

# **SOCI 3365.01: SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH & ILLNESS**

**Fall 2017**  
**3 Credit Hours**

**Class Meeting Times:** M/W: 2:00pm– 3:20pm

**Location of Class Meeting:** CHSS 206

**Professor:** Dr. Jin Young Choi

**Office Hours:** M/W 12:30pm to 2:00pm or by appointment

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The best way to reach me is via email. I will try to respond you within 24 hours after I receive your email except weekend and holidays. In the subject line in your email, please indicate your name and the course.

**Required Text:** Rose Weitz. 2017. The Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care: A Critical Approach, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition: Cengage Learning. USA

## **Course Description**

This course is designed to explore social aspects of health, illness, and the health care system. Students will be exposed to key concepts and fundamental theories within the sociology of health and illness. The course focuses on the social determinants of health and illness, health care, and health/illness experiences. Meanings of health and illness, medicalization, inequalities in health and health care among social groups, and contemporary health care issues will be discussed with special attention to the roles of social, cultural, and institutional factors.

This course includes service-learning components. Students' voluntary participation in community organizations (**Engagement of Community Health Organizations: ECHO**) will form the basis for observations on health and health care issues among different segments of the population in our society (e.g., gender, age, racial/ethnic, cultural, and/or social class groups). In this course, students will not only learn knowledge and concepts, but also experience those concepts through civic engagement and community-based leadership practice. It will help students better understand the social aspects of health, develop leadership and capabilities to enact changes in our society, see themselves as a positive force in this world, and deepen their understanding of their role as a citizen. Prerequisite: SOCI 1301 or instructor permission.

## **Course Objectives**

Upon completion of the course, students will:

1. have fundamental knowledge of the concepts and theories in sociology of health and illness.
2. understand social determinants of health and inequalities in health and health care among different segments of the society.
3. improve their academic learning, sense of civic/social responsibilities, and practical skills through community participation.

## **Course Requirements**

The final grade for the course is based on requirements in three major areas: Exam, ECHO activities, and a research project.

### **A. Exam (300pts)**

There will be three exams. Each exam is worth of 100 points. The exam will cover the course materials (assigned chapters of the textbook, lectures, and other relevant readings and presentations). The **Make-up exam will only be given if arranged with the professor prior to the day of the scheduled exam to be**

**missed and only if the instructor considers the reason for the absence valid.** To make up an exam, students are required to contact the professor as soon as possible. Students who fail to contact the professor in a timely manner will receive **a zero for the exam.** Also, **documentation for absences must be provided to allow students to take make-up exams.** The make-up exams will be different (e.g., essay questions) from the regular scheduled exams. There will be no cell phones or headphones allowed during the exam. **There is no grade curve in this class.**

#### **B. Engagement of Community Health Organizations (ECHO) Activities (180pts total)**

As a part of this course requirement, students will volunteer **at least 10 hours in a non-profit organization that provides health and health-related services.** Student should explore and choose one non-profit organization in their neighborhood or community, subject to the professor's approval. **Conflict of interest and a paid job are not allowed.**

Full points for ECHO activities are earned upon by completing all the requirements in a timely manner. Requirements are composed of four major components and several activities in each component. **All the requirements must be submitted to the indicated section in Blackboard by the indicated due date (Please see the course schedule).** **Submissions of ECHO requirements via email will not be graded.** **No late submission are accepted.** The detailed instructions and templates for activities will be provided by the professor. Please pay attention to the due date for each requirement in the course schedule.

Since each ECHO activity is fundamental for the next one, failing to complete one activity on time makes it quite difficult to keep up; thus "falling behind" is to be avoided by all means.

##### **1. ECHO Plan (30pts)**

It is a preparation stage to start your ECHO project. You must complete and submit your ECHO Plan by the indicated due date. To complete ECHO Plan, students should select at least one organization that meets the eligibility criteria for ECHO organization. Students are highly encouraged to consult with the professor regarding the eligibility of their organization before the due date. **Then students should contact an organization supervisor to complete ECHO and submit the Memorandum with ECHO Plan.**

##### **2. Completion of ECHO (10 hours) and submission of Timesheet (50pts)**

Students must complete **at least 10 hours** of volunteer work in their ECHO organization and submit their timesheet by the indicated due date. Work hours must be documented using the provided Timesheet template, which requires the number of work hours with date, activities, and signatures of both the student and an organizational representative (or supervisor). Students must **scan the timesheet** that shows completion of **required hours (10 hours)** and submit it by the due date. **Please remember that the professor's approval is required before students begin their volunteer work.**

##### **3. Reflection Essay (30pts)**

Reflection essay is an important element to facilitate students' insight and improve their learning outcomes. Student must address all the items in the instruction and submit it by the indicated due date.

