

# SOC 365W: SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH & ILLNESS

TU/TH 9:30am - 10:50am  
AB4 303

**Instructor :** Dr. Jin Young Choi

**Office :** AB1, Room 311G

**Office Hours :** TU/TH 11:00am-12:30pm, 2:00pm-3:00pm or by appointment

**Phone:** 294- 3424 Dept. 294-1512

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**Required Text:** Rose Weitz. 2007. The Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care: A Critical Approach, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition: Thomson Wadsworth. USA

## Course Description:

This course is designed to explore social aspects of health, illness, and the health care system. We will examine such issues as the social factors and meanings of illness and disease, relationships between doctors and patients, disparities in health and health care along with age, gender, social class, and race/ethnicity lines, and the current health care crisis in U.S. and cross-national contexts. Special attention is given to the roles of social, cultural, and institutional factors in understanding the health and health care issues in the United States and in other countries.

## Course Objectives:

1. To gain fundamental knowledge of the concepts and theories related to health, illness, and health care.
2. To gain a broader sociological understanding of health, health care, and disparities among different segments of the society.

## Course Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on two exams, one group project, a term paper, and attendance during the semester.

**(a) Exams:** The three exams will consist of multiple-choice, True/False, and short essay questions. The exams will cover the assigned chapters in the lecture and the readings. The exams are worth 100 points and two exams will **total 200 points** in the final grade. **Make-up exams will *only* be given if arranged with the professor prior to the day of the scheduled exam to be missed and only if the reason for the absence is considered valid by the instructor.** The make-up exams will likely be more difficult than the regular scheduled exams.

**(b) A student group project:** The class will be divided into groups. Each group will conduct research on the specific topic assigned by the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Each group will present the results of the research to the class in the form of a power point presentation. **The power point presentation file should be emailed to Dr. Choi as an attachment one day before the presentation date.** All students in the group must participate in the preparation and the class presentation. The student group project will be worth of **total 100 points**. Group research projects will be graded based on two components. One is the professor's evaluation, while the second is that of the group members. Each group member will evaluate the other. To evaluate contribution of each student, the average of the evaluations from the other students will be multiplied by the points given by the professor. Students will

grade their group members using a 0 to 1 scale in which A = 1; B = .85; C = .75; D = .65; and F = .55. If you have questions or need advice, please see Dr. Choi during her office hours or make an appointment.

**(c) A term paper:** Students are expected to submit both a draft and a final version of their term papers to the dates specified in the course syllabus. The term paper will be worth of total 100 points (20 points for a draft and 80 points for the final version). The term paper is a research paper on an issue of health and health care: medicalisation and the social production of medical knowledge and practices; the social bases of health, health and health care inequality, social support and health; sick role and stigma, illness and identity; mental illness, culture, and social control; reproductive and genetic technologies; the crises in health care provision in modern societies, consumerism and health care. Each student group will submit a **10-page paper (double-spaced, 1 inch margins, Times New Roman 12pt font, ASA style)** including at least five references (from academic peer reviewed journals). **No late paper will be accepted**

### **Grading**

The final grade for the course will be based on the course requirements presented above. **A total of 400 possible points** will be available. Final grades will be assigned as follows:

400- 360 = A  
359- 320 = B  
319- 280 = C  
279- 240 = D  
239- 0 = F

### **Extra credit**

At times throughout the semester, you will be given the opportunity to earn extra points on your point total for the semester. I will discuss extra credit more as the semester progresses. Earning extra credit is recommended.

### **Attendance**

Attendance will be an important factor to determine whether students loose their points or gain extra credit. **Students who miss more than 5 classes will receive the 2 point penalty from their total accumulated points for each class that student missed.** **The student who attends all classes will receive 5 points extra towards their total accumulated points.** Any students who show up to class 5 minutes late or more will be counted as absent.

**Instructor Evaluations:** Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

**Academic Dishonesty:** All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive an F for that assignment with more severe sanctions as appropriate.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor

shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities must register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center and then arrange a conference with the instructor in order that accommodations can be made to assure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

**Religious Holidays:** The Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. “Religious Holy Day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20 of the Tax Code. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible regarding any missed classes due to “Religious Holy Days”.

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students shall arrive to class on time and be respectful to their other students. If a student needs to arrive to class late or leave class early the student will make the professor aware of these needs prior to class time. All cell phones, iPods, and beepers must be turned off and stowed away while in the classroom. Students who disrupt the class will be contacted by the professor to adjust their behaviors. In extreme cases students who cannot comply to these requirements can be removed and resigned from the class.

**Visitors to the Classroom:** Unannounced visitors to the class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor’s discretion whether or not the visitor is allowed to remain in the classroom.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

Aug. 21-23	Introduction & Overview (CH1)
Aug. 28-30	The Social Source of Illness (CH2)
Sept. 4-6	The Social Distribution of Illness in the US (CH3)
Sept. 11-13	Illness in the Developing Nations (CH4)
Sept. 18-20	The Social Meanings of Illness (CH5)
Sept. 25-27	The Experience of Disability, Chronic Pain, & Chronic Illness (CH6)
Oct. 2-9	The Sociology of Mental Illness (CH7)
<b>Oct. 11</b>	<b>Exam I</b>
Oct. 16 -18	The US Health Care System & Need for Reform (CH8)
Oct. 23-25	Health Care Settings & Technologies (CH10)
Oct. 30-Nov. 1	Alternative Health Care Systems (CH9)
Nov. 6-8	Health Care Providers (CH11-12)
Nov. 13-15	Issues in Bioethics (CH13) <b>Draft of term paper Submission (Before 5pm on November 15)</b>
<b>Nov. 20-22</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>
<b>Nov. 27-Dec. 4</b>	<b>Student Group Presentations</b>
<b>Dec. 6</b>	<b>Exam II</b>
<b>Dec. 10</b>	<b>Term Paper Submission (Before 5pm)</b>

**Student/Professor Agreement (Due September 11, 2007)**

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Instructor: Jin Young Choi

**Class Meet Tuesday and Thursday 9:30am - 10:50am AB4 303**

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read the preceding syllabus in its entirety and agree to abide  
(print name)  
by the conditions set forth in the said document. Failure to do so will result in the  
aforementioned consequences.

X \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature) (date)