

SYO 4400 Medical Sociology

Summer A 2022

Professor: Harvey L. Nicholson Jr., PhD
Course Location: Canvas
Office: 3333 Turlington Hall
Office Hours: By appointment
Email: hnicholson@ufl.edu

Course Communication:

You can communicate with Professor Nicholson by posting general questions to the class discussion board and/or sending him an email. All inquiries concerning the course should be sent to hnicholson@ufl.edu, not Canvas. Emails must include SYO 4400 in the subject line. Please allow Professor Nicholson at least 24 hours during regular business hours (M-F, 9am-5pm) to respond to your email inquiries. If he does not respond within 24 hours, you may send him a follow-up message. Students are expected to use proper and respectful language when communicating with Professor Nicholson.

Course Description:

Medical sociology (also known as the sociology of health and illness) is a subdiscipline of sociology focused on the social causes and distribution of health and illness. We will explore numerous questions in this course. Why does your zip code matter more to your health than your genetic code? Why does the U.S. lead the way in health care spending yet fall behind many developing nations on indicators of population health such as infant mortality? Why do racial-ethnic minorities experience higher rates of sickness and disability? How does stress “get under the skin” to influence health? In this course, we will explore sociological viewpoints on each of these questions and more. Students will critically engage with high-quality peer-reviewed research on topics related to the social causes of health and illness.

Required Text:

There is no textbook for this class. Required readings will consist of a variety of articles and resources available on Canvas.

Instructional Methods:

This is an asynchronous online course. Students are expected to complete each module in the order they are listed and submit all assignments before posted due dates. See Canvas for additional information.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Following the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply medical sociology perspectives toward understanding health and illness across the U.S. population.
2. Apply medical sociology perspectives toward understanding the organization of health care systems and their impact on individual and population health.

3. Interpret and critically engage with medical sociology scholarship published in peer-reviewed journals.
4. Develop critical writing skills through a final course paper.

Course Policies:

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

As this is an online course, no class-room attendance is required. You will still need to allot the appropriate amount of time needed to complete the requirements of this course. Please contact the Registrar's Office for information on withdrawal dates and procedures if necessary.

MAKE-UP POLICY:

Any missed assignments, quizzes, or discussions due to illness (unless properly documented), travel, holidays, school functions, job interviews, or technical or computer problems will receive a score of 0 (zero). No other provisions will be provided for making up work.

GRADING POLICY:

Expect under rare and extreme circumstances, grades given for each assignment will not be changed for any reason once the assignment has received a mark.

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/>

COURSE TECHNOLOGY:

This course will require the use of a laptop or desktop computer with a high-speed internet connection. 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 (such as Cisco Anyconnect Client) that will enable you to establish a Virtual Private Network connection. For more information, see the UF Library's Connecting from Off-Campus website (<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ufproxy.html>).

UF POLICIES:

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS 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.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>.

NETIQUETTE:

COMMUNICATION COURTESY:

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. UF netiquette policies may be found at:

<http://teach.ufl.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

GETTING HELP:

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP -- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints

Library Help Desk support Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.

ASSIGNMENTS

Article Review (100 points):

You are required to read and write a review of 1 peer-reviewed journal article related to a topic covered in this course. This assignment is meant to develop your understanding and evaluation skills of peer-reviewed research articles published on topics relevant to medical sociology. Your review must be at least 3 pages (4-page maximum) double-spaced and adhere to other specified guidelines. Instructions on how to complete this assignment are provided on Canvas.

Multiple Choice Quizzes (70 points):

There will be a total of 7 (10 points each) multiple choice quizzes related to the lectures, videos, and reading materials covered in each module. The purpose of the multiple-choice quizzes is to evaluate your basic understanding of the concepts covered in the modules. These quizzes will be timed and must be completed in one sitting. You may not drop any quiz grades in this class.

Short Essay Quizzes (70 points):

There will be a total of 7 (10 points each) short essay quizzes related to the lectures, videos, and reading materials covered in each module. The purpose of the short essay quizzes is to determine the extent to which you can critically examine and engage with the concepts covered in the

modules. These quizzes will be timed and must be completed in one sitting. Instructions on how to properly complete these quizzes are provided on Canvas. You may not drop any short essay quiz grades in this class.

Discussions (50 points):

You are required to participate in 5 (10 points each) discussions on Canvas throughout this course. A prompt will be provided for each discussion. You must write a 300 (minimum) word response (5 points) to the prompt, then respond to at least one other classmate in 200 (minimum) words (5 points). You may not drop any discussion grades in this class.

Final Reflection (10 points):

You are required to write a 1-page (2-page maximum) double-spaced reflection on three specific takeaways you have gained from this course. You can choose to reflect on the course in many ways. What did you learn in this course that you did not know before? What, if any modules or aspects of the course changed your opinion about health and illness? How did this course change your approach to understanding health disparities? Although this assignment is not worth many points, it is still expected that students write a meaningful reflection to receive the fullest possible points. See Canvas for additional details about this assignment.

Total possible points: 300 points

A= 93-100%	C+ = 77-79%	D = 63-66%
A- = 90-92%	C= 73-76%	D- = 60-62%
B+ = 87-89%	C- 70-72%	E= Below 60%
B- = 80-82%	D+ = 67-69%	

Course Syllabus/Schedule Policy:

The course schedule, assignments, readings, and lectures can be found on Canvas. Disclaimer: This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.