

**SOCI 5322: SEMINAR IN MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY**  
**Fall, 2017**  
**3 Credit Hours**

**Professor:** Dr. Jin Young Choi

**Office Hours:** Online or by appointment

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- Please feel free to contact me for questions and comments. The best way to reach me is via email. I will try to respond within 24 hours after I receive your email with the **exception of weekends and holidays**.
- In the subject line of **your email**, you should **identify who you are and the course** in which you are enrolled.

*If you have any **technical difficulties** while taking this course, please contact the SHSU Helpdesk for support.*

**Help Desk Information: SHSU Online Technical Team**

Email: [delta@shsu.edu](mailto:delta@shsu.edu)

Phone: (936) 294-2780

Toll-free: (877) 759-2232

**Required Texts**

- Peter Conrad (ed). 2013. *Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives*. 9th edition: Worth Publishers.
- Peter Conrad. 2007. *The Medicalization of Society*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

Additional readings will be provided throughout the semester.

**Course Description**

This course is to provide graduate students with the conceptual and substantive knowledge of the field of Medical Sociology. The course focuses on salient sociological issues in health, illness, and medicine, such as the social construction of health and illness, social inequalities in health and health care, medicalization, the health profession, the health care system, and bioethics. Special attention is paid to the roles of social, cultural, and institutional factors in understanding health and health care issues in the United States and in other countries. Prerequisite: Graduate Standing.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain advanced sociological concepts and theories in health/illness, health care, and health inequalities.
2. Demonstrate analytical skills to evaluate a wide array of social issues in health and medicine.
3. Engage in independent research related to health issues in sociology.

**Course Format**

This class is a graduate seminar course. This course is composed of **fifteen sessions**. Session guides and instructions for each session requirements will be uploaded on the first day of each session (by noon). Students must **complete and submit the session requirements including session readings,**

**written assignments, a book review, peer-review of research paper, and a research paper by the indicated due date (see the course schedule).**

## **Course Requirements**

### **1) Weekly Written Assignments (25%)**

Students in this course are required to read thoroughly the required readings of each session, and to complete and submit their written assignments (2-3 pages, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, Times New Roman, 12pt font) by the indicated due date (see the course schedule). Students must submit their assignments to the appropriate assignment tab in each session under “Course Content” in Blackboard. All the assignments must be saved as **Word format** and submitted as a file attachment. Assignments submitted via email will not be graded. No late submissions will be accepted.

### **2) Research Paper (45%)**

Students are required to write a 13-15 page research paper on a topic in Medical Sociology. Students must discuss their research topic with the professor. The paper is segmented out into four stages that build onto each other and result in a quality of research that can be presented at a professional conference or submitted to an academic journal:

- (1) **Research topic and brief description of research project (2%)**: Students are expected to submit their **research topic and a brief description** about their research by the indicated due date.
- (2) **Abstract (4%) and Outline (4%)**: They must submit an abstract (a professional conference format) and an outline of their research paper with a short paragraph for each section of the paper by the indicated due date (see the course schedule). The instructions for abstract and outline will be provided.
- (3) **Research Paper Draft (10%)**: Students must submit a draft of their research paper, 13-15 pages including abstract and references (double-spaced, 1 inch margins, Times New Roman 12pt font, ASA style) by the indicated due date. Detail instructions for a research paper will be provided during the semester.
- (4) **Final Research Paper (25%)**: Students must submit their finalized research paper, 13-15 pages including abstract and references (double-spaced, 1 inch margins, Times New Roman 12pt font, ASA style) by the indicated due date.

***\*\*Note: All the segments of the research paper must be saved as Word format and submitted as a file attachment, and submitted to Blackboard. Email submission will not be graded. No late submission will be accepted.***

### **3) Peer-Review of Research Paper (10%)**

Each student is required to review one of their classmates’ research papers (draft). It is an anonymous process. The professor assigns students’ research papers for review. The review of the research paper will be sent to each student author. The review criteria and further details will be provided by the professor.

### **4) Book Review (10%)**

Students are required to review the book, *The Medicalization of Society* (Conrad, 2007). Students must submit a book review, 5-7 pages (double-spaced, 1 inch margins, Times New Roman 12pt font, ASA style) with proper and complete citations and references. A book review format will be provided by the professor.

