

COURSE SYLLABUS

**MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY
SOCIOLOGY 3330**

**DR. REED GEERTSEN
FALL, 2016**

OVERVIEW: Welcome to medical sociology. This area is now one of the largest specialties in the field of sociology. This 15 week course will examine the interplay among social, social psychological, and medical factors in the onset and treatment of disease and in the delivery of care.

OBJECTIVES: The sociology courses taught in the Department of Sociology collectively contribute to major goals of the sociology program, namely: to help students communicate effectively; to help students think critically, analytically, and reason logically about social issues and/or social problems; to help students understand and use sociological principles, concepts and theories to examine social behavior and issues; and to help students understand and evaluate the application of sociological methods to social behavior and issues.

The departmental objectives are reflected in the following objectives of this particular course:

1. GAINING FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE

1a. To better understand the structure and challenges of health care in the United States.

2. LEARNING FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES, GENERALIZATIONS, OR THEORIES

2a. To learn some of the basic concepts and principles of medical sociology and see how they influence behavior in real-life situations.

3. LEARNING TO ANALYZE AND CRITICALLY EVALUATE IDEAS, ARGUMENTS, AND POINTS OF VIEW

3a. To recognize how sociological concepts and contextual thinking have helped to uncover a number of inconsistencies and social problems within today's industrial-health complex.

3b. To discover how the social context of illness and health care delivery present many possibilities for improving health care and reducing the risks of disease and prolonged recovery from illness.

REQUIRED READING: 1) William Cockerham, *Medical Sociology*, 13th Edition, Prentice Hall, 2016; 2) Norman Cousins, *Head First*, Penguin, 1988; 3) Six electronic readings on CANVAS and one online. To access the CANVAS readings click on files, then click on eReserves.

ASSESSMENTS OF LEARNING: To assess progress in mastering course objectives, you will keep a lifestyle diary and take three examinations. Exams will consist of multiple choice and true-false questions from class and from the readings. You will need to maintain a complete set of class notes to do well on these exams. There will be several exam questions from each day of class. On December 9, a case analysis will be conducted in class to help you refine your ability to recognize key principles and concepts discussed during the term as they occur in real-life situations.

ATTENDANCE: Weekly attendance is essential for doing well in this class. You should be in your seat ready for class at the scheduled starting time. I do not provide class notes for students who miss class. You will need to make arrangements to get missed notes from another student in the class.

TEACHING METHODS: Lectures, overhead transparencies, guided discussions, group problem-solving, applied case study, computer simulations, demonstrations, and films.

DISABILITIES: Any student with a disability who requires accommodation should let me know so that appropriate arrangements may be made; however, the disability must be documented by the Disability Resource Center.

GRADING: Grades will be based on the total points earned during the term from the following:

First Exam	= 100 Points
Second Exam	= 100 Points
Lifestyle Diary	= 15 Points
Final Exam	= 100 Points

Course grades will be determined by the percent of total points earned according to the following distribution: 90% = A; 80% = B; 65% = C; 60% = C-; 50% = D; Below 50% = F.

MAKEUP EXAMS: A makeup exam will be given on Thursday, October 6 at 3:30 for the first exam, and on Thursday, November 10 at 3:30 for the second exam. Both makeup exams will be given in Main 224 (Suite 216G - my office). Makeup exams are for students with unusual circumstances who notify me in advance.

INCOMPLETE GRADES: Incompletes will only be given under unusual circumstances such as prolonged illness or an emergency in the immediate family. They will not be given because you are failing the course or have fallen behind due to other commitments. To be eligible for incomplete consideration, you must have successfully completed at least 50% of the graded course work prior to the emergency or problem; if not, you should drop the course. Students granted incompletes have the responsibility for making arrangements to finish the incomplete work within one year from when the incomplete grade is received.

CHEATING: Falsification, cheating, and plagiarism are discussed in the USU Student Handbook and will be handled according to university guidelines. Normally this means an "F" grade in the course, but in severe cases, such as hiring a student to take an exam, further action will be taken.

