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**Sociology of Health and Illness**  
**Sociology 491.50 (74153)**  
**University of Montana**  
**Fall 2016**

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**INSTRUCTOR:** Rayna Sage, PhD  
Social Science 315  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 9-10:30am; Wednesdays, 3-4:30pm and by appointment  
[rayna.sage@umontana.edu](mailto:rayna.sage@umontana.edu)

**REQUIRED TEXT:** Weiss and Lonquist- *The Sociology of Health, Healing, and Illness* 8<sup>th</sup> Edition  
ISBN-13: 978-0-13-380387-7

Purchase viewing rights for video- "Unnatural Causes" on Vimeo, 1.99 for 1 week (when assigned) OR come to viewing in Social Sciences Building (TBA)

**ADDITIONAL READINGS:** Additional reading and viewing materials will be provided on Moodle.

**DESCRIPTION:** This course explores a variety of topics related to health and illness from a sociological perspective. While much of the current understanding of and practice in health considers individual-level determinants of health (e.g. whether one smokes or not), this course challenges students to look beyond the personal and critically consider how social structures and institutions influence individual and collective health.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- 1 Deepen understanding of social and structural influences on health
- 2 Define a health issue of interest and critically assess course material related to the topic
- 3 Acquire skills in organizing and synthesizing information
- 4 Learn to write and respond to thesis statements

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** The instructor is responsible for:

- Treating students with respect and professionalism
- Presenting material in a clear, concise manner
- Responding to email promptly
- Being available for consultation during office hours
- Providing students with constructive feedback
- Returning graded exams and assignments in a timely manner

The students are responsible for:

- Treating instructors and other students with respect and professionalism
- Presenting material in a clear, concise manner
- Responding to email promptly
- Communicating with the instructors if he/she has any problems/concerns
- Providing instructors with constructive feedback
- Completing all exams and assignments on time
- Being aware of all course policies

## HOW DO I EARN MY GRADE?

### WEEKLY THESIS SENTENCES AND DISCUSSIONS (30% of your overall grade)

Your initial "discussion post", due by 8pm each Wednesday, will be a single thesis sentence (a one-sentence statement or argument based on the course materials) in response to the weekly prompt. You will then have until Saturday night at 8pm to make a thoughtful response to 2 classmates' thesis sentences, elaborating on their initial statement.

### JOURNALING AND RECOMMENDATION MEMO (40% of your overall grade)

For this assignment, you will first define and select a social problem of interest related to health. Then as you research on the problem and related topics you will journal (from a first person perspective) 300-500 words every other week about the process and your progress. Your final product will be a Recommendation Memo written in response to a request from a professional group related to your topic (presented to you in week 12).

Additional information on Journaling and Thesis-Seeking: After you complete the Idea Map and Tree Diagram, you will need to begin finding resources and information on your particular social health problem. Your journals should be first-person reflective narratives of your thinking processes as you investigate your problem by researching the professional literature, talk with classmates, friends, and family, and draw on your own experiences, memories, and observations. Each journal will build on the previous journal and document the chronological path you are taking to come to your supported conclusions and recommendations.

### EXAMS (30% of your overall grade)

This course consists of four parts. There will be four essay exams for the semester. They are not cumulative and I will drop the lowest grade.

### EVALUATION

Points will be earned as follows:

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS	% OF TOTAL GRADE
Discussion Thesis Sentences (14 opportunities, 10 count)	100 (10 @ 10pts/thesis)	10%
Discussion responses (2 per discussion week – 14 opportunities, 10 count)	200 (20 @ 10pts/response)	20%
Idea map and tree diagram	100	10%
Journal entries	200 (4 @ 50pts/entry)	20%
Recommendation Memo	100	10%
Exams (4 opportunities, drop lowest grade)	300 (3 @ 100pts/exam)	30%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>100%</b>

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

LETTER GRADE	PERCENT
A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	70-76%
D	60-69%
F	59% and below

Note: Moodle does not always calculate grades correctly until all assignments are in at the end of the semester. To keep track of your grade, calculate your grade percentage (divide the total current points by the total points possible at any one point in the semester).

