Welcome to Sociology of Health and Medicine. This course will touch two increasingly popular themes in sociology: health as a social effect and medicine as a social institution. First, we will consider how social structures affect the bodies they yield and require. Second, we will consider how medicine is embedded in, and helps reproduce, the social world. For better or worse, we will focus primarily on the United States and so-called allopathic/bio medicine.

You are required to purchase a course reader from Copy Central (2576 Bancroft Way). With the exception of the first week, you must bring this reader to every class unless otherwise specified.

**Attendance & Participation (10%)**

Attendance and participation is integral to your success in this course. You are allowed two absences. For each additional absence, you will lose ten percent of your participation grade, or one percent of your final grade in the course. However, showing up to class is not enough. You must also be involved (this includes bringing your reader). Should I become concerned with your level of engagement, I will reach out to you directly by email so that we may brainstorm solutions. If, for whatever reason, you remain uncommitted to the course I will consider lowering your attendance and participation grade.

**Reading Responses (15%)**

You are expected to carefully and critically read 17 texts. These readings are short (usually between 20 to 40 pages) but they are often dense and difficult. For 15 of these readings, you must answer one of its corresponding questions listed in the course schedule. While reading response formatting is question specific, you will always have the option of either writing a response (three to four sentences with specific page citations) or diagraming/tabling a response (with specific page citations). All responses must be submitted on bcourses by 10am the day of the assigned reading under the assignments tab – written responses must be submitted using the bcourses assignment text box and diagramed/tabled responses must be attached as a standard image file (e.g., JPG). All reading responses are graded on a pass/fail basis. While “wrong” answers will not be penalized, I may ask you to resubmit a reading response if your initial submission is obviously careless. Late reading responses will not be accepted.

*Note: I may integrate your responses into my lecture slides. Please know that I will never cite your work to highlight something you have done wrong.*
Two Take-Home Exams (25% each)

Your performance on two written take-home exams, one on “health as a social effect” and the other on “medicine as a social institution,” will determine half of your grade in this course. For each exam you will be given four full days (Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday) to answer two or three questions. Each exam will challenge you to a) bring course readings in conversation with one another (sometimes through an additional reading) and b) analyze a report or article concerning health/medicine in the Bay Area. The first exam will be distributed on July 7th and collected at 12:15pm on July 12th. The second exam will be distributed on July 28th and collected at 12:15pm on August 2nd. Exams turned in late will be docked one full letter grade for each day they are tardy. No exam will be accepted beyond 72 hours of its designated collection time. Additional instructions and requirements will be provided on the exam prompts.

Note: all exams must be typed and printed. Plan accordingly.

Article Presentation or Paper (25%)

Your final project can take the form of an in-class presentation or a traditional final essay. Regardless, you are tasked with carefully examining an approved academic article. This assignment includes four basic parts: a) a summary (covering the thesis and, if applicable, the methodology of your article); b) a connection (a convincing link between your article and at least one of the readings on the course schedule); c) a rupture (a convincing tension between your article and at least one of the readings on the course schedule); and d) an implication (some concluding thoughts on why your article does or does not matter for a sociology of health and medicine).

Each student will examine a unique article. You can find a list of pre-approved articles in the appendix of this syllabus. However, you are welcome to propose alternatives (including book chapters) to me via email by 9:00pm on August 2nd. You will otherwise submit your top three choices included in the appendix of this syllabus on August 3rd (at the beginning of class).

On August 3rd, you will also submit your decision to write a paper or do an in-class presentation. Details will be posted on bcourses on August 2nd by 6:00pm to help you make a decision, but writers will ultimately be required to submit a 4-page essay while presenters will be required to submit a 4-slide PowerPoint and present to the class for five to ten minutes.
TUESDAY | JUNE 21st

Introduction.
No reading.

HEALTH AS A SOCIAL EFFECT

WEDNESDAY | JUNE 22nd


Reading response options:
A) What is the difference between egotistic and altruistic suicide? (write)
B) What is the difference between fatalistic and anomie suicide? (write)
C) What are the differences in suicide rates between Catholics and Protestants? (diagram/table)

THURSDAY | JUNE 23rd


Reading response options:
A) What is social murder? (write)
B) Why is “the insecurity of his position” so “demoralizing” for the working man? (write)
B) What types of illnesses plague the working class? (diagram/table)

Week 2

TUESDAY | JUNE 28th


Reading response options:
A) What constitutes a “fundamental cause” of disease? (write)
B) What is Link and Phelan’s criticism of the so-called stress paradigm? (write)
C) What does “risk of risks” mean? (write or diagram/table)
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**WEDNESDAY | JUNE 29th**


*Reading response options:*
A) What is the “status syndrome”? (write or diagram/table)  
B) What is the relationship between autonomy and the social gradient in health? (write)  
C) According to Marmot, what do we “owe” to Durkheim? (write)

