

**SYLLABUS**  
**Sociology of Health and Illness**  
**SOC 357-80**  
**Fully Online**

*Winter 2010*

Instructor	Dr. Paula B. Fernández
Office	Raubinger Hall, Room 447
Phone	973-720-2246
Email	<a href="mailto:FernandezP3@wpunj.edu">FernandezP3@wpunj.edu</a>

**Course description**

Analyzing social factors in relation to health and disease. Consideration will be given to definitions of health, illness behavior, the formal and informal organization of health professions and institutions, and the expanding role of government in the health field. Use will be made of both theory and current research. Social issues and health care will also be examined and include poverty and health delivery systems, abortion, euthanasia, child abuse, and old age.

**Required Texts**

**Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care.** Rose Weitz. 4th Edition  
ISBN-10: 0495172030; [ISBN-13](#): 9780495172031 ©2007. Belmont, CA  
Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

**Course prerequisites**

SOC 101	Principles of Sociology
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**Course Objectives**

- a. To identify the socio-cultural aspects of health and illness, particularly as relating to the definitions of health, illness behavior, and social epidemiology;
- b. To seek the social causes of disease and illness and vaccinations due to race, clan, and ethnicity;
- c. To examine health professions and health institutions from the broader perspectives provided by theory and research in the sociology of occupations and complex organizations;
- d. To identify the forces within the health field and society as a whole leading to increased government participation in the delivery of health care including the nature of health maintenance organizations and managed care;
- e. To encourage students to select a particular illness and/or institution of medicine for independent study and research their topics in library using computer generated research.

**Examinations and Grading Procedures**

1. **Quizzes** will consist of multiple-choice questions based on the textbook **Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care** and the documents posted under modules one, two, and three in Blackboard. **Each quiz will count for 15 percent of the course grade (total: 45 percent).**
2. The discussion board postings will come from the readings in the textbook **Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care** and PowerPoint presentations posted in Blackboard. In the postings, students will answer the questions and record their reflections about the assigned readings: you will not necessarily summarize each reading assignment but will write, in a minimum of two-typed pages, your critical analysis of each reading assignment with special regard to the major points raised by the author, the importance of this work for **the field of sociology of health**, and a **brief** critique of the reading. Use Times New Roman, 12 size font; double-space; responses should be well written (please spell check! write your posting in your word processor and then copy and paste it into the board forum) and clearly address the issues being discussed. It is not only the quantity of what students write which counts, but also the quality of their responses. Read selectively, concentrating on the most important issues. Students must make at least two postings besides their initial posting for each discussion. You will comment and raise questions about your classmates' postings or about my comments. Students should not wait until the deadline date to post their discussions and then post the other two comments the same day. Students should make their first posting a couple of days after the forum is available, and then come back a few days after to post the second and then third comment. Discussion postings late entries will not be accepted. Submit postings within the time assigned. Grade for the discussion postings will be one overall grade given and the end of the semester. **Postings will count for 55 percent of the course grade.**

<b>1. Quiz 1</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>2. Quiz 2</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>3. Quiz 3</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>4. Discussion board</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Grades for this course will be assigned on the following scale:**

<b>4.00</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>93% - 100%</b>
<b>3.67</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>90% - 92%</b>
<b>3.33</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>87% - 89 %</b>
<b>3.00</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>83% - 86 %</b>
<b>2.67</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>80% - 82%</b>
<b>2.33</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>77% - 79%</b>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>73% - 76%</b>
<b>1.67</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>70% - 72%</b>
<b>1.33</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>67% - 69%</b>
<b>1.00</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>60% - 66%</b>
<b>0.00</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>0% - 59 %</b>

### Blackboard

In this course, you will be required to utilize Blackboard (BB), the online course management tool. Blackboard is available to all students via the web, and it can be accessed at any computer labs on campus or from home. Its internet address is <http://bb.wpunj.edu>. See the Information Technology staff in the Atrium if you need assistance in accessing your account.