## CLASS SCHEDULE\*

Date	Topic/Assignment	Assigned Reading
Week 1 8/29-9/2	Introduction to Course and Each Other <b>Introduction Post due 8/31 by 8pm</b> <b>2 Discussion Responses due 9/3 by 8pm</b>	Weiss & Lonnquist; Chapter 1 American Sociological Association (ASA) homepage: <a href="http://www.asanet.org">http://www.asanet.org</a> Sociosite: Sociology of Health: <a href="http://sociosite.net/topics/health.php">http://sociosite.net/topics/health.php</a>
Week 2 9/5-9/9	The Development of Scientific Medicine <b>Thesis Sentence 1 due 9/7 by 8pm</b> <b>2 Discussion Responses due 9/10 by 8pm</b> <b>Idea Map and Tree Diagram due 9/10 by 8pm</b>	Weiss & Lonnquist; Chapter 2 Flexner Report 100 Years Later
Week 3 9/12-9/16	Social Epidemiology <b>Thesis Sentence 2 due 9/14 by 8pm</b> <b>2 Discussion Responses due 9/17 by 8pm</b>	Weiss & Lonnquist; Chapter 3 De Maio- Understanding Global Health
Week 4 9/19-9/23	Society, Disease, and Illness <b>Thesis Sentence 3 due 9/21 by 8pm</b> <b>2 Discussion Responses due 9/24 by 8pm</b> <b>Journal 1 due 9/24 by 8pm</b>	Weiss & Lonnquist; Chapter 4 American Indian Health Disparities Video: Unnatural Causes Video: A Gardener's Tale – Camara Jones
Week 5 9/26-9/30	Social Stress <b>Exam 1 due 9/26 by 8pm</b> <b>Thesis Sentence 4 due 9/28 by 8pm</b> <b>2 Discussion Responses due 10/1 by 8pm</b>	Weiss & Lonnquist; Chapter 5 Thoits- Stress, Coping, and Social Support Processes: Where are We? What Next? Video: Stress: Portrait of a Killer Video: Kelly McGonigal: How to Make Stress Your Friend
Week 6 10/3-10/7	Health Behavior <b>Thesis Sentence 5 due 10/5 by 8pm</b> <b>2 Discussion Responses due 10/8 by 8pm</b> <b>Journal 2 due 10/8 by 8pm</b>	Weiss & Lonnquist; Chapter 6
Week 7 10/10-10/14	Experiencing Illness and Disability <b>Thesis Sentence 6 due 10/12 by 8pm</b> <b>2 Discussion Responses due 10/15 by 8pm</b>	Weiss & Lonnquist; Chapter 7 Radley- The Aesthetics of Illness: Narrative, Horror, and the Sublime Conrad- Medicalization and Social Control
Week 8 10/17-10/21	Education, Socialization, and Physician-Patient Relationships <b>Exam 2 due 10/17 by 8pm</b> <b>Thesis Sentence 7 due 10/19 by 8pm</b> <b>2 Discussion Responses due 10/22 by 8pm</b> <b>Journal 3 due 10/22 by 8pm</b>	Weiss & Lonnquist; Chapter 9 Wald- Professional Identification Formation
Week 9 10/24-10/28	Physician-Patient Interactions <b>Thesis Sentence 8 due 10/26 by 8pm</b> <b>2 Discussion Responses due 10/29 by 8pm</b>	Weiss & Lonnquist; Chapter 12 Hardley- Doctor in the House: Internet as a Source of Lay Health Knowledge and the Challenge to Expertise
Week 10 10/31-11/4	Ethical Considerations <b>Thesis Sentence 9 due 11/2 by 8pm</b> <b>2 Discussion Responses due 11/5 by 8pm</b> <b>Journal 4 due 11/5 by 8pm</b>	Weiss & Lonnquist; Chapter 13
Week 11 11/7-11/11	Health Care Providers <b>Thesis Sentence 10 due 11/9 by 8pm</b> <b>2 Discussion Responses due 11/12 by 8pm</b>	Weiss and Lonnquist; Chapter 10 Porter- Women in a Woman's Job Campbell-Heider and Pollock- Barriers to Physician-Nurse Collegiality

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic/Assignment</b>	<b>Assigned Reading</b>
Week 12 11/14- 11/18	Health Care System in the United States <b>Exam 3 due 11/14 by 8pm</b> <b>Thesis Sentence 11 due 11/16 by 8pm</b> <b>2 Discussion Responses due 11/19 by 8pm</b> <b>Recommendation Memo scenario distributed</b>	Weiss and Lonnquist; Chapter 14 Video- "Sick Around America" Secombe and Amey- Playing by the Rules and Losing
Week 13 11/21- 11/25	Health Care Technology <b>No Discussion or Journal this week</b>	Weiss and Lonnquist; Chapter 16
Week 14 11/28- 12/2	Comparative Health Care Systems <b>Thesis Sentence 12 due 11/30 by 8pm</b> <b>2 Discussion Responses due 12/3by 8pm</b>	Weiss and Lonnquist; Chapter 17
Week 15 12/5-12/9	Alternative Medicines <b>Thesis Sentence 13 due 12/7 by 8pm</b> <b>2 Discussion Responses due 12/10 by 8pm</b> <b>Recommendation Memo due 12/10 by 8pm</b>	Weiss and Lonnquist; Chapter 11
Finals Week 12/12- 12/17	<b>Exam 4 due 12/12 by 8pm</b>	

\*The schedule and procedures outlined in this syllabus are subject to change in the event of circumstances beyond the instructor's control or in response to ongoing assessment learning. Students are responsible for noting these changes.

## CLASS, DEPARTMENT & UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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### EXAMS

There will be no make-up exams and exams must be submitted on the day/time they are due. If you miss an exam, remember that your lowest exam score is dropped from your total.

### LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments turned in after the due date will not receive credit.

### CONCERNS WITH GRADING

When it is a matter of simple math errors or mismarking a correct answer, write a brief email outlining the problem and turn it. If you have a problem with the content of an exam or the validity of the grading procedure, please wait 48 hours and submit an email outlining your grievance to the instructor and TA.

### EMAIL ETIQUETTE

All emails to the instructor need to have the subject line that identifies your class number and section, and your name. This is VERY important so that I can address your concerns in a timely manner. Please include appropriate salutations, as well as a description of why you are emailing. I have almost 200 students in 4 different classes, so this information is very important!

### ACADEMIC HONESTY

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The [Code is](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php) available for review online ([http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student\\_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php)).

### ACCESSIBILITY

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability that is adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommason Center 154 or (406) 243-2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.