LIFESTYLE DIARY ASSIGNMENT: Each student is required to keep a lifestyle diary for seven days. For each day in your diary, you will need to record information about sleep, meals, snacks and exercise. The diary should indicate the time you got up in the morning, what snacks you ate at different times during the day, how many meals you ate during the day and at what times, what you ate at each meal, whether you spent any time exercising for at least 30 minutes at a time (how much and what kind), and what time you went to bed. Each day should conclude with a summary statement on what happened in terms of meals, snacks, and exercise.

Sample Diary Entries

Thursday, September 8 (Including previous evening's bedtime)

"Went to bed at 12:30 a.m last night and got out of bed at 8:30 a.m. the next morning. I ate a bagel and walked from my apartment to the university. It took 20 minutes to walk to campus. I ate a full meal for lunch at 12:30. Lunch consisted of two hamburgers, a large order of fries, and a chocolate malt. I had two cokes and a candy bar at around 3:00 after my chemistry class. I ate a full dinner at 6:00 p.m. Dinner consisted of four slices of pizza, a green salad and a can of Miller's light. I lifted weights for 45 minutes after dinner. I had a bag of nachos later that evening while watching TV with some friends. I went to bed at 12:30 a.m." In summary, I ate two full meals, walked to school and lifted weights, and snacked twice during meals."

Friday, September 9 (Including next day's wake-up time)

"Slept until 7:30 a.m. I had a full meal for breakfast consisting of 2 scrambled eggs, 2 cups of hot chocolate, and 4 slices of toast. I had a double-think shake at about 3:00 p.m. I ate a large bag of nacho chips at 5:00. I guess this was my lunch. Went to a party at 9:00 and had 4 cans of beer and ate a bag of chips. Ate dinner at 11:30 p.m. at J.B.'s. It consisted of two tacos, a green salad, a large order of fries, and a large coke. Went to bed at 2:30 a.m. after eating an apple. I got up at 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning. In summary, I ate two full meals, had four snacks, and didn't do any exercising or lifting."

You will need to start keeping the diary on Thursday morning, September 8 (be sure to include the previous night's bedtime). It should be kept for seven days (Thursday morning to Thursday morning). This assignment is worth 15 points and is due September 21. The assignment must be printed, not hand written. Your name should NOT be identified on the completed assignment; instead, you are to use a four digit number of your choosing. No attempt will be made to associate any specific information with a particular individual. To insure anonymity, all assignments will be graded first and then only the total points awarded for the assignment will be recorded (and posted if you request) using your four digit number. **IN OTHER WORDS, ALL INFORMATION WILL BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL.**

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: Due to numerous complaints from students in previous classes, no *activated* cell phones, text messaging devices, ipods, or other such devices will be allowed in class unless I grant special permission for unusual circumstances. Be sure to turn off all electronic devices prior to the beginning of class. To minimize distractions to others, students using laptops for note taking should sit near the north wall or next to the south windows or at the back of the class.

EXTRA CREDIT. There is no extra credit, so do the readings, complete your diaries on schedule, and study for the exams.

CASE ANALYSIS: In class on December 7, you will be given a case study to analyze using the concepts and principles of medical sociology used throughout the term. You should bring your books and notes to maximize the learning experience. The case study and related discussion will serve as a selective review for the final.

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday and Wednesday 3:00- 4:15 in Main 224 (Office 216G) and after class from 7:00-7:30. Other times are also possible by appointment. Phone 797-1246 or email me at reed.geertsen@usu.edu.

