

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
Department of Sociology.
SOCI 3120: Health and Illness,
Spring, 2024, T/TR, 11:00-12:20, LIFE A304

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I. Learning Objectives:

- A. To gain knowledge of the social factors contributing to one's health condition;
- B. To gain knowledge of the social consequences that occur as a result of one's health condition;
- C. To understand the U.S. health care system including its organization, financing, and delivery
- D. To be familiar with the health care systems in other countries.
- E. To understand the Affordable Care Act, 2010 and the Inflation Reduction Act, 2022

II. Learning components

- A. Readings: To help meet the objectives, the following book and handout are required (book available on Amazon or at UNT bookstore).

Weitz, Rose (2019 or 2017, eighth or seventh edition). The Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care, Boston, MA: Cengage learning.

Handouts

- B. Class time: will be focused on the objectives through lectures, class discussions, movies, small group activities, and guest lecturers.

III. Course Policies

- A. Class Attendance: regular and punctual class attendance is expected. It will be difficult to master all the material if class is missed. While students will not usually be penalized for missing class they will be penalized for coming to class late or leaving class early since these disrupt the class. If you will need to come late or leave early, please let me know. Students can gain extra credit points by attending class (see below). Students who miss a lot of class will be given NO leeway in grading and may lose points while students who miss no or only a few classes will be given MUCH leeway in grading and may gain points. For example, a recent student missed more than half the classes, had a test grade average of 69, and wanted one point added to their final grade in order to receive a "C". The student got a "D". Another student missed only a few classes had an average grade of 88 and was given two extra points to receive an "A".

- B. Academic integrity: as the student guidebook points out, academic integrity is required. Plagiarism and cheating will result in failure and a report to the Dean. This includes the use of AI for course assignments turned in.
- B. Acceptable Student Behavior: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior (including continual texting during class) will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012>
- D. Mental Health and Special Needs: UNT's counseling center provides free career and personal counseling to UNT students (up to 8 sessions per year). Appointments can be made by calling 940-565-2741. For our class, appropriate adjustments and auxiliary aid are available for persons with disabilities. See me and/or call 817-565-2456 (TDD access 1-800-735-2989).
- E. Cell Phones and texting: you should know that many professors and instructors find it insulting when a student is constantly texting or otherwise using their phones during class. Consequently, if the time comes that the student could use some "leeway" in her/his grade, and the student has constantly used his/her phone during class, no leeway will be given and points could be removed.
- F. Laptops: if you use a laptop in class, please refrain from using it for anything other than our class.
- G. Office Hours: I enjoy meeting with students. I learn a lot and I hope they do as well. Please email me (yeatts@unt.edu) so we can find a day/time that works for both of us. I will be happy to discuss the course material, your progress in the class, your plans for the future, personal issues, need for a letter of recommendation, or anything else of interest/importance to you. Some students will meet with me just to introduce themselves and share a bit about their activities and progress at UNT and I enjoy these meetings as well.
- H. If unexpected problems develop for you during the semester (e.g., health, emotional issues, family disruptions, death or illness in family), please contact me as soon as these become apparent. I can then work with you to develop a plan that will assist you. Students, who approach their instructors/professors when problems develop, are much more likely to receive help and consideration. Don't wait until the end of the semester to inform the professor of problems because it will be too late to find a solution. This is a good rule-of-thumb for any class you take.

I. Grading: final grades will be based on the following:

1. Four (4) tests will be given worth 25% each—your four test grades will be averaged together to obtain your final grade. The fourth test will not be cumulative. The format is expected to include multiple choice and true/false questions as well as discussion questions. Grades will be posted on Dr. Yeatts' web page under the code number you provide on the student information sheet you turn in the first day of class. (go to: www.yeatts.us, click on 3120, then click on Grades).

You are responsible for using the restroom prior to the beginning of a test so **do not ask to use the restroom** in the middle of a test (unfortunately a few of us would use this as an opportunity to review our notes in the middle of taking the test).

2. Test Schedule:

February 8 (Thursday)	Test 1	25%
March 7 (Thursday)	Test 2	25%
April 11 (Thursday)	Test 3	25%
May 7 (10:30-12:30)(Thurs)	Test 4 (note time diff. due to exam week)	25%

3. Make-up Tests: may be allowed within one week from the original exam day. The test score will be reduced by one letter grade unless there is documentation or other means of verifying an illness, personal issue, or other serious situation. On the other hand, if you have **not missed any or very few classes** and you oversleep and miss the test (or some other less serious situation), this may be excused or very few points deducted.
4. Class Participation: Those who contribute meaningful, thoughtful, and knowledgeable comments/ideas will receive extra points added to their final grade if their final grade is close to the next higher grade and s/he **has not missed a lot** of classes. For example, an 88 could be raised to a 90. Similarly, those who attend all (or almost all) classes will receive extra points.
5. Extra Credit Opportunities: Please see the “**Opportunities for Extra Credit**” below for details.

