

ONLINE

SOCIOLOGY OF MEDICAL CARE

SOCI 0318.001
FALL, 2014
Prof. Kim Barton
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Course Description

This course examines the major sociological perspectives on health and illness, and the structures of health care delivery in the United States. It focuses on the social history of the key institutions and actors in the U.S. health care system and pays particular attention to recent changes including the expansion of corporate medicine and managed care. We focus on key themes in the socialization of physicians, the social sources and distribution of illness, the social meanings and experiences of illness, and the medicalization of society. We also examine current debates on medicalization and social control, and risk management and prevention. Upon completion of this course, students should acquire a general understanding of the relationship between sociology and medicine. In addition, students will learn about the distribution of disease and illness in society, especially as it relates to race, gender, and income. Finally, students will gain an understanding of the U.S. health care system and its need for reform.

SOME OF THE QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED INCLUDE

- DOES SOCIAL INEQUALITY CAUSE DISEASE?
- WHY ARE MORE WOMEN DIAGNOSED MENTALLY ILL?
- HAS MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY INCREASED LIFESPAN?
- WHO DOES ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION THREATEN?
- WHY DOESN'T THE US HAVE UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE?

Textbook:

- Rose Weitz, [The Sociology of Health, Illness & Health Care: A Critical Approach, Sixth Edition, Cengage, 2011](#)

Grading

- Discussion Board/WIKI Based Participation 35%
- 3 quizzes @ 5% 15%
- Midterm T/F and Multiple Choice 10%
- 3 reflection papers @ 10% 30%
- Final Examination 10%