The course is divided into three modules. Each module has related textbooks readings, online lecture, and online discussion questions. Each module has from three to four chapters from the textbook and any other supporting materials. Students should read the textbook section first, and then review the online lecture. The lectures will be summaries and elaboration of the textbook material.

When you have a question, post it into the discussion group “Q & A” forum before emailing it to me because others might have the same questions, and probably somebody already has the answer. If you email me directly, do so only from your WPU address. Any other email address will go directly into my spam/junk folder and I will not see it.

### Readings and course weekly schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Discussion board due</u>	<u>Assignments/exams Due</u>
December 26-January 2	<b>Module 1. Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4.</b> The sociology of health, illness, and health care	01/02	<b>Quiz 1; discussion board due.</b>
January 3-9	<b>Module 2. Chapters 5, 6 and 7:</b> The sociology of health, illness, and health care.	01/09	<b>Quiz 2; discussion board due.</b>
January 10-15	<b>Module 3. Chapter 8, 9, 10, and 11:</b> The sociology of health, illness, and health care.	01/15	<b>Quiz 3; discussion board due.</b>

### Attendance

Regular and active participation is an essential, unmistakably important aspect of this online course. The expectation of the instructor is that students will log on a minimum of once per day four days a week. It is critical that you read all of the lecture and assignment materials as well as all of the public discussion materials. Your full participation on a weekly basis is a requirement and an essential aspect of the online course process.

### Make-up policy

There will be no make-up exam for the quizzes and no incomplete grade for the course.

### Responsibility for grades

Students are responsible for the grades they earn. If you are having difficulty understanding the material and are concerned about your performance and exams, please feel free to talk to me. I am more than willing to assist you if you are having difficulty understanding the material or assignments. Do not wait until the end of the course.

## **Student Conduct & Plagiarism**

### **Violations of academic integrity**

Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy will include, but not be limited to the following examples:

1. Cheating during examinations includes any attempt to (1) look at another student's examination with the intention of using another's answers for attempted personal benefit; (2) communicate in any manner, information concerning the content of the examination during the testing period or after the examination to someone who has not yet taken the examination; (3) use any materials, such as notebooks, notes, textbooks or other sources, not specifically designated by the professor of the course for student use during the examination period or (4) engage in any other activity for the purpose of seeking aid not authorized by the professor.
2. Plagiarism is the copying from a book, article, notebook, video or other source, material whether published or unpublished, without proper credit through the use of quotation marks, footnotes and other customary means of identifying sources, or passing off as one's own, the ideas, words, writings, programs and experiments of another, whether or not such actions are intentional or unintentional. Plagiarism also includes submitting, without the consent of the professor, an assignment already tendered for academic credit in another course.
3. Collusion is working together in preparing separate course assignments in ways not authorized by the instructor. Academic work produced through a cooperative (collaborative effort) of two or more students is permissible only upon the explicit consent of the professor. The collaboration must also be acknowledged in stating the authorship of the report.
4. Lying is knowingly furnishing false information, distorting data or omitting to provide all necessary, required information to the University's advisor, registrar, admissions counselor, professor, etc. for any academically related purpose.
5. Other concerns, which relate to the Academic Integrity Policy include such issues as computer security, stolen tests, falsified records, as well as vandalism of library materials. No list could possibly include all the possible violations of academic integrity. These examples should, however, give a clearer idea of the intent and extent of application of this policy.

### **Sociology Department Penalties for Committing Plagiarism**

1. With documented evidence, a student who cheats on an exam or plagiarizes a paper for the first time will fail the course, and the record of the student's cheating or plagiarism will be sent to the Department Chairperson and the relevant Dean.
2. For the second offense in another course, the student will fail the course and be expelled from the sociology major. For those non-sociology major students who are found guilty of a second offense, they will be banned from future consideration as a sociology major and their cheating/plagiarism will be reported to the relevant Dean.

### **Disability**

Exams may be timed. If you have any disability that may prevent you from completing the exam on time, please let the instructor know by the second week of class.

**Finally, anything in this syllabus is subject to change at the Instructor's discretion**