

Medical Sociology Section 01

SOCI 166

Spring 2023 3 Unit(s) 01/25/2023 to 05/15/2023 Modified 01/25/2023

Contact Information

Course and Contact Information Instructor(s): Dr. Natalie Boero Office Location: DMH 211

Telephone: Please use email or Canvas messaging

Email: natalie.boero@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: MONDAYS 10:15am-11:15am or by appointment Class Days/Time: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30-2:45am

Classroom: DMH 226A

Prerequisites: SOCI 1

Professor: Dr. Natalie Boero

Email: natalie.boero@sjsu.edu

Office: DMH 211

The best way to contact me is through Canvas messaging or through email. Most answers to course-related questions are in the syllabus and various assignment sheets. I generally respond to messages within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours over the weekend. If I go longer than that, I apologize in advance and please feel free to message me again!

Course Description and Requisites

Sociological analysis of medical and mental health institutions, values and roles. Patient-doctor interaction, influence of hospital structure on health care, social class and illness, cultural determinants of illness and related areas of old age (gerontology) and death.

Prerequisite: SOCI 1 or equivalent.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

Canvas

The syllabus, all readings, assignments, and links related to the course will be posted on our Canvas page. Please consult both the Canvas page and your syllabus often!!!! Materials will be organized into modules corresponding with the week on the course schedule below. Please read/complete materials in each module in the order they are posted. NEW MODULES WILL BE AVAILABLE BY 5PM EACH WEDNESDAY.

Communication

I encourage all of you to come by my office hours (listed above). Even if you don't have a specific question, office hours are a great chance for me to get to know you better and for you to give me feedback on the course. If you are having any problems that

could impact your success in the course, come see me as soon as possible. It is much easier to deal with problems early on. Please note that I do not give incompletes except in the most extreme situations, and then only if a student has already completed a majority (at least 75%) of the work for the course.

I am also available by email at the address above or through the Canvas site. However, given the large number of students in my classes, I may take a day or two to respond to emails. I will email the class of any changes in the schedule. If you do email me, please include your name and the course number and section in the subject line.

I very much understand that you all have complicated and busy lives and that these past few years have been very difficult on all of us. I really encourage you to come talk to me if you need my assistance or have questions. Communication is key!

Readings and Missed Classes

I expect that you will have each week's readings completed by class on Monday of each week. I have tried to make the reading interesting and manageable so that we can all participate in active discussions. Please bring your course packet to class each day so that we can refer to the readings in discussions.

Participation is important and it helps make discussions livelier as well as to clarify materials. Coming to class is important as I will be lecturing on materials not included in the readings.

If you cannot come to class, it is your responsibility to get notes from one of your peers. Please limit cell phone/laptop use in class as it is distracting to me and other students.

A Note for Students with Children

This classroom is open to students' children when you have difficulty securing childcare. Please be sure your child complies with SJSU Covid policies and please do not bring sick children to class. Please bring something age appropriate for your child to do during class, and if you can, let me know ahead that they will be joining us. My priority is for all students to attend and participate in class, so do not feel that you have to decide between class and caring for your kids. That said, please use this option only when necessary, given the smaller size and limited number of seats in some classrooms.

A Note on Sensitive Topics

As with most sociology classes, in this course we will deal with issues that impact many of us very personally and about which we may have very differing opinions. Indeed, in a class focused on health and illness, the topics may touch our lives even more directly than in other classes. I expect all of us to be mindful of the experiences of others and treat each other with respect in class discussions. Looking at current events and personal issues from a sociological perspective can often make us uncomfortable or challenge our previously held understandings of the world. Some discomfort is simply a part of studying the world from a sociological perspective. However, if there are particular topics or readings that push your discomfort too far, please do not hesitate to come and talk to me or to email me.

