**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS**

**Department of Sociology.**

**SOCI 3120: Health and Illness,   
Spring, 2020, MW, 2:00, LIFE A419**

**Dale E. Yeatts, Ph.D. Sycamore, Suite 288J**

**Office Hours: MW 4:00-5:00 Phone: 940-565-2238**

**(best to call or email to be sure I’m email:** [**yeatts@unt.edu**](mailto:yeatts@unt.edu) **available or to make an appointment) http://www.yeatts.us**

**I. Learning Objectives:**

A. To become familiar with factors producing good health (as well as poor health);

B. To gain knowledge of the social factors contributing to one’s health condition;

C. To gain knowledge of the social consequences that occur as a result of one’s health condition;

D. To understand the U.S. health care system including its organization, financing, and delivery;

E. To understand the Affordable Care Act and the desire to revise it; and

F. To be familiar with the health care systems in other countries.

**II. Learning components**

A. Readings: To help meet the objectives, the following book is required (available on Amazon or at UNT bookstore). The newest edition of the Weitz book is excessively expensive. Therefore you may want to purchase the older sixth edition.

Weitz, Rose (2017 or 2013, seventh or sixth editions). The Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care, Boston, MA: Cengage learning.

B. Class time: will be focused on the objectives through lectures, class discussions, movies, small group activities, and 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 may be penalized for coming to class late or leaving class early since these disrupt the class. If you need to come late or leave early, please let Dr. Yeatts know beforehand. Students can gain extra credit points by attending class (see below). Students who miss a lot of class will be given NO leeway in grading and may lose points 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 half the classes, had a test grade average of 69, and wanted one point added to his/her 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 (including continual texting during class) will not receive extra credit for class attendance and may 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 [www.unt.edu/csrr](http://www.unt.edu/csrr)

D. 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 Dr. Yeatts 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 his/her phone during class. Consequently, if the time comes that the student could use some “leeway” in her/his grade, and the student has constantly used his/her phone during class, no leeway will be given and *points could be removed*.

F. Laptops may not be used in class unless the student sits in the front row. Unfortunately, past experience shows that some students with laptops use them for purposes other than the class and this, in turn, distracts students around them.

G. Office Hours (noted above). To be sure that I will be available when you come by, please email me the day before and let me know you are coming. Or, if my office hours do not work for you, let me know and we can find a day/time that works for both of us. I enjoy getting to know students and can be very helpful if given the chance. 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. Perhaps we can go to lunch. Some students will set an appointment just to introduce themselves and share a bit about their activities and progress at UNT and I enjoy these meetings very much.

H. If unexpected problems develop for you during the semester (e.g., health or emotional issues), 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 of your final grade. The fourth test will not be cumulative. The format is expected to include multiple choice, true/false questions and perhaps a few discussion questions. Grades will be posted on Dr. Yeatts’ web page. (go to **www.**[**yeatts.**](mailto:yeatts@unt.edu)**us**, click on 3120, 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 Dates:

February 5 (Weds.) Test 1 25%

March 4 (Weds.) Test 2 25%

April 8 (Weds.) Test 3 25%

May 4 (Monday) Test 4 (during exam week, 1:30-3:30) 25%

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 or other serious situation. On the other hand, if you have not missed any class 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 meaningful, thoughtful, and knowledgeable comments/ideas will receive extra points added to their final grade if their final grade is close to the next higher grade (unless the student has missed a lot of class). For example, an 88 could be raised to a 90. Similarly, those who attend all (or almost all) classes may receive extra points.

5. Extra Credit Opportunities: There are two ways to obtain extra credit. Please see the “**Opportunities for Extra Credit”** below for details.

J. How to Study for Tests:

1. Read carefully and give thought to the assigned chapters to be covered on the test (ideally keep up weekly).

2. Learn the major concepts in the chapters and what they mean and pay attention to headings and subheadings within a chapter—what are they focused on? What is the main idea covered in the subheading section?

3. Learn the information provided during class and on Power Point slides provided on Dr. Yeatts’ webpage (www.[yeatts.](mailto:yeatts@unt.edu)us).

4. **Study guide questions** will be placed on Dr. Yeatts’ web page (www.[yeatts.](mailto:yeatts@unt.edu)us) once a test has been created (may only be a few days before the test is given). The study guide questions will be developed from the test questions. If you can answer the study guide questions you will increase your chances of knowing the answers to the test questions. However, this will not be sufficient to obtain a high grade—doing 1-3 above will increase your probability of getting a good grade.

**IV. Topics to be Covered/Reading Assignments**All Chapter assignments refer to the Weitz text book (6th or 7th edition).

