

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS**  
**Department of Sociology.**  
**SOCI 3120: Health and Illness,**  
**Fall, 2021, MW, 3:30-4:50, Wooten Hall, Rm 316**

**Dale E. Yeatts, Ph.D.**  
**Office Hours: Weds 5:00-6:00 or**  
**by appointment (we can meet in-person**  
**or by zoom)**

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**I. Learning Objectives:**

- A. To become familiar with factors producing good health (as well as poor health);
- B. To gain knowledge of the social factors contributing to one's health condition;
- C. To gain knowledge of the social consequences that occur as a result of one's health condition;
- D. To understand the U.S. health care system including its organization, financing, and delivery;
- E. To understand the Affordable Care Act and the desire to reduce or expand it;
- F. To be familiar with the health care systems in other countries.

**II. Learning components**

- A. Readings: To help meet the objectives, the following book is required (available on Amazon or at UNT bookstore). The newest edition of the Weitz book is excessively expensive. Therefore you may want to purchase a used copy.

Weitz, Rose (2017, seventh edition). The Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care, Boston, MA: Cengage learning.

- B. Class time: will be focused on the objectives through lectures, class discussions, movies, small group activities, and guest lecturers.

**III. Course Policies**

- A. Class Attendance: regular and punctual class attendance is expected. It will be difficult to master all the material if class is missed. While students will not usually be penalized for missing class they will be penalized for coming to class late or leaving class early since these disrupt the class. If you need to come late or leave early, please let Dr. Yeatts know beforehand. Students can gain extra credit points by attending class (see below). Students who miss a lot of class will be given NO leeway in grading and may lose points while students who miss no or only a few classes will be given MUCH leeway in grading and may gain points. For example, a recent student missed more than half the classes, had a test grade average of 69, and wanted one point added to his/her final grade in order to receive a "C". The student got a "D". Another student missed only a few classes had an average grade of 88 and was given two extra points to receive an "A".

- B. Academic integrity: as the student guidebook points out, academic integrity is required. Plagiarism and cheating will result in failure and a report to the Dean.
- C. Acceptable Student Behavior: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior (including continual texting during class) will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [www.unt.edu/csrr](http://www.unt.edu/csrr)
- D. Special Needs: UNT's counseling center provides free career and personal counseling to UNT students (up to 8 sessions per year). Appointments can be made by calling 940-565-2741. For our class, appropriate adjustments and auxiliary aid are available for persons with disabilities. See Dr. Yeatts and/or call 817-565-2456 (TDD access 1-800-735-2989).
- E. Cell Phones and texting: you should know that many professors and instructors find it insulting when a student is constantly texting or otherwise using their phones during class. Consequently, if the time comes that the student could use some "leeway" in her/his grade, and the student has constantly used his/her phone during class, no leeway will be given and points could be removed.
- F. Laptops: may not be used in class unless the student sits in the first or second row. Unfortunately, past experience shows that some students with laptops use them for purposes other than the class and this, in turn, distracts students around them.
- G. Office Hours: I enjoy meeting with students a great deal. I learn a lot and I hope they do as well. Please email me ([yeatts@unt.edu](mailto:yeatts@unt.edu)) so we can find a day/time that works for both of us. I enjoy getting to know students and can be very helpful if given the chance. I will be happy to discuss the course material, your progress in the class, your plans for the future, personal issues, need for a letter of recommendation, or anything else of interest/importance to you. Some students will meet with me just to introduce themselves and share a bit about their activities and progress at UNT and I enjoy these meetings very much.
- H. If unexpected problems develop for you during the semester (e.g., health or emotional issues), please contact me as soon as these become apparent. I can then work with you to develop a plan that will assist you. Students, who approach their instructors/professors when problems develop, are much more likely to receive help and consideration. Don't wait until the end of the semester to inform the professor of problems because it will be too late to find a solution. This is a good rule-of-thumb for any class you take.

I. Grading: final grades will be based on the following:

1. Four (4) tests will be given worth 25% each of your final grade. The fourth test will not be cumulative. The format is expected to include multiple choice and true/false questions. Grades will be posted on Dr. Yeatts' web page. (go to: [www.yeatts.us](http://www.yeatts.us), click on 3120).

You are responsible for using the restroom prior to the beginning of a test so **do not ask to use the restroom** in the middle of a test (unfortunately a few of us would use this as an opportunity to review our notes in the middle of taking the test).

