SOC 531 Syllabus: Sociology of Medicine
Time and Location: Sterling 1339
Spring 2010, Tuesday, 1:20-3:30

Instructor:
Pamela Herd, Assistant Professor of Public Affairs and Sociology
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Office: 3454 Social Science
Office Hours: Thursday 9-12 and by appointment

Course Description:

Course Requirements:

- Three 4 page papers.
  - These are distributed throughout the semester. The assignment is listed on the day it is due. The due dates are 2/23, 3/23, and 4/27.
  - Portion of Grade: 20% for each.
- Final Exam
  - The final paper will also be a 15 page (double spaced) paper. This will be an open book take home exam.
  - Portion of Grade: 30%
- Participation in Class
  - Portion of Grade: 10%
  - Class participation is critical. Missing more than 2 days of class will lead to a 0 for this portion of your grade. Your participation will be judged both on quantity and quality.

Grading Policies

- 94-100  A
- 88-93    AB
- 84-87    B
- 78-83    BC
- 74-77    C
- 69-73    CD
- 64-68    D
- 59-63    DF
- <59       F

Academic Honesty
Students are expected to be familiar with University of Wisconsin rules surrounding academic honesty.
http://www.wisc.edu/pubs/home/archives/gopher/special93/00000136.html
Introduction and Course Overview

The Social Construction of Health


Medicalization and the Experience of Being a Patient


Do we have a right to health care/good health? What role for the state? Why don’t we have universal health insurance?

- Quadagno, Jill. 2005. Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 from *One Nation Uninsured*.

ASSIGNMENT DUE: HOW IS HEALTH SOCIALLY CONSTRUCTED?

How does U.S. health and health care stack up to other countries? How does capitalism affect health and health care?

- Woolhandler, Steffie and David Himmelstein, “Paying For National Health Insurance – And Not Getting It” *Health Affairs*, July 2002
2/23—Sicko

3/2
Social Factors and Health: What Role for Medical Care?


3/9
ASSIGNMENT DUE: SHOULD THE US HAVE UNIVERSAL HEALTH INSURANCE? WILL IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE REDUCE SOCIOECONOMIC DISPARITIES IN HEALTH?

Behavioral issues and health

- Peter Jennings Tape
- NY Times Series on Diabetes

3/16
Social Factors: Education

Mirowsky and Ross


3/23
Social Factors: Income and Income Inequality
• Kawachi and Kennedy 1999.
• Marmot 2002

3/30
Spring Break

4/6
**Social Factors: Social Supports & Stress**
• House 1998
• Meyer 1995
•Thoits 1995
• WilliamsUmberson2004

This American life piece about gay man taking care of his mother. (First year of this American life).

4/13
**Social Factors: Race and Health/Medical Care**
• Institute of Medicine Summary Report (IOM_1).
• This American Life Segment----Indian Reservation

4/20
**ASSIGNMENT DUE: HOW DOES RACE AFFECT HEALTH?**
**Social Factors: Gender**
• Bird 1999
• Glazer, Nona. 1990. The Home as Workshop: Women as Amateur Nurses and Medical Care Providers. *Gender & Society*
Social Factors: Neighborhoods and health


Optional