



## SEMINAR IN THE SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH

Fayetteville State University  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Sociology  
SOC 608 ONLINE  
SPRING 2012

### I. Locator Information

**Instructor:** Dr. Nicole Lucas

**Course:** SOC 608: Seminar in the Sociology of Health

**Semester Credit Hours:** 3

**Day and Time Class Meets:** ONLINE ONLY

**Email Address:** nlucas2@uncfsu.edu

**Office Location:** Taylor Science 204C

**Online Office Hours:**

Tuesday: 10-11 & 12:30-1:30

Wednesday: 10-12

Thursday: 10-11 & 12:30-1:30

(And by appointment)

**Office Phone:** 910-672-2973

### Welcome to Seminar in the Sociology of Health!

This is an online course and it is extremely important that you read the syllabus, rubrics, and course assignments/documents carefully. It is also critical that you spend time studying the material in order to achieve the objectives of this course. You should spend an average of 20 hours a week completing course requirements. You should also log onto the blackboard course website at least once a day...preferable 2 times a day. It is your responsibility to make sure all of your assignments are accurately recorded on blackboard by clicking on the "My Grades" tab.

Taking an online course can be overwhelming, especially when you are not sure what to expect. It is critical that you email me as soon as you have any concerns about this course. You can email me during the week and I generally return emails within 24 hours. I also have online office hours and you are welcome contact me via phone.

**FSU Policy on Electronic Mail:** Fayetteville State University provides to each student, free of charge, an electronic mail account ([username@uncfsu.edu](mailto:username@uncfsu.edu)) that is easily accessible via the Internet. The university has established FSU email as the primary mode of correspondence between university officials and enrolled students. Inquiries and requests from students pertaining to academic records, grades, bills, financial aid, and other matters of a confidential nature must be submitted via FSU email. Inquiries or requests from personal email accounts are not assured a response. The university maintains open-use computer laboratories throughout the campus that can be used to access electronic mail. Rules and regulations governing the use of FSU email may be found at: <http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf>

## II. Course Description

A sociological analysis of health and the health care delivery system. The course is structured to help enhance understanding of the social and psychological dimensions of health and health care and the growing dominance of the medical profession. Contemporary issues and social policy implications will be examined as well.

### Disabled Student Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, **if you have a disability or think you have a disability please contact the Center for Personal Development** in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1<sup>st</sup> Floor); 910-672-1203. Also, please notify me as soon as possible 672-2973 (nlucas2@uncfsu.edu).

## III. Textbook

Cockerham, William E. 2010. *Medical Sociology*, 11th Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Required additional readings/articles will be posted on blackboard at least a week before you have to read them. The readings will be uploaded to the appropriate unit and week.

**FSU Blackboard Website:** <https://blackboard.uncfsu.edu/>

## IV. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Understand the importance of epidemiology as it pertains to disease patterns and outcomes.
2. Explain the social and cultural causes of illness
3. Examine the development of the hospital and health care mechanisms
4. Understand the vital role doctors play as it pertains to patient care
5. Explain the various ways in which health care is organized/funded in other countries

## V. Course Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

**You have until 11:55pm on due dates to post assignments and complete unit essay exams on Blackboard. After the due date/time, the link to upload assignments and complete exams will no longer be available. I suggest uploading assignments as early as possible to avoid last minute problems/complications.**

### A. Course Requirements

#### **Critical Analysis Papers**

Critical analysis assignments give you the opportunity to analyze and critique the readings in this course. The essays also help you to become more aware of how the information in the text connects to your own personal experiences and beliefs. *All essays should be 5 pages, doubled spaced, 12 point, and "Times New Roman" font.* **There is a rubric for this assignment.**

#### **Discussion Board Assignments**

You will be required to complete discussion board assignments in this course. I also would like you to respond to one other posting from another classmate on discussion board. This assignment will allow you to interact with your peers and exchange ideas pertaining to the subject matter in this course. You can access the discussion board assignments and post your assignments by clicking on the appropriate unit and week the postings are due. **There is a rubric for this assignment.**

#### **Unit Essay Exams:**

Essay exams will be given throughout the semester. The essay exams will give me insight on how to better prepare lectures. You can access and submit the exams by clicking on the **"Exams" tab** on the blackboard website. You will have three (3) days to complete the essay exams. **Late exams will not be accepted.**

#### **Capstone PowerPoint and Paper:**

A final paper and PowerPoint presentation is required for this course. I will post detailed information pertaining to these assignments on blackboard.