##### **4. ECHO Portfolio (70pts)**

Students must generate an ECHO portfolio based on their ECHO activity completed during the semester, and present it to the class on the indicated due date. ECHO portfolio should include each student's ECHO activities (ECHO plan, ECHO service contract, Timesheet, organization brochures, journals and reflection essays), relevant academic work, media coverage of similar issues, services, and policies related to the organization provides, and plan for action research or other future projects. Students can choose a format: PowerPoint or multimedia. The detailed instructions will be provided during the course.

### **C. Class Participation (20 pts)**

Students are expected to actively engage in class discussions and activities during the class. Class participation is worth a total of 20 points of the final grade. Students who miss those opportunities due to their absence will not be given another opportunity to earn the points.

#### **Extra credit**

Students will have a few opportunities to earn extra credit points during the semester. Those opportunities will be announced in class. **Late submissions will NOT be accepted.** Furthermore, some extra credit opportunities will be provided as a part of class activities during the class. Extra credit opportunities will be discussed more as the semester progresses. Earning extra credits is recommended.

#### **Grading**

The final grade for the course will be based on the course requirements presented above. **A total of 500 possible points** will be available. Final grades will be assigned as follows:

500 - 450 = A  
449 - 400 = B  
399 - 350 = C  
349 - 300 = D  
299 - 0 = F

**Attendance Policy:** SHSU policy is that attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend all classes and participate fully in class activities. Attending class means you are actively alert and you are in class for the duration of the entire class period. Tardiness will be not accepted. Students who are not present 10 minutes after the start of class will be counted absent. Students who attend all classes will receive **5 extra points** towards their total accumulated points. Students are expected to show an appropriate cause for both absences and tardiness and are also expected to initiate action to satisfy all missed class work. Documentation is required for an absence to be excused. Students are responsible for obtaining class materials for the classes that they miss (i.e. lecture, announcements, class/group discussions, and films shown during the class). Failure to do so will affect students' grades.

**Academic Dishonesty:** All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive an F for that assignment with more severe sanctions as appropriate. <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/728eec25-f780-4dcf-932c-03d68cade002.pdf>

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities must register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center and then arrange a conference with the instructor in order that accommodations can be made to assure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/9edd8433-cad5-40d1-b4bf-6a91b08f90e4.pdf>.

SSD Office Location: Lee Drain Annex (next to the Farrington Building); Ph. 936-294-3512; TDD: 936-294-3786; E-mail: [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu); Web Address: [www.shsu.edu/disability](http://www.shsu.edu/disability)

**Religious Holidays:** The Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a

religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. Religious Holy Day means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible regarding any missed classes or exams due to Religious Holy Days.

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/0953c7d0-7c04-4b29-a3fc-3bf0738e87d8.pdf>

**University Code of Conduct:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students shall arrive to class on time and be respectful to their other students. If a student needs to arrive to class late or leave class early the student will make the professor aware of these needs prior to class time. All cell phones and beepers must be turned off and stowed away while in the classroom. If a cell phone is out during an exam, the student will receive an F for that exam. Students who disrupt the class will be contacted by the professor to adjust their behaviors. In extreme cases students who cannot comply with these requirements can be removed and resigned from the class.

<https://netreg.shsu.edu/mirror/codeofconduct.html>

**Visitors to the Classroom:** Unannounced visitors to the class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor is allowed to remain in the classroom.

**Instructor Evaluations:** Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

8/23	Introduction
8/28, 30	CH1
9/4	Labor Day
9/6, 11, 13	CH2
<b>9/18</b>	<b>ECHO Plan Presentation</b>
	<b>Due for ECHO Plan (noon)</b>
9/20, 25	CH3
9/27	CH4
<b>10/2</b>	<b>Exam I</b>
10/4, 9, 11	CH5
10/16, 18	CH6
10/23	CH7
10/25, 30	CH8 & CH9
<b>11/1</b>	<b>Exam II</b>
11/6	CH10
11/8	CH11
11/13	CH12
	<b>Due for Completion of ECHO Hours &amp; Timesheet (2pm)</b>
11/15	CH13
11/20	Application
	<b>Due for Reflection Essay (2pm)</b>
11/22	Thanksgiving Holidays
<b>11/27</b>	<b>ECHO Portfolio Presentations</b>
	<b>Due for ECHO Portfolio (by noon to Blackboard)</b>
<b>11/29</b>	<b>ECHO Portfolio Presentations</b>
<b>12/4</b>	<b>Exam III</b>