Week 1 (January 13):

A. Overview of class

B. Chapter 1: Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care

Week 2 (January 20—no class on Monday, MLK Day):

A. Chapter 2: The Social Sources of Modern Illness

B. FOODMATTERS: Let Thy Food Be Thy Medicine—a DVD

Week 3 (January 27):

A. Chapter 3: The Social Distribution of Illness in the U.S.

B. FOODMATTERS: Let Thy Food Be Thy Medicine—a DVD (continued)

C. Film describing the characteristics of “social class.”

Week 4 (February 3)

A. Non-medical factors contributing to hospitalizations

B. Catch up/Review for Test 1

**Test 1, covers chapters 1 – 3 and in-class materials, Wednesday, February 5**

Week 5 (February 10):

A. Chapter 4: Illness and Death in the Less Developed Nations

B. SICKO (movie) <https://freedocumentaries.org/documentary/sicko#watch-film>

C. Youtube, “We Are The World”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zi0RpNSELas>

Week 6 (February 17):

A. Chapter 5: The Social Meanings of Illness

B. SICKO (movie continued) <https://freedocumentaries.org/documentary/sicko#watch-film>

Week 7 (February 24):

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

B. How Gluten and Modern Food Processing Contribute to Poor Health

[www.mercola.com](http://www.mercola.com)  scroll down to July 2 (27 minutes)

Week 8 (March 2)

A. Catch up/Review for Test 2

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

Week 9 (March 16):

A. Chapter 7: The Sociology of Mental Illness

B. Pesticides are poison:

[www.mercola.com](http://www.mercola.com)  scroll down to July 6, Rachel Carson (8.5 minutes)

C. Movie on Freud

Week 10 (March 23):

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

B. YouTube “We’re #37”:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVgOl3cETb4>

C. Antibiotic Resistance: What Promotes It, How Can It Be Beat (29 mins)

[www.mercola.com](http://www.mercola.com)  scroll down to July 9 (29 minutes)

Week 11 (March 30):

A. Chapter 9: Health Care Around the World

B. Globesity: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGL3;T5MMdQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGL3;T5MMdQ)

C. Environmental Sociology

Week 12 (April 6):

A. Catch up/Review for Test 3

**Test 3 on chapters 7-9; class materials, April 8, Wednesday**

Week 13 (April 13):

A. Chapter 10: Health Care Settings and Technologies

Week 14 (April 20):

A. Chapter 11: The Profession of Medicine

Weeks 15 (April 27):

A. Chapter 12: Other Mainstream and Alternative Health Care

**Test 4 on chapters 10 - 12; class materials, May 4, Monday at 1:30 (Taken on Monday of Exam Week, note time difference from regular class)**

**Opportunities for Extra Credit**

1. Library Research Paper

Collect cartoons and comic strips that focus on a medical sociology topic (e.g., patient-doctor relationship; women and health). At the same time, do a library search on the topic to identify scholarly, peer-reviewed research articles on the topic (you can use popular magazines such as Time or “internet” sources but these should be no more than 10% of your citations/references). Write a 5 - 10 page paper, double spaced, and use comic sans font size 12 with one inch margins except for the left side which should be 1 ½ inches. You can receive **up to 3 extra points added to your final grade** depending on the apparent effort put into the paper (wasn’t written the night before) its organization, and how well it is researched and written (e.g., reference to scholarly articles—it’s not an editorial or your opinion about the topic, it is a review of what research has found on the topic).

For the paper, do the following: (1) present copies of the cartoons and strips in color where possible (these do not count as part of the 5 – 10 typed, double-spaced pages); (2) discuss the topic using peer-reviewed journal articles and citing them in the paper and providing the full citation at the end of the paper; and (3) for a **fourth extra-credit point,** you can present your paper to the class, if approved by the professor. The paper must be turned in no later than May 1 (last day of the semester) but, if you want to present your paper to the class, it must be turned in by April 22nd along with the power point presentation you want to give (this will give the professor time to evaluate the quality of the presentation you want to give to the class). If you present your paper, use powerpoint or some other way of displaying some of the most interesting cartoons/comic strips. If you wait until the last few days before deciding to do this, it will show in what you turn in and the number of points received will be less or none.

2. In-Class Assignments

Students will be given the opportunity to obtain extra credit points during class. For example, students may be asked to work in groups during class to solve one or more problems and then each student will turn in their own answer(s) to the problem before the end of class and one or more extra points will be added to the student’s next test grade. Students who are absent, or come to class late, or leave class early will not be eligible for these extra points. A student who does not miss class will typically accumulate 6 – 8 points to be added to her/his next test grade.