SOCIOLOGY 575: SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH AND AGING

Course Description
This course will explore social aspects of health, aging and the health care system. We will examine such issues as the social causation of disease, relationships between doctors and patients, the health professions, health and health care among women and the poor, and the current health care crisis in U.S. and cross-national contexts. This is the basic core course in the Sociology Department’s Health and Aging Preliminary Examination area.

Schedule of Topics

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<thead>
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<th>September</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8, 10</td>
<td>Medical and Sociological Perspectives on Health and Aging Contrasted</td>
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<tr>
<td>15, 17</td>
<td>Overall Trends in Mortality and Morbidity and Their Implications</td>
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<tr>
<td>22, 24</td>
<td>Various Critical Perspectives and Psychosocial Factors in Health and Illness</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<th>October</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No Class</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Public Health</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>13, 15</td>
<td>Social and Economic Inequalities in Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>20, 22</td>
<td>The Sick Role, Becoming Sick and Seeking Help</td>
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<td>27, 29</td>
<td>Patient-Provider Relations</td>
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<th>November</th>
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<tr>
<td>3, 5</td>
<td>Psychosocial Responses to Chronic Illness, Aging, Death, and Disability</td>
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<td>10, 12</td>
<td>Hospitals</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Theories of Professions, Does Professional Socialization Instill Collectivity Orientation?; Do Professions Regulate Themselves?</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>No Class, GSA Meetings</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>No Class</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>No Class, Thanksgiving</td>
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<th>December</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>1, 3</td>
<td>Professionalization in an Historical Context; Medicalization and the Medical Model</td>
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<tr>
<td>8, 10</td>
<td>Change and Alternatives</td>
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Requirements

Reaction papers. There will be no term paper. In order to focus the class discussion, for each topic, a question will be distributed that covers that topic’s readings. Answering this question will require students to do all of the readings and to think analytically, synthetically, and critically. This assignment will also require a succinct answer, and each question must be answered in a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of three (3) double-spaced, type-written pages. Students will be required to complete nine (9) reaction papers and will be able to drop the lowest grade. Together, the reaction papers will count for 40% of the grade. The papers are due on the Monday before the Tuesday class no later than 3:00 P.M. in the box on the door of Professor Anderson’s office, Room 42, Population Studies Center.

Final examination. On December 8, a list of essay questions will be distributed to the class. Some of these will be selected for an in-class examination, which will count 40% of the grade. The final examination is scheduled for Friday, December 18, 1:30-3:30.

Class participation. For each topic, students will be asked to propose two questions for class discussion. These should be attached to the reaction paper on a separate sheet of paper. The instructor will then focus the discussion around several of the questions proposed by the students. The discussion questions and contributions to class discussion will count 20% of the grade.

Books (recommended for purchase):
Additional readings are available in a coursepack, which can be purchased at Dollar Bill Copy, 611 Church Street, corner Church and South University on second floor. The coursepack is in two parts. The first part is ready at the beginning of the term. The second part
will be available soon after the beginning of the term.

**REQUIRED READINGS AND COURSE OUTLINE**

**Week 1, September 8 and 10**
**Medical and Sociological Perspectives on Health and Aging Contrasted**


**Week 2, September 15 and 17**
**Overall Trends in Mortality and Morbidity and Their Implications**


Week 3, September 22 and 24

Various Critical Perspectives on Causal Ideas and Psychosocial Factors in Health and Illness


Weeks 4 and 5, Public Health, September 29 and October 6

Public Health


Week 6, October 13 and 15

Social and Economic Inequalities in Health


Information on obtaining this reading will be given in class.


Milbank Quarterly. 68: 383-411.


First Part of Coursepack ends here

Week 7 October 20 and 22

The Sick Role, Becoming Sick, and Seeking Help


Freidson, E. Profession of Medicine (pp. 205-243), “Illness as Social Deviance”, “Sociological Types of Illness” (pp. 224-243).


Freidson, E. “The Lay Construction of Illness. In Profession of Medicine. (pp. 278-301)


Week 8, October 27 and 29

Patient-Provider Relations

Freidson, E. “The Professional Construction of Illness.” In Profession of Medicine. (pp. 244-277).


Week 9, November 3 and 5
Psychosocial Responses to Chronic Illness, Aging, Death and Disability


Week 10, November 10 and 12

Hospitals


Freidson, E. “Patterns of Practice in the Hospital.” In Profession of Medicine. (pp. 109-136).

Freidson, E. “Patterns of Practice in the Hospital.” In Profession of Medicine. (pp. 109-136).


Theories of Professions, Does Professional Socialization Instill Collectivity Orientation?


Freidson, E. *Profession of Medicine*. (pp. xvii - 201; epilogue).


*Does Professional Socialization Instill Collectivity Orientation?*


Professions in an Historical Context; Do Professions Regulate Themselves?

*Professionalization in an Historical Context*


Do Professions Regulate Themselves?


Week 14, December 8 and 10
Change and Alternatives


Callahan, D. “Setting Limits: A Response.”


Review C. Riessman, “Improving the Experiences of Low Income Patients.”


Information on obtaining this reading will be given in class.