2. Test Schedule:

September 20 (Mon.)	Test 1	25%
October 18 (Mon.)	Test 2	25%
November 22 (Mon.)	Test 3	25%
December 8 (Wed.)	Test 4 (during exam week, 1:30-2:30)	25%

3. Make-up Tests: may be allowed typically within one week from the original exam day. The test score will be reduced by one letter grade unless there is documentation or other means of verifying an illness or other serious situation. On the other hand, if you have **not missed any class** and you oversleep and miss the test (or some other less serious situation), this may be excused or very few points deducted.
4. Class Participation: Those who contribute meaningful, thoughtful, and knowledgeable comments/ideas will receive extra points added to their final grade if their final grade is close to the next higher grade and s/he has not missed a lot of classes. For example, an 88 could be raised to a 90. Similarly, those who attend all (or almost all) classes will receive extra points.
5. Extra Credit Opportunities: There are two ways to obtain extra credit. Please see the "**Opportunities for Extra Credit**" below for details.

J. How to Study for Tests:

1. Read carefully and give thought to the assigned chapters and readings to be covered on the test (ideally keep up weekly).
2. Ideally, read the assignments before they are discussed in class so you are more prepared to contribute to discussions.
3. **Learn the major concepts (bolded and italicized concepts) in the chapters and what they mean. Pay attention to section headings within the chapter—what are the points being made in the section.**
4. Know the answers to the **study guide questions** that are placed on Dr. Yeatts' web page ([www.yeatts.us](http://www.yeatts.us)). These questions were developed from the test questions. If you can answer the study guide questions you will increase your chances of

knowing the answers to the test questions. However, **do not** rely solely on the study guide if you want a good grade.

#### IV. Topics to be Covered/Reading Assignments

All Chapter assignments refer to the Weitz text book (6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> edition).

Week 1 (August 23 and 25):

- A. Overview of class
- B. Chapter 1: Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care

Week 2 (August 30 and Sept 1)

- A. Chapter 1 continued;
- B. Chapter 2: The Social Sources of Modern Illness (non medical factors contributing to poor health)
- C. FOODMATTERS: Let Thy Food Be Thy Medicine—a DVD

Week 3 (September 8) (NO CLASS on Sept 6, Labor Day):

- A. Chapter 2: The Social Sources of Modern Illness (non medical factors contributing to poor health)
- B. FOODMATTERS: Let Thy Food Be Thy Medicine—a DVD (continued)
- C. Film describing the characteristics of “social class.”

Week 4 (September 13 and 15)

- A. Chapter 3: The Social Distribution of Illness in the U.S.

#### **Test 1 on chapters 1-3 and in class materials, September 20; Monday**

Week 5 (September 22)

- A. Chapter 4: Illness and Death in the Less Developed Nations
  - B. SICKO (movie)
- <https://freedocumentaries.org/documentary/sicko#watch-film>

Week 6 (September 27 and 29)

- A. Chapter 4: Illness and Death in the Less Developed Nations
  - B. Chapter 5: The Social Meanings of Illness
  - C. SICKO (movie)
- <https://freedocumentaries.org/documentary/sicko#watch-film>

Week 7 (4 and 6):

- A. Chapter 5: The Social Meanings of Illness
  - B. Chapter 6: The Experience of Disability, Chronic Pain, Chronic Illness
  - C. SICKO (movie continued)
- <https://freedocumentaries.org/documentary/sicko#watch-film>

Week 8 (October 11 and 13):

- A. Chapter 6: The Experience of Disability, Chronic Pain, Chronic Illness
- B. How Gluten and Modern Food Processing Contribute to Poor Health  
[www.mercola.com](http://www.mercola.com) scroll down to July 2 (27 minutes)
- C. Catch up/Review for Test 2

**Test 2 on chapters 4-6 and in class materials, October 18, Monday**

Week 9 (October 20)

- A. Chapter 7: The Sociology of Mental Illness
- B. Pesticides are poison:  
[www.mercola.com](http://www.mercola.com) scroll down to July 6, Rachel Carson (8.5 minutes)
- C. Movie on Freud

Week 10 (October 25 and 27):

- A. Chapter 7: The Sociology of Mental Illness
- B. Chapter 8: Health Care in the U.S. Pesticides are poison:
- C. [www.mercola.com](http://www.mercola.com) scroll down to July 6, Rachel Carson (8.5 minutes)
- C. Movie on Freud

Week 11 (November 1) (**NO CLASS ON NOV 3**):