**THURSDAY | JUNE 30th**

Williams. 2004. “Racism and Health”  
In-class video: “Fault Lines: America’s Infant Mortality Crisis” (2013)

*Reading response options:*
A) How does institutional racism affect health? (write or diagram/table)  
B) How does racial discrimination affect health? (write or diagram/table)  
C) How does internalized racism affect health? (write or diagram/table)

Week 3

**TUESDAY | JULY 5th**


*Reading response options:*
A) What is the gender paradox in physical health? (write or diagram/table)  
B) How do “constrained choices” affect gendered differences in health? (write)

**WEDNESDAY | JULY 6th**


*Reading response options:*
A) What is the so-called urban health penalty? (write)  
B) What is the relationship between “formal support services” and urban health? (write)  
C) What are some key risks and protections in the so-called ghetto? (write or diagram/table)
THURSDAY | JULY 7th

DISTRIBUTE EXAM I

Reading response options:
A) How is housing a key social determinant of health? (write)
B) What are the differences between hard and soft and direct and indirect causes? (write)
C) What is the relationship between homelessness and health? (diagram/table)

TUESDAY | JULY 12th

No reading.
In-class video: Unnatural Causes (2008) (select scenes)
COLLECT EXAM I @ 12:15

MEDICINE AS A SOCIAL INSTITUTION

WEDNESDAY | JULY 13th


Reading response options:
A) What is the sick role? (write)
B) What is the role of the therapist? (write)
C) What is the relationship between the sick person and his/her therapist? (diagram/table)

THURSDAY | JULY 14th


Reading response options:
A) How do doctor-patient encounters reflect and support broader social relations? (write)
B) How do physicians address the work and family contexts of men in chapter 5? (diagram/table)
**TUESDAY | JULY 19\textsuperscript{th}**


*Reading response options:*
A) What does the clinical gaze do? (write)
B) What are the key differences between Pomme and Bayle? (diagram/table)
C) What are the stages of the “medicine of the sick organs”? (diagram/table)

**WEDNESDAY | JULY 20\textsuperscript{th}**

Conrad. 2007. *The Medicalization of Society: On the Transformation of Human Conditions into Treatable Disorders.* (pp. 3-19, 146-164)

*Reading response options:*
A) What are medicalization and demedicalization? (write)
B) Why isn’t medicalization a form of medical imperialism? (write)
C) How has medical social control expanded? (diagram/table)

**THURSDAY | JULY 21\textsuperscript{st}**


*Reading response options:*
A) What is the difference between social and cultural authority? (write or diagram/table)
B) What explains the growth of medical/professional authority? (diagram/table)

**TUESDAY | JULY 26\textsuperscript{th}**


*Reading response options:*
A) What is the “dual function” of medicine under capitalism? (write or diagram/table)
B) Why isn’t medicine an “instrument” controlled by the bourgeoisie? (write)
C) How does class struggle affect the size and content of medicine? (write or diagram/table)
**WEDNESDAY | JULY 27**

In-class video: The Waiting Room (2012)

*Reading response options:*
A) How is the emergency department (ED) like an almshouse? (write)
B) How do heavy users and their clinicians see the ED differently? (diagram/table)

**THURSDAY | JULY 28**

Maskovsky. 2000. “‘Managing’ the Poor: Neoliberalism, Medicaid HMOs and the Triumph of Consumerism Among the Poor.”
DISTRIBUTE EXAM II

*Reading response options:*
A) What is neoliberalism and how has it affected health care? (write or diagram/table)
B) How does the group “We The People” respond to neoliberal health care? (write)

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**TUESDAY | AUGUST 2**

No reading.
In-class video: Here’s to Flint (2016) (subject to change)
Final assignment will be posted to bcourses tonight by 6:00pm.
COLLECT EXAM II @ 12:15

**WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 3**

Review final assignment before class (posted on bcourses).
Come to class with the titles of at least three articles you’re interested in examining.
Presentation schedule will be posted to bcourses tonight by 6:00pm.

**THURSDAY | AUGUST 4**

Read your final article.
Come to class prepared to informally discuss your text with a small group of peers.

*Reading response options:*
A) What is the central argument of your article? (write or diagram/table)
B) How does your article complement a specific course reading? (write)
C) How does your article challenge a specific course reading? (write)
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Week 8

TUESDAY | AUGUST 9th

COLLECT FINAL PAPER @ 12:15
Presentations.
No reading.

WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 10th

Presentations.
No reading.

THURSDAY | AUGUST 11th

Presentations.
No reading.
APPENDIX: PRE-APPROVED ARTICLES FOR PRESENTATION WEEK
(more articles may be added throughout the course)


