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SOC 323: GLB/SOC of HEALTH and ILLNESS

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2021
TUESDAY 4:30-7:10PM

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Julia Meszaros, Assistant Professor

Office Location: Ferguson Social Science Room 230

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:15-4:30PM, Thursdays 1:00-2:00PM and 3:15 to 3:45 IN PERSON, Mondays and Wednesdays 4:00-5:15 ONLINE/ZOOM and by appointment

Office Phone: 903-886-7528

Office Fax: 903-886-5330

University Email Address: Julia.Meszaros@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24-48 Hours; Monday to Friday 8-5

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbooks:

1. The Sociology of Health, Illness and Healthcare: A Critical Approach by Rose Weitz (any edition is fine)

Course Description:

The course examines the inequalities that exist when it comes to people's well-being, linking societal issues to people's individual health issues. We will apply sociological theories of inequality to various issues of health and well being in society to understand the important links between social, physical, and mental well-being and inequalities based around positions of class, race, geography, sexuality, gender and disability. This course intends to demonstrate the importance of social understandings of wellness and illness.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To be successful in the course you must be able to use D2L, and using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.

Instructional Methods

This course will be delivered entirely online. You must have access to D2L in order to complete the requirements for this course.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

You must log into D2L multiple times a week in order to be successful in this course. All course communications and assignments will be completed through D2L. If you have questions regarding access to D2L or technical requirements, information to reach out to Campus IT is provided below.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of inequalities and people's well-being. Weekly discussions posts will be assessing students abilities to connect ideas of wellness to social inequality.
2. Demonstrate intercultural competencies by comparing issues across cultures. This learning objective will be assessed in the papers that require students to make connections between health inequalities in the U.S. and other cultures.
3. Apply sociological lens and knowledge into their daily lives. This learning objective will be assessed in the papers and weekly discussion posts that relate the readings to health issues occurring in daily life.
4. Apply intersectional analysis to issues of health, linking ideas and discourses of health to class, gender, sexuality, etc. This learning objective will be assessed in the papers and weekly discussion posts that relate the readings to racial issues occurring in daily life.

Classroom Expectations:

1. Students must be prepared to participate in group work and be prepared to take notes and complete work with their peers.
2. Students must come prepared to learn. That's why it is essential to participate in class discussions online and by reading the chapter ahead of time.
3. Please treat everyone with respect. Disrespectful behavior towards anyone in the classroom will not be tolerated. You will be asked to leave the course if disrespectful behavior persists.

Assessments:

Weekly Assignments on D2L: (10@20, 200 points Total)

You will upload various weekly assignments on D2L. They will include finding and analyzing memes, videos, etc. You will need to apply a sociological lens to the materials you share with the course.

Two Exams (2 exams @200, 400 points Total)

The exams will be non-cumulative and only cover each week's reading materials from the assigned chapters. Exams will be 50 questions long, and you will have a time limit of 60 minutes. Exams will include multiple choice questions.

Group Project (1@ 300 points, 300 Total) Paper: 200, Presentation 100

Research a health issue impacting the local Texas A&M Commerce area. You will work in groups of 3-4 and hand in a final 6 page, double spaced paper that you all write together as a group. You will get time in the class each week to meet with your team and allocate work for the paper. During the final week of the course before your final exam, each group will present their topics to the course and be prepared to answer questions from the audience.

Attendance and Participation (100 points Total)

Come to class weekly prepared to participate and be present. Measured by group submissions, pop quizzes and daily attendance.

Total Class Points: 1000 Points

Grade Scale: A 900-1000

B 800-899

C 700-799

D 600-699

F Below 600

Grade Policies: For incompletes, you must speak with me ahead of time and have completed most of the course work. I do not round grades, and I do not change grades after they have been submitted. Grades are available on D2L so you can track your up to date progress in the course.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Support

Need Help?

Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “click here” to submit an issue via email.



System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I prefer communication via email. I rarely answer my office phone and am much more likely to respond to email. I will respond to email within 24 to 48 hours, between normal business hours of 8am to 5pm. Please be sure that when you email me, you use a proper greeting (Dr. Meszaros Professor Meszaros) an email body, and an appropriate closing. You should never send an email with just an attachment and no email body. Be sure you have an appropriate and informative subject line and include the name and section of the course you are enrolled in. See the attached page for some email expectations that would serve you well in all future communication with any professors or potential employers.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this

legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by

calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week One (8/30-9/3): Chapter One

- Read Chapter One
- Weekly Assignment on D2L

Week Two (9/6-9/10): Chapter Two: Social Sources of Illness

- Read Chapter Two
- Weekly Assignment on D2L

Week Three (9/13-9/17): Social Distribution of Illness in U.S.

- Read Chapter Three
- Weekly Assignment Post on D2L

Week Four (9/20-9/24): the Illness and Death in Less Developed World

- Read Chapter Four
- Weekly Assignment Post on D2L

Week Five (9/27-10/1) Social Meaning of Illness

- Read Chapter Five
- Weekly Assignment Post on D2L

Week Six (10/4-10/8) Experience of Disability, Chronic Illness

- Read Chapter Six
- Weekly Assignment Post on D2L

Week Seven (10/11-10/15): Sociology of Mental Illness

- Read Chapter Seven
- Weekly Assignment Post on D2L

Week Eight (10/18-10/22):Healthcare in the U.S.

- Read Chapter Eight
- MIDTERM EXAM

Week Nine (10/25-10/29): Healthcare Settings and Technologies

- Read Chapter Nine
- Weekly Assignment Post on D2L

Week Ten (11/1-11/5): Healthcare

- Read Chapter Ten
- Weekly Assignment Post on D2L

Week Eleven (11/8-11/12): Profession of Medicine

-Read Chapter Eleven

- Weekly Assignment Post on D2L

Week Twelve (11/15-11/19): Alternative Healthcare

-Read Chapter Twelve

- Weekly Assignment Post on D2L

Week Thirteen (11/22-11/26):

- THANKSGIVING BREAK NO POST, Catch up on Group Work

Week Fourteen (11/29-12/3)

- Bioethics

-Read Chapter Thirteen

Week Fifteen (12/6-12/10)

Group Presentations

FINAL WEEK

-EXAM TWO (12/14) at normal class time