**An Important Note Pertaining to Plagiarism:**

For all written work, you will be expected to **cite** any work you reference for your assignments. If you are unsure about your written work and possible plagiarism issues, you must speak with me before turning in the assignment. I would be more than happy to help you cite information correctly. If I determine that you are plagiarizing material by copying someone else’s work (including information from the text and other written material) and attempting to pass it off as your own, without citing, then I will give you a **ZERO** on the assignment. I will also take formal action.

Review the information below to ensure that you understand what plagiarism is:

- [http://www.plagiarism.org/plag\\_article\\_what\\_is\\_citation.html](http://www.plagiarism.org/plag_article_what_is_citation.html)
- <http://library.camden.rutgers.edu/EducationalModule/Plagiarism/whatisplagiarism.html>
- <https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/certificate.phtml>
- <https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/test.html> (Test Link)

**B. Evaluation Criteria**

<i>Component</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Due Dates</i>
Critical Analysis Papers	80	1/31; 2/28; 4/11
Discussion Board	40	2/7; 3/20/4/20
Unit Essay Exams	60	2/8-10; 2/29-3/2; 3/28-30
Capstone paper topic proposal	15	1/20
Capstone PowerPoint	80	4/20
Capstone Paper	100	4/27

\*\*Instructions for the various assignments will be posted on blackboard. The instructions will help you understand how I will assess the various assignments.

**FSU Grading Scale:**

A = 92-100    B = 83-91    C = 73-82    D = 64-72    F = 63 and below

**Location of Grades:**

You can access your grades on blackboard by clicking on the “**my grades**” tab. You are ultimately responsible for making sure you receive credit for completed assignments.

## Make Up/Deadline Policy

1. Unless you are hospitalized on the due date (s) of an assignment, you will not be allowed to make-up discussion board assignments, unit essay exams, the capstone PowerPoint, and capstone paper.
2. “Critical Analysis Papers” will be deducted 15 points for every day they are late and you must submit late assignments to me via email for a “late paper” grade. In the subject line of the email, I would like you to type the following: “your name and the assignment that is being submitted.” It generally takes me longer to grade late assignments.

## VI. Academic Support Resources & Student Behavioral Expectations

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Inform Information Technology &amp; Telecommunications Services (ITTS):</b> <a href="http://www.uncfsu.edu/itts/HelpDesk/">http://www.uncfsu.edu/itts/HelpDesk/</a> (910) 672-2085</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Telephone, web-based chat and e-mail requests will be <b>available 24/7.</b></li> <li>➤ Call <b>910-672-2085</b> on campus</li> <li>➤ Call toll free <b>(855) 877-5811</b> from off-campus</li> <li>➤ <b>Chat:</b> <a href="https://chat.perceptis.com/c/uncfsu">https://chat.perceptis.com/c/uncfsu</a></li> <li>➤ <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:uncfsuhelpdesk@perceptis.com">uncfsuhelpdesk@perceptis.com</a></li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Writing Center:</b> (Located in the Learning Center) <a href="http://www.uncfsu.edu/learningcenter/writingcenter/index.htm">http://www.uncfsu.edu/learningcenter/writingcenter/index.htm</a> Helen T. Chick Building Room 001B <b>Hours:</b> M-TH 9am-7pm, F 9am-1pm (910) 672-1033</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Learning Center:</b> <a href="http://www.uncfsu.edu/learningcenter/">http://www.uncfsu.edu/learningcenter/</a> Helen T. Chick Building (910) 672-1038</p>
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## VII. Course Outline and Assignment Schedule

### Introduction to Seminar in the Sociology of Health

<b>WEEK 0: Syllabus and Class Business</b> (January 9 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> )
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**TASKS:**

- ✓ Review Syllabus CAREFULLY and make note of the important due dates
- ✓ Introduce yourself via discussion board by Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> (11:55pm)
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with the blackboard website...I will develop the website over the next couple of weeks

**WORK POSTED:**

- ✓ Capstone Paper Topic Proposal (1/11): In a paragraph, explain the health related topic you would like to explore for your capstone project. Also, explain why the topic interests you and what you hope to gain from the project.

