**SOCI 3120: SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH & ILLNESS**

**Professor:** Dr. Gül Seçkin, M.S.G., Ph.D.

**Class Date/Location/Time**: Tuesday & Thursday, Wh 216, 11:00 am-12:20 pm

**Office Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 pm-1:45 pm and by appointment.

***OVERVIEW***

In the Sociology of Health and Illness course, students explore the intricate relationship between society, health, and illness from a sociological perspective. The course examines how cultural, economic, political, and social factors affect health experiences, perceptions, and outcomes. It also invites critical analysis of healthcare disparities, the social construction of illness, medicalization, and the roles of power and identity in shaping health narratives. Through an interdisciplinary lens, students investigate healthcare systems, medical institutions, and the lived experiences of individuals and communities facing various health challenges. Throughout the semester, students engage with foundational sociological theories and methodologies to investigate the dynamics that shape health-related experiences. The course is structured to cover key topics and combines lectures, readings, and collaborative projects to foster a deep understanding of the complex interplay between societal factors and health experiences. By the end of the semester, students will have gained critical insights into the sociological dimensions of health and illness, enabling them to engage with pressing health challenges through a sociological lens.

***BOOKS***

(1) Cockerham, W. C. (2022). *Medical Sociology.* Routledge. (B1)

(2) Barry, A.M., Yuill, C. (2022). *Understanding the Sociology of Health.* Sage. (B2)

(3) The professor will provide additional readings as need. They will be available on Canvas.

***SCHEDULE***

Please note that the course schedule provided below may be subject to changes as determined by the professor. It is important to stay updated on any announcements regarding the course that may be posted on Canvas.

Week 1: August 22-24

* Chapter 1: Sociological Theory: Explaining and Theorizing (B2)

Week 2: August 29-31

* Chapter 3: A Brief History of Health and Healing (B2)
* Chapter 2: Understanding Health (B2)

Week 3: September 5-7

* Chapter 1: Medical Sociology (B1)
* Chapter 2: Social Epidemiology (B1)

Week 4: September12-14

* Chapter 3: COVID-19 (B1)
* Chapter 12: Pandemics & Society (B2)

Week 5: September 19-21

* Chapter 11: Health, Ageing, and the Life Course (B2)
* Chapter 15: Death and Dying (B2)

Week 6: September 26-28

* Chapter 16: Health Technologies (B2)
* Chapter 10: Sociology of the Body: Chronic Illness and Disability (B2)

Week 7: October 3-5

* Chapter 5: The Social Demography of Health: Gender (B1)
* Chapter 6: Gender and Health (B2)

Week 8:October 10-12

* Chapter 9: Sexualities and Health (B2)
* **Mid-Term** is due on October 12

Week 9:October17-19

* Chapter 6: The Social Demography of Health: Age & Race (B1)
* Chapter 7: Race, Ethnicity & Health (B2)

Week 10: October 24-26

* Chapter 7: Social Stress and Health (B1)
* Chapter 8: Mental Health and Emotional Distress (B2)

Week 11:October 31-November 2

* Chapter 8: Health Behavior and Lifestyles (B1)
* Chapter 9: Illness Behavior and the Sick Role (B1)

Week 12: November 7-9

* Chapter 14: Sport, Health, Exercise, and Wellbeing (B2)
* Chapter 4: Climate Change, Nature and Wellbeing (B2)

Week 13: November 14-16

* Chapter 10: Doctor-Patient Interaction (B1)
* Chapter 12: The Physician in a Changing Society (B1)

Week 14: November 21-23

* THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 15:November 28-November 30

* Chapter 16: Health Care Reform and Health Policy in the United States (B1)
* Chapter 17: Global Health Care (B2)

**Week 16:** December 5-7

* Chapter 14: Complementary and Alternative Medicine (B1)
* **Final** is due on Thursday, December 12, 2023.

**GRADE COMPONENTS**

In order to assess student success, there will be four primary evaluations as indicated below. These assignments will serve as chances for students to showcase their comprehension of the course material and apply what they have learned.