- A. Chapter 8: Health Care in the U.S.
- B. YouTube “We’re #37”:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVgOl3cETb4>
- C. Antibiotic Resistance: What Promotes It, How Can It Be Beat (29 mins)  
[www.mercola.com](http://www.mercola.com) scroll down to July 9 (29 minutes)

Week 12 (November 8 and 10):

- A. Environmental Sociology
- B. Globesity: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGL3;T5MMdQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGL3;T5MMdQ)

Week 13 (November 15 and 17):

- A. Chapter 9: Health Care Around the World

**Test 3 on chapters 7-9; class materials, November 22, Monday**

Week 14 (November 24):

- A. Chapter 10: Health Care Settings and Technologies

Week 15 (November 29 and December 1):

- A. Chapter 10 continued
- B. Chapter 11: The Profession of Medicine

**Test 4: December 8, Wednesday at 1:30 (Taken on Wednesday of Exam Week, note time difference from regular class). Covers chapters 10 – 11 and class PowerPoints which will cover some of chapter 12 but you will not be responsible for reading Chapter 12.**

### **Opportunities for Extra Credit**

#### 1. Library Research Paper

Collect cartoons and comic strips that focus on a medical sociology topic (e.g., patient-doctor relationship; women and health). At the same time, do a library search on the topic to identify scholarly, peer-reviewed research articles on the topic (you can use popular magazines such as Time or “internet” sources but these should be no more than 10% of your citations/references). Write a 5 - 10 page paper, double spaced, and use Time New Romans font size 12 with one inch margins except for the left side which should be 1 ½ inches. You can receive **up to 3 extra points added to your final grade** depending on the apparent effort put into the paper (wasn't written the night before) its organization, and how well it is researched and written (e.g., reference to scholarly articles—it should not be an editorial or your opinion about the topic, it is a review of what researchers has found on the topic).

For the paper, do the following: (1) get Dr. Yeatts approval of the topic; (2) present copies of the cartoons and strips in color where possible (these do not count as part of the 5 – 10 typed, double-spaced pages); (3) discuss the topic using peer-reviewed journal articles and citing them in the paper and providing the full citation at the end of the paper (a bibliography or reference list); and (4) for a **fourth extra-credit point**, you can present your paper to the class, if approved by Dr. Yeatts. The paper must be turned in by December 10 and you must notify Dr. Yeatts you plan on turning in a paper. However, if you plan to present it in class, it must be turned in by November 22. If you want to present your paper to the class, you must provide a power point presentation to Dr. Yeatts prior to the presentation (this will give the professor an opportunity to evaluate the quality of the presentation you want to give to the class). If you present your paper, use powerpoint or some other way of displaying some of the most interesting cartoons/comic strips. If you wait until the last few days before this is due, it will show in what you turn in and the number of points received will be less or none. Papers will be checked for plagiarism.

#### 2. In-Class Assignments

Students will be given the opportunity to obtain extra credit points during class. For example, students may be asked to work in groups of two to five (being cognizant of covid issues) during class to solve one or more problems and then each student will turn in their own answer(s) to the problem before the end of class and one or more extra points will be added to the student's next test grade. Students who are absent, or come to class late, or leave class early will not be eligible for these extra points. A student who does not miss class will typically accumulate 6 – 8 points to be added to her/his next test grade.

## Covid Related Information

1. The UNT president encourages students to wear a face covering whenever inside a building.
2. Sanitation wipes will be available.
3. UNT's Student Health Center does Covid testing if you would like to get tested.
4. **At our second class period I will create a seating chart. UNT wants students to sit in the same seat each class period. The reason is so that UNT can know who is sitting relatively near who. If someone does get the virus, UNT can track who that student sat near.**
5. In my classes, I do not take off for not attending class. However, I do give extra points for attending class and these points are added to your test grade. So, if you attended six class sessions prior to a test, then you will have six points added to your test grade (for example, if you get an 88 on the test, plus 6 points = 94 final test grade). **If you can't come to class for a possible Covid related reason (exposure to it or having it), email me and I'll consider giving you the extra points missed.**
6. If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or [askSHWC@unt.edu](mailto:askSHWC@unt.edu)) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or [COVID@unt.edu](mailto:COVID@unt.edu) for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.
7. Face coverings are encouraged in all UNT facilities.

**\*\*\*If our class is moved on line, we will keep everything as it is currently planned but have our classes through zoom (meeting id: 9403800009). Students who log in to the class and are visible will receive an extra point for that day.**