**ASSIGNMENT(S) DUE:**

- ✓ Capstone Paper Topic Proposal DUE (1<sup>st</sup> draft) (1/13 by 11:55pm) via Discussion Board

<b>WEEK 1: Introduction</b> (January 16 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> )
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*Guiding Questions: What types of issues do medical sociologists focus on? What can you expect to learn in this course?*

**TASKS:**

- ✓ Read Chapter 1

**WORK POSTED:**

- ✓ Critical Analysis Paper #1 Posted (1/18)

**ASSIGNMENT (s) DUE**

- ✓ FINAL Capstone Paper Topic Proposal (1/20 by 11:55pm) via Blackboard

## **\*UNIT 1: Sociological Determinants of Health and Illness\***

### **WEEK 2: EPIDEMIOLOGY (January 23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>)**

*Guiding Questions: What is epidemiology? And how is epidemiology helpful in understanding diseases? What is the difference between prevalence and incidence?*

#### **TASKS:**

- ✓ Read Chapter 2

#### **WORK POSTED**

- ✓ Discussion Board #1 Posted (1/25)

### **WEEK 3: Social Determinants of Health and Illness: Social Class (January 30<sup>th</sup> – February 3<sup>rd</sup>)**

*Guiding Questions: **Social Class:** Why do people from lower socioeconomic groups suffer from more illnesses/ diseases than those from higher socioeconomic statuses?*

#### **TASKS:**

- ✓ Read Chapter 3
- ✓ Start preparing for the Unit Essay Exam

#### **ASSIGNMENT (s) DUE**

- ✓ Critical Analysis Paper #1 DUE (1/31 by 11:55pm) via Blackboard

### **WEEK 4: Social Determinants of Health and Illness: Gender, Age, and Race (February 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>)**

*Guiding Questions: **Gender:** Why are there gender differences in health outcomes? **Age:** How does age affect health outcomes? **Race:** What are the racial disparities pertaining to health outcomes? And why do these disparities exist?*

#### **TASKS**

- ✓ Read Chapter 4
- ✓ Prepare to take the Unit Essay Exam

#### **WORK POSTED**

- ✓ Unit Essay Exam #1 (2/8-2/10)

#### **ASSIGNMENT (s) DUE**

- ✓ Discussion Board #1 DUE (2/7 by 11:55pm) via discussion board
- ✓ Unit Essay Exam #1 (2/10 by 11:55pm) via blackboard

**\*\*\*\*\*UNIT 2: Cultural Determinants of Health \*\*\*\*\***

**WEEK 5: Healthy Behavior and the Effect on Health Outcomes  
(February 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>)**

*Guiding Questions: What is the definition of “health lifestyles”? What are some barriers to establishing a healthy life style? What is meant by “preventative care”? What are some barriers to receiving “preventative care”?*

**TASK**

- ✓ Read Chapter 6

**WORK POSTED**

- ✓ Critical Analysis Paper #2 POSTED (2/15)

**WEEK 6: Social Stress and Health  
(February 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>)**

*Guiding Questions: What is stress? What is the association between stress and health outcomes? What are some social factors that cause stress? What is the difference between “life event” and “chronic” stressors?*

**TASK**

- ✓ Read Chapter 5
- ✓ Prepare to take the Unit Essay Exam

**WEEK 7: Illness Behavior and the Sick Role (February 27<sup>th</sup>- March 2<sup>nd</sup> )**

*Guiding Questions: How would you describe “illness behavior”? How are sociodemographic variables associated with “illness” behavior?*

**TASK**

- ✓ Read Chapters 7 and 8

**WORK POSTED**

- ✓ Unit Essay Exam #2 (2/29-3/2)

