that works for both of us. I will be happy to discuss the course material, your progress in the class, your plans for the future, personal issues, need for a letter of recommendation, or anything else of interest/importance to you. Some students will meet with me just to introduce themselves and share a bit about their activities and progress at UNT and I enjoy these meetings as well. I will try to be available during my office hours but emailing me and setting up a meeting will ensure that I am available when you come.
- H. IMPORTANT: If unexpected problems develop for you during the semester (e.g., health issues, break ups, emotional issues, family disruptions, death or illness in family), please contact me as soon as these become apparent. I can then work with you to develop a plan that will assist you. Students, who approach their instructors/professors when problems develop, are much more likely to receive help and consideration. Don't wait until the end of the semester to inform the professor of problems because it will be too late to find a solution. This is a good rule-of-thumb for any class you take.

I. Grading: final grades will be based on the following:

1. Four (4) tests will be given worth 25% each—your four test grades will be averaged together to obtain your final grade. The fourth test will be given on the UNT assigned exam day but it will not be cumulative. I have not yet determined the format for the tests. I am leaning toward essay questions. Grades will be posted on Dr. Yeatts' web page under the code number you provide on the student information sheet you turn in the first day of class. (to get to our class webpage, go to: www.yeatts.us, click on 3120, then click on Grades).

You are responsible for using the restroom prior to the beginning of a test so do not ask to use the restroom in the middle of a test (unfortunately a few of us would use this as an opportunity to review our notes in the middle of taking the test).

2. Test Schedule:

February 4 (Wednesday)	Test 1	25%
March 4 (Wednesday)	Test 2	25%
April 8 (Wednesday)	Test 3	25%
May 4 (Monday 12:30-1:45)	Test 4	25%

(NOTE: UNT sets the final exam day and time which is provided here)

3. Make-up Tests: may be allowed within one week from the original exam day. The test score will be reduced by one letter grade unless there is documentation or other means of verifying an illness, personal issue, or other serious situation. On the other hand, if you have **not missed any or very few classes** and you oversleep and miss the test (or some other less serious situation), this may be excused or very few points deducted.
4. Class Participation: Those who contribute thoughtful comments/ideas and/or are clearly engaged in our classes may receive extra points added to their final grade if their final grade is close to the next higher grade and they **have not missed a lot** of classes. For example, an 88 could be raised to a 90.
5. Extra Credit Opportunities: Please see the “**Opportunity for Extra Credit**” below for details.

IV. **Topics to be Covered/Reading Assignments**

All Chapter assignments refer to the Weitz text book (8th edition). NOTE: Videos listed below may or may not be shown depending on time available.

Week 1 (January 12 and 14):

- A. Overview of class
- B. Chapter 1: Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care

Week 2 (January 21)

- A. MLK Jan 19, Monday
- B. Chapter 1 continued;
- C. Chapter 2: The Social Sources of Modern Illness (non-medical factors contributing to poor health)

Week 3 (January 26 and 28)

- A. Chapter 2: The Social Sources of Modern Illness (non-medical factors contributing to poor health)
- B. Chapter 3: The Social Distribution of Illness in the U.S.
- C. Possibly guest speaker from Friends of the Family

Week 4 (February 2)

- A. Chapter 3: continued

Test 1 on chapters 1-3 and in-class materials (PowerPoint slides), Wednesday, Feb 4
(all PowerPoint slides shown in class will be provided before the test on Dr. Yeatts' webpage; films listed in the syllabus may or may not be shown depending on time available)

Week 5 (February 9 and 11)

- A. Chapter 4: Illness and Death in the Less Developed Nations
- B. Film on health in developing nations

Week 6 (February 16 and 18)

- A. Chapter 5: The Social Meanings of Illness

Week 7 (February 23 and 25):

- A. Chapter 6: The Experience of Disability, Chronic Pain, Chronic Illness

Week 8 (March 2)

- A. Chapter 6 continued

Test 2 on chapters 4-6 and in class materials, Weds, March 4

SPRING BREAK (Week 9, March 9 – 14)

Week 10 (March 16 and 18):

- A. Chapter 8: Health Care in the U.S.
- B. YouTube "We're #37":
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVgOl3cETb4>
- C. We may watch: Antibiotic Resistance: What Promotes It, How Can It Be Beat (29 m)
www.mercola.com scroll down to July 9 (29 minutes)
- D. May watch: www.mercola.com scroll down to July 6, Rachel Carson (8.5 minutes)

Week 11 (March 23 and 25)

A. Chapter 8: Health Care in the U.S.

Week 12 (March 30 and April 1)

A. Chapter 8 continued

B. Chapter 9: Health Care Around the World

C. We may watch: Globesity: www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGL3;T5MMdQ

Week 13 (April 6)

A. Chapter 9: Health Care Around the World

Test 3 on Chapters 8-9 and in class materials; Wednesday April 8

Week 14 (April 13 and 15)

A. Chapter 7: The Sociology of Mental Illness

B. We may watch: Pesticides are poison:

www.mercola.com scroll down to July 6, Rachel Carson (8.5 minutes)

Week 15 (April 20 and 22)

A. Chapter 7: The Sociology of Mental Illness

B. Chapter 10: Health Care Settings and Technologies

Week 16 (April 27 and 29)

A. Chapter 10: Health Care Settings and Technologies

B. Chapter 11: Health Care Professionals

C. May provide a handout on Environmental Sociology since this is not covered in our text

Test 4: The exam day is set by UNT for May 4, Monday, 12:30 – 1:45, covering Chapters 7, 10, and 11; PowerPoint slides

Opportunity for Extra Credit

Students will obtain one extra credit point for each class period that they attend and participate in class. Participation might include watching a film in class or a small group activity during class. For example, students may be asked to work in groups of two to five during class to answer one or more questions and then each student will turn in their own answer(s) to the questions at the end of class and the student will receive one extra credit point.

There will be an opportunity for one extra point during each class period, **assuming you do not come to class late or leave early**. The extra points you obtain will be added to your next test grade. Students who come to class late will not get an extra point unless they have notified me that they would be late. Similarly, students who leave class early will not be eligible for these extra points

unless notifying me. A student who does not miss class will typically accumulate 6 points to be added to their next test grade. So, if you get an 85 on the test but have six points accumulated, you would receive a 91 for that test.

*****If our class is moved on line (as what happened at the beginning of the pandemic), we will keep everything as it is currently planned but have our classes through zoom. I will email the class with further instructions at that time.**