

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
Department of Sociology.
SOCI 3120: Health and Illness,
Fall, 2016, Cury Rm 103

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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, including the history leading up to it, it's organization, and it's financing; 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 books are 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.

Jacobs, Lawrence R. and Theda Skocpol (2016, 3rd edition). Health Care Reform and American Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know, New York, New York: Oxford Press.

- 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 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 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 while students who miss no or only a few classes will be given much leeway in grading.
- 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 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
- 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 their phones 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. 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 and true/false questions. Grades will be posted on Dr. Yeatts' web page. (go to www.yeatts.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. A four to five page report is required. It is worth 20% of your final grade. A description of the report requirements is provided below.

<u>September 23</u> , test 1	25%
<u>October 28</u> , test 2	25%
<u>November 18</u> , test 3	25%
<u>December 10</u> , Test 4, (during exam week, 8:00 - 10:00)	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 verifying an illness or other serious situation.
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. For example, an 88 would be raised to a 90. Similarly, those who attend all (or almost all) classes will receive extra points.

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

F. How to Study for Tests:

1. Read carefully and give thought to the assigned chapters and readings to be covered on the test (ideally keep up weekly).
2. Learn the major concepts (bolded and italicized concepts) in the chapters and what they mean.
3. Learn the information provided during class and on Power Point slides provided on Dr. Yeatts' webpage (www.yeatts.us).
4. **Study guide questions** will be placed on Dr. Yeatts' web page (www.yeatts.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.

IV. Topics to be Covered/Reading Assignments

All Chapter assignments refer to the Weitz text book (6th or 7th edition).

Week 1 (August 29):

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

Week 2 (September 5):

- A. Chapter 2: The Social Sources of Modern Illness
- B. FOODMATTERS: Let Thy Food Be Thy Medicine—a DVD

Week 3 (September 12):

- 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 (September 19):

- 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=ZiORpNSELas>

Test 1, covers chapters 1 - 4 and in-class materials, Friday, September 23rd

Week 5 (September 26):

- A. Chapter 5: The Social Meanings of Illness
- B. SICKO (movie continued)

<https://freedocumentaries.org/documentary/sicko#watch-film>

Week 6 (October 3):

- 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 scroll down to July 2 (27 minutes)

Week 7 (October 10):

- A. Chapter 7: The Sociology of Mental Illness
- B. Pesticides are poison:

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

Week 8 (October 17):

- 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 scroll down to July 9 (29 minutes)

Week 9: (October 24):

- A. Chapter 9: Health Care Around the World

Test 2 on chapters 5-9 and in class materials, October 28, Friday

Week 10 (October 31):

A. Jacobs and Skocpol Book, Chapters 1 and 2

Week 11 (November 7):

A. Jacobs and Skocpol Book, Chapters 3 and 4

Week 12 (November 14):

A. Jacobs and Skocpol Book, Chapter 5

B. Chapter 10: Health Care Settings and Technologies

**Test 3 on Jacobs and Skocpol book; Weitz, chapter 10; class materials,
November 18, Friday**

Weeks 13 (November 21):

B. Chapter 11: The Profession of Medicine

Week 14 (November 28):

A. Chapter 12: Other Mainstream and Alternative Health Care

Week 15 (December 5):

A. Chapter 11: Issues in Bioethics

**Test 4 on Weitz chapters 11 - 13; class materials
Dec 10, 8:00-10:00 (Taken on Exam Day)**

Opportunities for Extra Credit

1. Critic of the Weitz book

First provide your personal, thoughtful overall evaluation of the book. How would you grade it? What is the book's major strengths and major weaknesses? Discuss which chapters you would remove from the book (if any) and what you feel should be covered that is not covered by the book. Provide your own thoughtful reasons for these changes. Next, provide a critic of each chapter. Here again, consider what is covered in each chapter. What could be removed and what could be added that is not there? How would you grade each chapter? The critic should use comic sans font size 12 with one inch margins except for the left side

which should be 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The critic should not consist of a review of the content of the book. I already know what the contents are. I want your critical assessment of the book. You can receive up to four extra points added to your final grade. However, only an original, thoughtful and thorough critic would garner the full four points.

2. Library Research Paper

Collect cartoons and comic strips that focus on a medical sociology topic (e.g., patient-doctor relationship; Obama Care). 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 uses comic sans font size 12 with one inch margins except for the left side which should be 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. You will receive up to 3 extra points added to your final grade.

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 project to the class, if approved by the professor. The paper must be turned in no later than November 21. 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.

3. 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) 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 5 - 6 points to be added to her/his next test grade.