**ASSIGNMENT (s) DUE**

- ✓ Critical Analysis Paper #2 DUE (2/28 by 11:55pm) via blackboard
- ✓ Unit Essay Exam DUE (3/2 by 11:55pm) via blackboard

**MIDTERM BREAK 3/3 - 3/9**

## UNIT 3: The Development of the Hospital and Health Care Mechanisms

### WEEK 8: The Hospital as a Social Institution (March 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>)

*Guiding Questions: What were some major milestones in the development of the hospital? How does health care policy affect the healthcare arena? Why should you care about policy issues in health care?*

#### **TASK**

- ✓ Read Chapter 14

#### **WORK POSTED**

- ✓ Discussion Board #2 POSTED (3/13)

### WEEK 9: The Role of Doctors (March 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>)

*Guiding Questions: How do physicians gain their authority within the medical field? What is the role of the American Medical Association? What are some of the main issues pertaining to doctor-patient interactions? How can you improve the quality of interactions with your doctor(s)?*

#### **TASK**

- ✓ Read Chapters 11 and 9
- ✓ Prepare to take the Unit Essay Exam

#### **ASSIGNMENT (s) DUE**

- ✓ Discussion Board #2 DUE (3/20 by 11:55pm) via discussion board

### WEEK 10: Healing Options (March 26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> )

*Guiding Questions: What are the various non-traditional options for health care? And why are alternative health care options sought by some?*

#### **TASK**

- ✓ Read Chapter 10

#### **WORK POSTED**

- ✓ Unit Essay Exam POSTED (3/28-3/30)
- ✓ Critical Analysis Paper #3 POSTED (3/28)

#### **ASSIGNMENT (s) DUE**

- ✓ Unit Essay Exam DUE (3/30 by 11:55pm) via blackboard

## UNIT 4: Managed Care and Socialized Medicine

### WEEK 11: Managed Care (April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>)

*Guiding Questions: What are some barriers to the equal distribution of health care? How does policy effect the delivery of health care?*

#### TASK

- ✓ Read Chapter 15
- ✓ Begin finalizing your Capstone PowerPoint Presentation and Paper

### Week 12: Global Health Care (April 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>)

*Guiding Questions: What are the different ways in which health care is implemented/funded in different countries? What are some pros and cons to the different health care models?*

#### TASK

- ✓ Read Chapter 16

#### WORK POSTED

- ✓ Discussion Board #3 POSTED (3/13)...Reaction to posted PowerPoint Presentations for week 13

#### ASSIGNMENT (s) DUE

- ✓ Critical Analysis Paper #3 DUE (4/11 by 11:55pm) via blackboard

**\*\*\*\*FINAL TWO WEEKS OF THE CLASS\*\*\*\***

### WEEK 13: Capstone PowerPoint Project (April 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>)

#### TASKS:

- ✓ Work on the Capstone PowerPoint Presentation

#### ASSIGNMENT (s) DUE

- ✓ PowerPoint Presentation DUE (4/20 by 11:55pm) via discussion board
- ✓ Discussion Board # 3 DUE (4/20 by 11:55pm) via discussion board

### WEEK 14: Capstone Paper (April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>)

#### TASKS:

- ✓ Work on your final Capstone Paper

#### ASSIGNMENT (s) DUE

- ✓ Capstone Paper DUE (4/27 by 11:55pm) via blackboard

## **VIII. Teaching Strategies**

This course will involve- PowerPoint slides, exams, essays, discussion board assignments and a capstone paper and PowerPoint.

## **IX. Bibliography**

George, Linda and Scott Lynch (2003) "Race differences in depressive symptoms: A Dynamic perspective on stress and vulnerability." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 44:353-69.

Gold, Marsha (1999) "The Changing US Health Care System: Challenges for Responsible Public Policy." *Milbank Quarterly* 77:3-37.

Goseling, Brian (2007) "The Rising Significance of Education for Health?" *Social Forces* 85:1621-44.

Kirby, James B, and Toshiko Kaneda (2006) "Access to Health Care: Does Neighborhood Residential Instability Matter?" *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 47: 142-55.