### **5) Class Participation (10%)**

Some sessions will have discussion questions. Students are expected to actively participate in class by responding to discussion questions posted by the professor. Students are required: (1) to post a response to each question directly; and (2) to respond to at least one student’s answer for each discussion question. The specific timeline to open and close each discussion board will be indicated in the relevant session guide. Class participation accounts for 10% of the final grade.

## Grading

The final grade for the course will be based on the course requirements presented above. Final grades will be assigned as follows:

**A: 90-100%**

**B: 80-89%**

**C: 70-79%**

**F: Below 70%**

**Attendance Policy:** This is an online class so formal attendance is not taken. Attendance is monitored via Blackboard and submission of class assignments.

**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. In extreme cases students who cannot comply with these requirements can be removed and resigned from the class. This is an online class. Students will behave in a polite and professional manner. <https://netreg.shsu.edu/mirror/codeofconduct.html>

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** This is an online class. Students will behave in a polite and professional manner.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Session	Readings	Session Activities & Due Dates
Session 1. 8/23 – 8/29 Introduction	Sociology of Health & Illness (SHI): 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three Items in Session Discussions: Due on 8/29, 11:59pm</li> <li>Thinking about your potential research topic</li> </ul>
Session 2. 8/30 – 9/5 Social Distribution of Health and Illness	SHI: 2-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assignment 1: Due on 9/5, 11:59pm</li> <li>Literature search relevant to your research topic</li> </ul>
Session 3. 9/6 – 9/12 Social Production of Health and Illness	SHI: 7-10, 47, 48	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research Paper: Part I - Research Topic &amp; Brief Description: Due on 9/12, 11:59pm</li> <li>Assignment 2: Due on 9/12, 11:59pm</li> </ul>
Session 4. 9/13 – 9/19 Experience of Illness (Social & Cultural Context)	SHI: 11-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assignment 3: Due on 9/19, 11:59pm</li> </ul>
Session 5. 9/20 – 9/26 Medical Dominance & Health Care Providers	SHI: 17, 19-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assignment 4: Due on 9/26, 11:59pm</li> </ul>
Session 6. 9/27 – 10/3 Medicalization and Medicine as Social Control I	SHI 18, 40, 41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assignment 5: Due on 10/3, 11:59pm</li> </ul>
Session 7. 10/4 – 10/10 Medicalization and Medicine as Social Control II	Conrad (2007): The Medicalization of Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Book Review: Due on 10/10, 11:59pm</li> </ul>
Session 8. 10/11 – 10/17 Health Research		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abstract: Due on 10/17, 11:59pm</li> </ul>
Session 9. 10/18 – 10/24 Medical Care System and Health Policies I	SHI: 25-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research Paper Outline: Due on 10/24, 11:59pm</li> <li>Assignment 6: Due on 10/24, 11:59pm</li> </ul>
Session 10. 10/25 – 10/31 Medical Care System and Health Policies II	SHI: 44-46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assignment 7: Due on 10/31, 11:59pm</li> </ul>
Session 11. 11/1 – 11/7 Medicine in Practice	SHI: 31-34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assignment 8: Due on 11/7, 11:59pm</li> </ul>
Session 12. 11/8 – 11/14 Pharmaceutical Industry, Medical Technology	SHI: 23-24, 35-37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research Paper (draft): Due on 11/14, 11:59pm</li> <li>Assignment 9: Due on 11/14, 11:59pm</li> </ul>
Session 13. 11/15 – 11/21 Contemporary Critical Issues & Debates	SHI: 38-39, 42-43, 49	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peer-review: Due on 11/21, 11:59pm</li> <li>Assignment 10: Due on 11/21, 11:59pm</li> </ul>
Session 14. 11/22 – 11/26 Thanksgiving Holidays		
Session 15. 11/27 – 12/1 Health Research		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research Paper Revision</li> <li>Final Research Paper: Due on 12/3 11:59pm</li> </ul>

\*\*Additional reading requirements will be announced in each session guide when necessary.

Research Paper Revision