SOC 3330 COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TOPICS AND READINGS

DATES

TRENDS AND DIMENSIONS OF MEDICAL PROBLEMS

Aug. 31

Reading: Cockerham, Chs. 1, 3

Examples: Patient Compliance
Neighborhood Health Centers

SOCIOLOGY AND THE LOGIC OF MEDICAL DETECTION

Sept.7

Reading: Cockerham, Chs. 2, 4
eReserve in Canvas: "Epidemiology"

Begin keeping Lifestyle Diary on Sept. 10 (tomorrow)

Video: What's Killing the Children

SOCIAL STRESS AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING

Sept. 14

Reading: Cockerham, Ch. 5
Cousins, Chs. 1, 13

Guidelines for preparing diaries

Video: Social Stress

RISK ANALYSIS AND THE POTENTIAL BENEFIT OF HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Sept. 21

Reading: Cockerham, Ch. 6
eReserve in Canvas: "Risk Analysis"

LIFESTYLE DIARY DUE: Sept 21st at beginning of class

Activity: Diary Analysis

FIRST EXAM: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Sept. 28

Exam: 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**Class: 5:35 - 7:00 Labeling Theory, Medical Diagnosis, and
Motivating Patient Compliance**

Reading: Cockerham, Ch. 8, pp. 205-213, Cousins, Chs. 2, 19

SOCIAL OVERSIGHTS IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

Oct. 5

Reading: Cockerham, Ch. 10

**Cousins, Chs. 3, 14 and Cousins Ch. 23: "Doctors
and Nutrition" and "To The Graduates"**

Videos: Problem-based Learning in Medical Education

SOCIAL INTERACTIONS IN MEDICINE

Oct. 12

**Reading: Cockerham, Ch. 9
Cousins, Chs. 4-6**

Video: The Doctor

**THE SOCIAL CONTEXT OF RECOVERING FROM
ILLNESS AND THE MALPRACTICE CRISIS**

Oct. 19

**Reading: Cockerham, Ch. 8, pp. 187-205
Cockerham Ch. 11, pp. 271-277
Cousins, Chs. 7-9**

Video: Sue the Doctor

**THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF HOSPITAL CARE
AND AUTHORITY IN DOCTOR-NURSE INTERACTION**

Oct. 26

**Reading: Cockerham, Ch. 12
Cockerham, Ch. 14, pp. 334-350
Cousins, Ch. 10**

Simulation: The Doctor-Nurse Game

SECOND EXAM: WEDNESDAY, NOV. 2

Nov. 2

Exam: 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Class: 5:35 - 7:00 . Social Networks and Patient Behavior

Reading: Cockerham, Ch. 7

**Video: The Sociological Science Behind Social
Networks and Social Influence - Nicholas Christakis**

THE ANECDOTAL APPEAL OF ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE	Nov. 9
Reading: Cockerham, Ch. 13 Cousins, Chs. 11-13 eReserve in Canvas: "Homeopathic Medicine"	
Video: A Tour of Mexican Clinics	
NEURO-SCIENCE AND THE BODY-MIND CONNECTION	Nov. 16
Reading: Cousins, Chs. 15-18, 20-22 Cousins, Ch. 23 Honor Roll and Ongoing Studies eReserve in Canvas: "Even Experts Are Surprised" eReserve in Canvas: "Cancer Support Groups"	
Video: The Mind-Body Connection	
THANKSGIVING RECESS	Nov. 23
INDIRECT EXCHANGES AND RISING HEALTH CARE COSTS	Nov. 30
Reading: Cockerham, Ch. 11, pp. 277-287 Cockerham Ch. 14, pp. 350-353 Cockerham, Ch. 15, pp. 357-367 Cousins, Ch. 11 eReserve in Canvas: "Managed Care"	
Video: 2012 PBS Special on Health Care	
INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON CURRENT HEALTH CARE CHANGES IN THE UNITED STATES	Dec. 7
Reading: Cockerham, Ch. 15, pp. 367-380 Cockerham, Ch. 16	
Activity: Problem-based Learning: A Case Review for Final Exam	
FINAL EXAM, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14, 5:30 - 6:45	Dec. 14
Absolutely no finals will be given prior to this date and time!	