

 **Sample Course Syllabus****Sociology 350: Health, Illness and Society**
(4 credits)

Tony Vogt, Ph.D.

E-mail: use Blackboard's e-mail function under the "Communications" tab or contact me at vogtbl@onid.orst.edu with "SOC 350" in the subject line.

Sociology Department/ Oregon State University/ Corvallis, OR 97331

This course is an investigation into the social, cultural, and political dimensions of health and illness. Topics include an exploration of concepts and theoretical frameworks that contribute to sociological understandings of health and illness; medical dilemmas and debates; the self and illness; the social organization and political economy of health care systems; practitioner socialization; stratification and power in health care delivery organizations; health care and social change; the social production and distribution of health and illness; the development of the biomedical model; and alternatives to dominant constructions of health, illness, disease, and healing. *Course prerequisite: one introductory course in sociology or a related social science (check with professor if you are unsure about your preparation for this course).*

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- a) describe how the social organization of society significantly influences the type and distribution of illness
- b) contrast and evaluate differing systems of health care delivery
- c) analyze practitioner roles, and hospitals as social institutions
- d) describe the dilemmas faced by the chronically ill and people with disabilities
- e) discuss alternative existing models of health care
- f) develop an analysis of the health care crisis
- g) imagine and articulate feasible alternatives to or improvements upon the current U. S. system of health care

Required Texts:

Freund, Peter E.S. and Meredith B. McGuire Health, Illness, and the Social Body: A Critical Sociology Fourth Edition (Prentice Hall, 2003)

Brown, Phil Perspectives in Medical Sociology Fourth Edition (Waveland Press, 2008)

Course Requirements and Grading:

Midterm Exam -- 25% of final course grade

Final Exam -- 25% of final course grade

Short Course paper -- 25% of final course grade

Participation in discussion board forum – 25% of final course grade

Students with 90% and higher will earn A's; 80% and higher will earn B's; 70% and higher will earn C's; 60% and higher will earn D's; scores below 60% will receive F's.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- 1) **How often will you be on-line? Will you be keeping on-line office hours?** I will be on-line at least once a day to check for messages and any other course developments, and will meet any student on-line by request – contact me and we'll set up a time (this course site allows two or more people to chat on-line in “real time”). I will respond to your e-mail within 48 hours, and usually within 24 hours (excluding weekends).
- 2) **How do I contact you?** After you enroll, there is an easy way to e-mail me via this course site on Blackboard (click the Communications button to begin), or contact me at vogtbl@onid.orst.edu with “SOC 350” in the subject line.
- 3) **Will there be any lectures?** Each week, I will post comments and questions based on the readings. These informal lectures are required reading. You can access them in the “Course Documents” section of the site, which is divided by week.
- 4) **How often should I check the course site on Blackboard?** You should check at least three times a week (beginning, middle, and end of the week) for announcements, discussion board or class document postings, and any other developments. It's important to check under the current week in the “Course Documents” section early in the week to see if there required videos to watch (on-line) for that week. I also expect you to read all postings each week on the discussion board – these are essentially classroom discussions for this course, and need your attention just as if we were meeting face to face each week.
- 5) **Are there specific times when I will be expected to post discussion board items?** I will expect you to post a thoughtful reflection on the readings each week no later than Sunday evening before midnight (see “Discussion Board Participation” above), and also to respond thoughtfully to at least one classmate's posting every week. Postings after Sunday at midnight will not receive full credit for the previous week.
- 6) **Will I need to access videos on-line for this course? How do I do that?** Yes, there are a few assigned videos important to this class. There will be a link to each one on Blackboard (by week, in the “Course Documents section, where the reading assignments are also listed by week), and you can access them as streaming video. There are players you can download for free that will allow you

- access – there will be more notes on Blackboard at the course site about this when you enroll.
- 7) **How will the two exams for the course be given?** They will be given on-line. Though I will be changing the format for the exams somewhat each term, you can probably expect a mixture of short essay, true or false, and fill in the blank questions. It will not be an open book exam, and if I use the format I now intend, you will have an hour and fifty minutes to complete the exam once you open it, after which the exam will automatically close. I will post study guides for each exam.
 - 8) **How long is the course paper supposed to be?** A minimum of six pages, double-space, with no larger than a conventional 12-point font such as Times. It will be due on a date near the end of the term (check course schedule below). A description of the assignment will be posted at around mid-term.
 - 9) **Where can I go for technical help?** Here is a very useful site:
<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/technical-help.htm>

Students with Disabilities

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and [Disability and Access Services \(DAS\)](#). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

Plagiarism

You are expected to submit your own work in all your assignments, postings to the discussion board, and other communications, and to clearly give credit to the work of others when you use it. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “F.” Link to Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct:
<http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon.htm>.

Course evaluation

We encourage you to engage in the course evaluation process each term – online, of course. The evaluation form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions by Ecampus. You will login to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.