Program Information

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to think sociologically about the relationship between social structure, interaction, identities, and inequalities.
2. Students will be able to identify and explain major sociological theories and apply them to everyday life.
3. Students will be proficient in qualitative and quantitative research design, data collection and data analysis.
4. Students will be proficient in oral and written communication skills appropriate to the discipline.
5. Students will be able to practice sociology as educated and civically engaged persons.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Course Content Learning Outcomes

As a result of fully participating in this class, students will be able to:

1. Describe, explain, and summarize the social and cultural character of health, illness, and disease.

2. Examine trends, issues, and problems related to the social distribution of health, illness, disease, and health care in the United States.
3. Describe and critically assess the social organization of medical care in the United States.
4. Describe and critically assess the social process of medicalization and its implications.

Course Materials

REQUIRED: The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down

Author: Anne Fadiman

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux; Later Printing edition (April 24, 2012)

Edition: 2012

ISBN: ISBN-10 : 9780374533403 ISBN-13 : 978-0374533403

Availability: The book should be available at the campus bookstore well before we start reading it later in February. It is also available new and used on Amazon

Price: \$10 or less

REQUIRED COURSE PACKET

A **REQUIRED** course reader is available for purchase at Maple Press (330 S. 10th Street), or order online at :

<https://maplepress.net/readers/product/sociology-166-01-boero/> (<https://maplepress.net/readers/product/sociology-166-01-boero/>)

You must bring your course packet to class for credit on Monday, 1/30

All required readings will be also posted in PDF format on the course Canvas page

REQUIRED: Activate **FREE** online access to the New York Times

All SJSU students have free access to a digital subscription to the New York Times. Please activate your account as we will be looking at media coverage of issues relevant to the class. Here is the link to activate:

<https://libguides.sjsu.edu/nyt-online>

Course Requirements and Assignments

Exam: Midterm Exam

In-Class midterm exam worth 100 points (20% of semester grade).

Exam: Final Exam

Final Exam worth 100 points (20%) of your course grade

Paper: Interview paper

In this paper you will choose a topic relevant to the course and conduct an interview with a person about their experience with that topic. You will write up a paper based on the information you get from your interviewee. (100 points/ 20% of your course grade).

Participation: Participation Activities

Participation Activities: Most weeks there will be a "participation activity" worth 22 points. There will be a total of 11 such assignments and I will drop the two lowest grades (for any reason, you do not have to notify me in advance that you are skipping an assignment for whatever reason- those two dropped grades are yours to use how you see fit!) and thus the highest scoring 9 assignments will count toward your final participation grade.

Some participation assignments will be credit/no credit and some will be graded – I will specify on each assignment whether it is graded or CR/NCR. **BECAUSE I DROP THE LOWEST TWO PARTICIPATION GRADES, I WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY LATE PARTICIPATION ASSIGNMENTS.**

PLEASE NOTE, NOT ALL DUE DATES FOR PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES ARE THE SAME, so read your syllabus and the assignments carefully!

*Participation assignments will generally be in the form of a short response to a reading or a video, posting and responding to a discussion thread, or answering reading questions. However, there will likely be at least two or three participation activities that will happen in-class, these will be noted on the course schedule section of the syllabus.

✓ Grading Information

Breakdown

Exams:

There will be two exams in the course, a midterm exam and a final exam. Each exam will be worth 100 points, or 20% of your final grade. Exams will be held in-class on the dates specified in the syllabus. There will be a review session prior to each exam.

Participation:

198 points or 39.6 % of your grade (see details in "course requirements and assignments" section).

Interview paper:

You will conduct an interview on a topic relevant to the class and write a paper based on your findings from that paper. We will discuss the paper in detail well before the due date and I will provide you with detailed guidelines. 102 points or 20.4% of your grade.

