

Prepared by the Department of Social, Behavioral Sciences & Human Services

Date of Departmental Approval: October 3, 2011

Date Approved by Curriculum and Programs: February 15, 2012

Effective: Fall 2012

1. **Course Number:** SOC220
Course Title: Sociology of Health and Health Care
2. **Description:** This course examines the socio-cultural, aspects of health, illness and health care. Topics include development of scientific medicine, social epidemiology; definition of health and illness; social and cultural dimensions of disease and the illness experience; ethical issues in health care and health care reform. Effects of social stratification on access to health care, health professionals; the politics and economics of health care for selected diseases, such as breast cancer and HIV, are explored.
3. **Student Learning Outcomes (instructional objectives, intellectual skills):** Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following:
 - Comprehend the socio-cultural contexts of illness and health/medical care and the development of medicine.
 - Critically examine the role of social epidemiology in the understanding of vital demographic variables (fertility, morbidity and mortality).
 - Describe the social and psychological aspects of disease etiology and illness treatment
 - Describe the patient's perspective on the experience of illness and how patients respond to the care of physicians.
 - Explain the social-historical development of the health care / medical system in the United States, including the changing role of physicians and other health care providers.
 - Discuss the historical role of gender, race and social class in the health/medical system in relation to patients, practitioners, and health care providers.
 - Comprehend the current ethical issues and debates about new medical technologies and their impact on doctor-patient relationships and on access to health care.
 - Investigate current problems in the organization of U.S. health and medical care and postulate plausible alternatives for change.
 - Analyze the historical patterns of politics and cost of health care in the United States of America.
4. **Credits:** 3 credits
5. **Satisfies a General Education Requirement:** No
6. **Prerequisite:** SOC 106 or PSY 101 or BIO 101 or BIO105
7. **Semester:** Varies
8. **Suggested General Guideline for Evaluation:** Students will be evaluated on the basis of their performance on three (3) examinations that will include both objective and essay questions and on a research project. Attendance and participation in the class; individual readings on health and sociological articles as well as group presentations; review of short research papers and national health papers will also be part of the evaluation.
9. **General Topical Outline:**
 - Introduction to Sociology of Health and Medicine
 - Theoretical Perspectives on Illness and Health Care
 - Development of Medical Sociology and Social Medicine
 - Social Epidemiology
 - The Sick Role and Health Care
 - Stratification and Health Care
 - Physicians and the Profession of Health and Medicine
 - Health Care and Bureaucracy
 - Social Problems and Health Care
 - Chronic Illness and Physical Disability
 - The Health Care and Health Care System of the Contemporary United States