Syllabus
Medical Sociology
Fall 2020
Sociology-SYO-4402

Contact Information
Instructor: Dr. Michael J. McFarland
Office: 619 Bellamy
Email: mmcfarland@fsu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday at 1:30-2:30 (via Zoom)
Instruction: Tuesday/Thursday 3:05-4:20
Location: TBD; Instruction will be delivered asynchronously until January 19th

COURSE OVERVIEW
This course will examine the social causes and consequences of health and illness using a population health perspective. There will be a special emphasis on how medical sociologists analyze the relationship between society and health. Some of the questions that will be discussed in the class lectures are: Does social inequality make us sick? Do rich people live longer, healthier, and happier lives? When does stress make us sick? How do we cope with stress? How do social factors get under our skin and become embodied? How do health care delivery systems vary across country? What is the difference between an individualistic and a public health perspective on illness? And what issues of ethics and justice are raised by such questions?

COURSE OBJECTIVES
The purpose of this course is to:
- To develop a knowledge base pertaining to medical sociology research
- Develop an understanding that health is socially patterned (and not just a result of biology)
- To review, present, and interpret information in order to develop lines of argument

REQUIRED READINGS


*These readings will be noted on the outline below as (WC) and (HH). Other required readings can be found on Canvas in the Course Library and will be noted (C).

COVID 19 STATEMENT.
Due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic, the following safety requirements are in place to minimize exposure to the Florida State University community. These guidelines apply to all face-to-face classes held either inside an FSU building or outside. These guidelines are in place to ensure the safety of all students, faculty, and staff during the pandemic. Anyone who does not comply will be in violation of the University’s Student Conduct Code (https://sccts.fsu.edu/conduct-codes/student-conduct-codes), specifically violation B.2, “Action(s) that imminently endanger the health, or safety of another person or group” (p. 10).
Face coverings are required for all students and faculty while in-class, no matter the size of the space. Following this recommendation can minimize the transmission of the virus, which is spread between people interacting in close proximity through speaking, coughing, or sneezing. The CDC recommends wearing a cloth face covering in public settings. For outdoor class settings where social distancing is not possible (i.e., enabling at least six feet space between individuals), face coverings must also be worn.

Instructors have the right to deny a student entry into the classroom if the student is not wearing a face covering. Face coverings must remain in place throughout the class. Any student who removes the mandatory face covering during class will be required to leave the classroom immediately.

Students who are unable to wear a face covering for a legitimate medical reason must indicate this to the Office of Accessibility Services and an alternative schedule will be determined. Students may not remain in the class without a face covering due to a medical condition. During specified classes in which face coverings would prevent required elements, students may remove masks with instructor permission.

Face coverings are not a substitute for social distancing. Students shall observe current social distancing guidelines in all instructional spaces, both indoors and outdoors. Students should avoid congregating around instructional space entrances before and after class sessions. Students should exit the instructional space immediately after the end of class to help ensure social distancing and to allow for those attending the next scheduled class session to enter. If directional traffic guidelines are in place for an instructional space, students must follow them.

These requirements are necessary because not everyone who is contagious exhibits symptoms of infection. Students who feel ill should follow University and health care provider guidelines for evaluating their health status, both to ensure the best health outcome for the student and also to limit transmission of COVID-19. However, even students who do not exhibit symptoms must abide by these face covering and social distancing rules at all times while on campus.

**COURSE POLICIES.**

*Lectures*
This course will utilize online asynchronous lectures prior to January 19th. Lectures will be posted on Canvas for each scheduled class period. On-campus lectures will begin on January 19th.

*Absence from Exams*
Anyone who misses an exam for an excused reason must contact the instructor within 48 hours of the test date for permission to make up that test. If you know you will be absent from a test and have a legitimate reason, you must make arrangements to take the test prior to the test date. For the Final Exam, you must contact the instructor within 24 hours of missing the exam. Students taking make up exams will be given a different exam (i.e. questions and format) than the one given in class.