Grade	Range	Notes
Point Breakdown	0-500	Final letter grades for the course will be assigned based on the following scale: A = 500-465 points B = 434-415 points C = 384-365 points D = 334-315 points A- = 464-450 points B- = 414-400 points C- = 364-350 points D- = 314-300 points B+ = 449-435 points C+ = 399-385 points D+ = 349-335 points F = 299 points or less

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

When	Topic	Notes
Week 1/ Module 1 1/25		Introduction Reading: Syllabus

When	Topic	Notes
Week 2/ Module 2 1/30 & 2/1		<p>What is Medical Sociology?</p> <p><i>Participation Activity #1</i>: IN CLASS - Bring course packet to class for credit MONDAY 1/30</p> <p><i>Participation Activity #2</i>: Due Sunday, 2/5 at 11:59pm via Canvas</p> <p>Reading: Weitz Ch. 1 & 2</p>
Week 3/ Module 3 2/6 & 2/8		<p>The Social Distribution of Health & The Social Determinants of Health</p> <p><i>Participation Activity #3</i>: Due Friday 2/10 by 11:59pm</p> <p>Reading: Weitz Ch. 3</p>
Week 4/ Module 4 2/13 & 2/15		<p>The Social Determinants of Health</p> <p><i>Participation Activity #4</i>: Due Sunday 2/19 by 11:59pm</p> <p>Film: <i>Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?</i></p> <p>Reading: World Health Organization, "The Social Determinants of Health", Braverman and Gottlieb, "The Causes of the Causes"</p>
Week 5/ Module 5 2/20 & 2/22		<p>Racial Health Disparities</p> <p><i>Participation Activity #5</i></p> <p>Reading: Williams, "Miles to go Before We Sleep", Solomon et al, "The Generational Impact of Racism on Health"</p>
Week 6/ Module 6 2/27 & 3/1		<p>Gender and Health Disparities</p> <p><i>Participation Activity #6</i></p> <p>Reading: Courtenay, "Constructions of Masculinity", Washington Post "How Doctors Dismiss Women's Pain" (Not in course packet, hard copy will be passed out in class and there is a link in the module)</p>
Week 7/ Module 7 3/6 & 3/8		<p>The Social and Cultural Construction and Experience of Health and Illness</p> <p><i>Participation Activity #7</i></p> <p>Reading: "The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down" selected chapters</p>
Week 8/ Module 8 3/13 & 3/15		<p>The Social and Cultural Construction and Experience of Health and Illness</p> <p>Film: <i>Hold Your Breath</i></p> <p>Reading: "The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down" selected chapters</p>
Week 9/Module 9 3/20 & 3/22		<p>The Social and Cultural Construction and Experience of Health and Illness</p> <p>Discuss Interview projects</p> <p><i>Participation Activity #8</i></p> <p>Reading: "The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down" selected chapters</p>
Week 10/ Module 10 3/27 & 3/29		<p>SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS</p>
Week 11/ Module 11 4/3 & 4/5		<p>MIDTERM REVIEW/MIDTERM EXAM</p> <p>Midterm Review in class Monday, 4/3</p> <p>MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS, WEDNESDAY, 4/5</p>

When	Topic	Notes
Week 12/ Module 12 4/10 & 4/12		<p>The American Health Care System</p> <p><i>No Class Monday, 4/10</i></p> <p><i>Participation Activity #9</i></p> <p>Reading: Weitz Ch. 8, Langford and Quadagno "Universal Health Care"</p>
Week 13/ Module 13 4/17 & 4/19		<p>Medicalization</p> <p><i>Participation Activity #10</i></p> <p>Reading: Reissman, "Women and Medicalization" (PDF), Kaw, "The Medicalization of Racial Features"</p>
Week 14/ Module 14 4/24 & 4/26		<p>Illness Experience and Disability</p> <p><i>Participation Activity #10</i></p> <p>Reading: TBA</p>
Week 15/ Module 15 5/1 & 5/3		<p>Health and Health Care Activism</p> <p>Reading: TBA</p>
Week 16/Module 16 5/8 & 5/10		<p>Health and Health Care Activism cont</p> <p><i>Participation Activity #11</i></p> <p>Film: <i>Crip Camp</i></p> <p>Reading: TBA</p>
Week 17/ Module 17 5/15		Last day of class, FINAL EXAM REVIEW
FINAL EXAM Tuesday, May 23rd 05/23/2023 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM DMH 226A		You must be present at the START of the exam.