MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY (SYO 4400)

3 CREDIT HOURS

SPRING 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Chuck Peek

Address: 3229 Turlington Hall

Email: cpeek@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:00am – 1:00pm EST, and by appointment

Zoom Link: https://ufl.zoom.us/j/6862939269

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS: The best way to communicate with me is by sending questions via email through the Canvas course website or to my UF email address (above).

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE: This course examines the effects of group characteristics, social behavior and social organization on the causation, amelioration, and prevention of mental and physical illness. The purpose of this course is to introduce you to a sociological perspective of the study of health and illness. A major goal of this course is to provide the conceptual tools needed to understand the social and cultural dimensions of health and disease, in addition to the biological factors. Among the questions we will explore are: How is the risk of illness, injury, and other health problems related to social characteristics and contexts? What issues will shape the future of population?

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: The goal of the course is to understand how health and illness are connected to social behavior and the organization of society. By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Articulate the complementary nature of sociological and biomedical approaches to health.

- Describe the ways that population health is measured.

- Explain historical changes in population health.

- Describe the effects of inequality on health.

- Describe the organization of the U.S. healthcare system.

REQUIRED TEXT: William Cockerham. 2022. *Medical Sociology* (15th edition). Routledge, New York.

You can purchase the textbook through the UF Bookstore using UF All Access. It can also be rented (as an ebook) from the publisher's website.
https://www.routledge.com/Medical-Sociology/Cockerham/p/book/9781032067933

COURSE TECHNOLOGY: This course will require the use of a laptop or desktop computer with a high-speed internet connection and a web camera. You will also need access to UF Library's e-resources. To achieve this access, you will need access to a UF-networked computer or some type of software that will enable you to establish a Virtual Private Network connection (such as Cisco Anyconnect Client). For more information, see the UF Library's Connecting from Off-Campus website (http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ufproxy.htmlLinks to an external site.).

COURSE POLICIES:

ATTENDANCE POLICY: As this is an online course; no classroom attendance is required. You will still need to allot the time needed to complete the requirements of this course. Please contact the Registrar's Office for information on withdrawal dates and procedures if necessary.

QUIZZES: You are required to complete 12 short quizzes during the semester that will account for 30 percent of your final grade (each quiz is worth a maximum of 30 points). Quizzes will consist of 15 multiple choice questions and must be completed within a 30-minute interval on the due date (all due dates are listed on the Canvas syllabus page). Quizzes taken after the due date will not count toward your final grade. This portion of your grade will be based on your 10 highest quiz scores (you may drop the lowest quiz scores).

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS: You are required to submit 12 writing assignments during the semester that will account for 50 percent of your final grade (each writing assignment is worth a maximum of 50 points). Writing assignments are brief essays or discussions designed to gauge your understanding of the course material. Writing assignments must be completed and submitted via Canvas on or before the due date (all due dates are listed on the Canvas syllabus page). Late assignments or assignments not submitted via Canvas will not be accepted. This portion of your grade will be based on your 10 highest writing assignment scores (you may drop the lowest writing assignment scores).

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY PROJECT: You are required to submit an annotated bibliography project that will account for 20 percent of your final grade (200 points). For this project, you will first select one of the social determinants of health that we will learn about in this course. Then, you will (1) find five articles published in peer-reviewed journals in the last twenty years (since 2003) that focus on the social determinant that

you selected. The project will consist of a citation and a critical summary of each article, and a conclusion in which you will describe the state of our knowledge on your topic and important questions for future research. More information on this assignment will be provided on Canvas.

MAKE-UP POLICY: Students who miss a quiz, writing assignment, or annotated bibliography assignment for a reason consistent with UF's excused absence policy will receive a reasonable amount of time to make up that assignment. Documentation will be required before assignments can be made up. Any missed quizzes, writing assignments, or annotated bibliograph assignment for reasons not covered in UF's attendance policy will receive a score of 0. Assignments missed due to technical or computer problems will also receive a score of zero. However, you may drop the lowest quiz score, and the lowest writing assignment score. **No other provisions will be provided for making up work.**

EVALUATION POLICY: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/

GRADING DISTRIBUTION

Assignment	Percentage
Quizzes (10 highest scores of 12 total)	30%
Writing Assignments (10 highest scores of 12 total)	50%
Annotated Bibliography	20%

GRADING SCALE

Grade	Points
A	920 – 1000
A-	900 – 919
B+	880 – 899
B	820 – 879
B-	800 – 819
C+	780 – 799
C	720 – 779
C-	700 – 719
D+	680 – 699
D	620 – 679
D-	600 – 619
E	599 or fewer

UF POLICIES:

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENT WITH DISABILITIES: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code." On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

PLAGIARISM: The Student Honor Code and Student Conduct CodeLinks to an external site. states that: "A Student must not represent as the Student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
- Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student's own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student's own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
- Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
- Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author."

NETIQUETTE: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Failure to follow netiquette may result in a grade reduction. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Netiquette Guide for Online Courses.

PRIVACY AND ACCESSIBILITY POLICIES: For information about the privacy policies of the tools used in this course, see the links below:

Instructure (Canvas)

- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [AccessibilityLinks to an external site.](#)

Zoom

- [Privacy Policy (Links to an external site.)](#)
- [Accessibility (Links to an external site.)](#)

YouTube (Google)

- [Privacy Policy (Links to an external site.)](#)
- [Accessibility (Links to an external site.)](#)

Microsoft

- [Privacy Policy (Links to an external site.)](#)
- [Accessibility (Links to an external site.)](#)

Adobe

- [Privacy Policy (Links to an external site.)](#)
- [Accessibility](#)

UF Apps (SPSS Statistics)

- [Privacy PolicyLinks to an external site.](#)
- [Accessibility PolicyLinks to an external site.](#)

GETTING HELP:

TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES: For help with technical issues or difficulties with Canvas, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk at:

- [http://helpdesk.ufl.eduLinks to an external site.](http://helpdesk.ufl.edu)
- 352-392-HELP (4357)
- Walk-in: HUB 132

HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

- **U Matter, We Care:** If you or someone you know is in distress, please email umatter@ufl.edu, call 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter We Care to refer or report a concern, and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

- **Counseling and Wellness Center:** Visit the UF Counseling & Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services and non-crisis services.

- **Student Health Care Center:** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the UF Student Health Care Center website.

- **University Police Department:** Visit the UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

- **UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care in Gainesville, call 352-733-0111, or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center website.