**(1) *Midterm*:** For your midterm, you will be prompted to answer questions from your course textbooks in order to promote critical thinking. The midterm will be worth 100 points. Detailed instructions will be available on Canvas.

**(2) *Presentation*:** Students need to choose three articles from prominent academic sociology journals that showcase recent medical sociology research about the topics covered in the class. Each article should be presented briefly through catchy PowerPoint slides. During class, we will engage in a discussion about the presented research articles. This assignment carries 100 points towards your grade. Detailed instructions will be available on Canvas.

**(3) *Final Exam*:** In order to demonstrate your understanding of the course content and analytical abilities, you will be required to respond to a series of questions. The final will carry a weight of 100 points and specific guidelines will be provided on Canvas.

**(4)** ***Attendance & Participation***: The attendance policy is designed to promote active learning, ensure student engagement, and provide a conducive environment for effective learning and collaboration. Students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions. To earn points, it is necessary to be present throughout the entire session. Please make sure to arrive on time and leave only when the class session has ended for everyone. Active participation in class discussions, activities, and group work is crucial for comprehensively understanding the course material. This requirement is in place to ensure that students benefit from the interactive and participatory nature of the class. Regular attendance also helps foster a sense of community within the class. Your attendance and participation will count for 100 points.

***GRADE DISTRIBUTION***

A: 90-100; B: 80-89; C: 70-79; D: 60-69; F: 59 or below.

***COURSE POLICIES***

**Missed/Late Assignments**

Please be aware that all assignments need to be submitted by the due date specified on the syllabus. However, in case of a legitimate reason for submitting a late assignment, please contact the instructor before the due date. The instructor has the right to decide if a late assignment can be submitted without a point penalty and/or if a missed in-class assignment can be made up. Unapproved late assignments will be marked down three points for each late day. Please note that the syllabus is not a contract and may be subject to change. While we will try to adhere to the provided schedule, changes may be necessary due to unforeseen needs and events.

**Incomplete Assignments**

To request an incomplete grade, it is necessary to submit a written request at least one week before the final exam week. The request must be accompanied by documentation explaining why the course cannot be completed before the end of the semester. The incomplete grade will only be considered if the student has completed at least 50% of the course exams and assignments with a passing grade.

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**

Assignments should showcase your understanding, critical thinking, and ability to synthesize course material. This course stresses the significance of genuine engagement with the subject matter and using outside resources and AI responsibly to enhance your learning experience while adhering to the principles of academic integrity. Students may use AI as a supplementary technological tool. However, it is important to note that copying or plagiarizing AI-generated content without proper attribution is a violation of academic honesty. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited, regardless of the source.

***UNIVERSITY POLICIES***

I recommend you to refer to UNT Policies (regarding withdrawals, student accommodation with health challenges, absence due to athletic events, student misconduct, academic dishonesty and the services). Pertinent Information can be found at the following websites:

<https://disability.unt.edu/>;

<http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>;

<http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/withdrawals>

**Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences.** According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

**ADA Accommodation Statement.** UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at [disability.unt.edu.](http://disability.unt.edu/)

**Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** (Policy 16.004). The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

**Access to Information – Eagle Connect.** Students’ access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: [my.unt.edu.](http://www.my.unt.edu/) All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student’s Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: [eagleconnect.unt.edu/](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

**Emergency Notification & Procedures.** UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

**Student Evaluation Administration Dates.** Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via *IASystem* Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at [www.spot.unt.edu](http://www.spot.unt.edu/) or email spot@unt.edu.

**Retention of Student Records.** Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student’s records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University’s policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

**References and Cross References**.

UNT Policy 04.008, Records Management and Retention

UNT Policy 06.035, Academic Freedom & Academic Responsibility

UNT Policy 06.038, Safety in Instructional Activities

UNT Policy 06.039, Student Attendance and Authorized Absences

UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity

UNT Policy 16.001, Disability Accommodation for Students and Academic Units

UNT Policy 16.005, Sexual Harassment