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

*Incompletes*
Missing work or uncompleted assignments are insufficient reasons for a grade of Incomplete. An Incomplete grade will not be given except under extenuating circumstances at the instructor's discretion. Note that College of Social Science guidelines require that students seeking an "I" must be passing the course.
COURSE EVALUATION AND GRADING

Attendance (75 pts)
Book Review (100 pts)
Exam 1 (100 pts)
Exam 2 (100 pts)
Final Exam (125 pts)

The grading scale for this course is based on 500 possible points. This translates into the following grading scale:

Grades:
A: 93-100 (465-500)
A-: 90-92 (450-464)
B+: 87-89 (435-449)
B: 83-86 (415-434)
B-: 80-82 (400-414)
C+: 77-79 (385-399)
C: 73-76 (365-384)
C-: 70-72 (350-364)
D+: 67-69 (335-349)
D: 63-66 (315-334)
D-: 60-62 (300-314)
F: <60 (Less than 300)

I also assign pluses and minuses according to standard FSU guidelines. There is no rounding of scores (if your final percentage is 79.7%, this constitutes a C+ in the course not a B-).

Use of Canvas
This course will extensively use Canvas to aid in communication as well as to provide course materials in an efficient manner. Please note that you will need an FSU Webmail account to use this interface.

Class Assignment
Book Review (100 Points):
You will choose a book related to health and health care from a list provided. You will be responsible for summarizing and critiquing the book based on what you have learned in class. Examples will be provided on Canvas. The review should be approximately 2000 words.

Attendance (75 Points) Attendance is mandatory and I will take attendance sporadically throughout the semester. You will receive 75 points for 0-2 absences, 50 points for 3 absences, 40 points for 4 absences, 30 points for 5 absences, and 0 points for 6+ absences. When personal life circumstances arise that necessitate missing class, everyone is afforded two absences without point deduction.

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness. You should not present documentation unless you’ve surpassed your two allotted absences.
**Academic Honor Policy**
The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “... be honest and truthful and ... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.” (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at [http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy](http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy).)

**Americans With Disabilities Act**
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:
(1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.
This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.
For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:
Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdr@admin.fsu.edu
[http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/](http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/)

**Confidential campus resources:**
Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

Victim Advocate Program
University Center A, Rm. 4100
(850) 644-7161
Available 24/7/365
Office Hours: M-F 8-5
[https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap](https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap)

University Counseling Center
Askew Student Life Center, 2nd floor
942 Learning Way
(850) 644-8255
[https://counseling.fsu.edu/](https://counseling.fsu.edu/)

University Health Services
Health and Wellness Center
(850) 644-6230
[https://uhs.fsu.edu/](https://uhs.fsu.edu/)
Free Tutoring from FSU
On-line tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services’ comprehensive list of zoom-based tutoring options - see http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring or contact tutor@fsu.edu. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

Syllabus Change Policy
Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading and Films</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Sociology and Population Health</td>
<td>1/7</td>
<td>WC-Preface &amp; Chapter 1</td>
<td>1/12</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epidemiology and Historical Trends in Population Health</td>
<td>1/14</td>
<td>WC-Chapter 2</td>
<td>1/19</td>
<td>HH-Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Population Health in International Context</td>
<td>1/21</td>
<td>HH-Chapter 3</td>
<td>1/26</td>
<td>HH-Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spatial and Social Contexts in US Population Health</td>
<td>1/28</td>
<td>HH-Chapter 4</td>
<td>2/2</td>
<td>Film (if time): Unnatural Causes Part 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Class and Health</td>
<td>2/4</td>
<td>HH-Chapter 5</td>
<td>2/9</td>
<td>Film: Stress, Portrait of a Killer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race and Health I</td>
<td>2/11</td>
<td>HH-Chapter 6</td>
<td>2/16</td>
<td>Film: Unnatural Causes Part 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race and Health II</td>
<td>2/18</td>
<td>C2</td>
<td>2/23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender and Health</td>
<td>2/25</td>
<td>HH-Chapter 7</td>
<td>3/2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Behavior</td>
<td>3/11</td>
<td>WC-Chapter 6</td>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Policy and Health</td>
<td>3/18</td>
<td>C5</td>
<td>3/23</td>
<td>Film: Unnatural Causes Part 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion and Health</td>
<td>3/25</td>
<td>C6</td>
<td>3/30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology of Mental Illness</td>
<td>4/1</td>
<td>C7</td>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>Film: Medicated Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicalization</td>
<td>4/8</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>4/13</td>
<td>C8 and C9 Film (if time): American Circumcision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Changing Face of Healthcare</td>
<td>4/15</td>
<td>WC-Chapters 15 &amp; 16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Film: Sick around the World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (5:30-7:30)</td>
<td>4/20</td>
<td>Cumulative Final Exam</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REQUIRED READINGS**

C1

C2

C3

C4

C5

C6

C7

C8

C9