J. How to Study for Tests:

1. Read carefully and give thought to the assigned chapters and readings to be covered on the test (ideally keep up weekly).
2. Ideally, read the assignments before they are discussed in class so you are more prepared to contribute to discussions.
3. **Learn the major concepts (bolded and italicized concepts) in the chapters and what they mean. Pay attention to section headings within the chapter—what are the points being made in the section—ask yourself: what is the point being made).**

4. Know the answers to the **study guide and potential discussion questions** that are placed on my web page (www.yeatts.us). These questions were developed from the test questions and class discussions. However, **do not rely solely on these if you want a good grade**. As noted above, read/study the chapters covered for the test as well.

IV. Topics to be Covered/Reading Assignments

All Chapter assignments refer to the Weitz text book (7th edition). NOTE: Videos listed below may or may not be shown depending on time available.

Week 1 (January 16 and 18):

- A. Overview of class
- B. Chapter 1: Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care

Week 2 (January 23 and 25)

- A. Chapter 1 continued;
- B. Chapter 2: The Social Sources of Modern Illness (non-medical factors contributing to poor health)

Week 3 (January 30 and Feb 1)

- A. Chapter 2: The Social Sources of Modern Illness (non-medical factors contributing to poor health)
- B. Chapter 3: The Social Distribution of Illness in the U.S.
- C. Possibly guest speaker from Friends of the Family

Week 4 (Feb 6)

- A. Chapter 3: The Social Distribution of Illness in the U.S.
- B. We may watch a film describing the characteristics of “social class.”

Test 1 on chapters 1-3 and in class materials (PowerPoint slides), February 8, Thursday

Week 5 (Feb 13 and 15)

- A. Chapter 4: Illness and Death in the Less Developed Nations
- B. Film on health in developing nations

Week 6 (Feb 20 and 22)

- A. Chapter 5: The Social Meanings of Illness

Week 7 (Feb 27 and 29):

- A. Chapter 6: The Experience of Disability, Chronic Pain, Chronic Illness

Week 8 (March 5):

- A. Chapter 6: The Experience of Disability, Chronic Pain, Chronic Illness
- B. We may watch: How Gluten and Modern Food Processing Contribute to Poor Health
www.mercola.com scroll down to July 2 (27 minutes)

Test 2 on chapters 4-6 and in class materials, March 7, Thursday

Week 9 (March 12 and 14)

No Class—SPRING BREAK

Week 10 (March 19 and 21):

A. Chapter 8: Health Care in the U.S.

B. YouTube “We’re #37”:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVgOl3cETb4>

C. We may watch: Antibiotic Resistance: What Promotes It, How Can It Be Beat (29 m)
www.mercola.com scroll down to July 9 (29 minutes)

D. May watch: www.mercola.com scroll down to July 6, Rachel Carson (8.5 minutes)

Week 11 (March 26 and 28)

A. Chapter 8: Health Care in the U.S.

B. Chapter 9: Health Care Around the World

Week 12 (April 2 and 4)

A. Chapter 9: Health Care Around the World

B. We may watch: Globesity: www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGL3;T5MMdQ

Week 13 (April 9)

A. Chapter 9: Health Care Around the World

Test 3 on Chapters 8-9 and in class materials; April 11 Thursday

Week 14 (April 16 and 18)

A. Chapter 7: The Sociology of Mental Illness

B. We may watch: Pesticides are poison:

www.mercola.com scroll down to July 6, Rachel Carson (8.5 minutes)

Week 15 (April 23 and 25)

A. Chapter 10: Health Care Settings and Technologies

B. PowerPoint slides on Alternative Medicines

Week 16 (April 30) **No class on May 2, it’s a UNT reading day for exams**

A. Environmental Sociology and Health

B. No reading for this week but you are responsible for the PowerPoint slides presented

**Test 4: on Chapters 7, 10, and PowerPoint slides on Environmental Sociology and Health.
The exam day/time for our class is set by UNT: May 7, 10:30-12:30, Tuesday**

Opportunity for Extra Credit

In-Class Activities

Students will obtain one extra credit point for each class period that they attend and participate in class. Participation might include watching a film in class or a small group activity during class. For example, students may be asked to work in groups of two to five during class to answer one or more questions and then each student will turn in their own answer(s) to the questions before the end of class and the student will receive one extra credit point.

There will be an opportunity for one extra point during each class period, assuming you do not come to class late or leave early. The extra points you obtain will be added to your next test grade. Students who come to class late will not get an extra point unless they have notified me that they would be late. Similarly, students who leave class early will not be eligible for these extra points unless notifying me. A student who does not miss class will typically accumulate 6 points to be added to their next test grade. So, if you get an 85 on the test but have six points accumulated, you would receive a 91 for that test.

*****If our class is moved on line (as what happened at the beginning of the pandemic), we will keep everything as it is currently planned but have our classes through zoom. I will email the class with further instructions at that time.**