Sociology 599: Sociology of Health and Medicine
Units: 4.0
Fall 2018 | W | 9:00am to 11:50am
Location: Hazel and Stanley Hall Building (HSH) 303

Professor Josh Seim
Office: Hazel and Stanley Hall Building (HSH) 218
Office Hours: Mondays, 11:00am to 12:00pm, or by appointment
Contact: jseim@usc.edu

Course Description

This course will cover two interconnected topics that compose a sociology of health and medicine. First, we’ll examine the social roots of sickness. Second, we’ll study medicine as a social institution. For better or worse, this class will focus primarily on the United States.

Learning Objectives

1. Explore key themes and debates in the sociology of health and medicine
2. Advance graduate student development as it pertains to course material (e.g., qualifying exam prep, dissertation proposal, article manuscript)

Course Materials

All primary readings are available on the course’s Blackboard page. Supplemental readings can easily be found online or at the library.

Student Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Breakdown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Memos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Essays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation in seminar are integral to your success in this course. You must come to seminar prepared to discuss each of the three primary readings assigned for that meeting. We will not discuss supplemental readings, but you are encouraged to explore these texts as the course progresses. As noted below, there will be opportunities to integrate supplemental readings into your review essays and final paper.

Reading Memos

We will meet a dozen times to discuss the primary readings. For 10 of these meetings, you are required to submit short memos (300 words ideal, 500 words max). You must submit these via Blackboard by 5:00pm the day before the meeting. Late memos will not be accepted.

Reading memos are not summaries. They should be written to accomplish one of two goals: 1) an internal or external critique of a single reading or 2) a critical synthesis of two or more readings. You cannot use the supplementary readings, but you may bring primary readings from previous weeks in conversation with current readings.

Memos are pass/no-pass. You will not receive written feedback on memos unless you did not pass, in which case you’ll be given an opportunity to resubmit. While memos will not be visible to other students, I will use them to guide the conversation in seminar. You should come to class prepared to discuss (and defend) the memo you submitted the night before.

Review Essays

You are required to write two short literature review essays (1,500 words ideal, 2,000 words max) that cover the main topics of the course. The first essay, on the social roots of sickness, is due October 5th. The second essay, on medicine as a social institution, is due November 16th. Both essays must be submitted via Blackboard by 5:00pm.

These essays can integrate ideas you’ve developed in your reading memos and refined through seminar discussions or they can move in a new direction entirely. Regardless, they must offer arguments that are distinctly yours and they shouldn’t just summarize the assigned texts. While these essays will focus on the primary texts discussed in seminar, you are strongly encouraged to integrate one or more of the supplemental readings listed in the course schedule.

A works cited page is not required since you are not allowed to reference texts from outside the primary or supplemental reading lists. However, in-text citations are necessary and specific page references are highly encouraged.
**Final Paper**

The course ends with a final paper assignment that will have you examining a particular topic or case relevant to the sociology of health and medicine. Your final paper must be assembled as one of the following: 1) a review essay that offers a critical synthesis of secondary sources, 2) a research proposal that sells your topic or case as something to be researched and outlines a plan on how to do so, or 3) a research paper that draws on some original data analyses to make sense of your topic or case. Whatever the format, your final paper should reference the course’s primary readings and some additional texts (i.e., the supplemental readings and/or scholarship you find on your own). A works cited page is required.

You must submit your final paper via Blackboard by December 10\textsuperscript{th} at 1:00pm. Your paper grade will also be linked to two additional exercises: a short outline (due November 2\textsuperscript{nd} at 5:00pm via Blackboard) and a presentation to the seminar on November 28\textsuperscript{th}.

We will not spend much time in seminar discussing final papers. You are strongly encouraged to meet with me one-on-one.
# Abbreviated Schedule

## Introduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Deliverable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08/22</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Part I: The Social Roots of Sickness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Deliverable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08/29</td>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>Durkheim, Engels, Du Bois</td>
<td>Memo by 5pm Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/05</td>
<td>Support, Network, Social Ecology</td>
<td>Thoits, Smith and C. Klinenberg</td>
<td>Memo by 5pm Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/12</td>
<td>Fundamental Causes</td>
<td>Link and Phelan, Phelan et al., Hatzenbuehler et al.</td>
<td>Memo by 5pm Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/19</td>
<td>Relative Position</td>
<td>Marmot et al., Marmot, Pickett and W. Muntaner et al., Williams and M. Bird and Rieker</td>
<td>Memo by 5pm Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/26</td>
<td>More on Class, Race, and Gender</td>
<td>Krieger, Farmer, Holmes</td>
<td>Memo by 5pm Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/03</td>
<td>Embodiment, Suffering, Violence</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Essay I by 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/05</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Part II: Medicine as a Social Institution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Deliverable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/10</td>
<td>Medicalization and Beyond</td>
<td>Zola, Conrad, Clarke et al.</td>
<td>Memo by 5pm Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/17</td>
<td>Struggles in and over Medicine</td>
<td>Starr, Navarro, Best</td>
<td>Memo by 5pm Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/24</td>
<td>Clinical Encounters</td>
<td>Parsons, Waitzkin, Foucault</td>
<td>Memo by 5pm Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/31</td>
<td>Asylums, Nursing Homes, Morgues</td>
<td>Goffman, Rodriguez, Timmermans</td>
<td>Memo by 5pm Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/02</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Outline by 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/07</td>
<td>Medical (Re)Productions of…</td>
<td>Epstein, Loe, Schram</td>
<td>Memo by 5pm Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/14</td>
<td>Medicine and Urban Poverty</td>
<td>Malone, Hansen et al., Sufrin</td>
<td>Memo by 5pm Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/16</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Essay II by 5pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Part III: Final Paper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Deliverable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/28</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/10</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Final Paper by 1pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Detailed Schedule

INTRODUCTION

August 22nd | Syllabus

No reading.

PART I: SOCIAL ROOTS OF SICKNESS

August 29th | Foundations


Supplemental Readings:


**September 5th | Support, Network, and Social Ecology**


**Supplemental Readings:**


**September 12th | Fundamental Causes**


**Supplemental Readings:**


**September 19th | Relative Position**


**Supplemental Readings:**


September 26th | More on Class, Race, and Gender


Supplemental Readings:


October 3rd | Embodiment, Suffering, and Violence


Supplemental Readings:


*REVIEW ESSAY I. DUE: 10/5 (FRIDAY), 5:00PM VIA BLACKBOARD.*
PART II: MEDICINE AS A SOCIAL INSTITUTION

October 10th | Medicalization and Beyond


Supplemental Readings:


October 17th | Struggles in and over Medicine


Supplemental Readings:


October 24th | Clinical Encounters


Supplemental Readings:


October 31st | Asylums, Nursing Homes, and Morgues


Supplemental Readings:


OUTLINE OF FINAL PAPER. DUE: 11/2 (FRIDAY), 5:00PM VIA BLACKBOARD.
November 7th | Medical (Re)Productions of Race, Gender, Class


Supplemental Readings:


**November 14th | Medicine and Urban Poverty**


**Supplemental Readings:**


**REVIEW ESSAY II. DUE 11/16 (FRIDAY), 5:00PM VIA BLACKBOARD.**

[No Class on November 21st, Thanksgiving break]

**PART III: FINAL PAPER**

**December 28th | Student Presentations**

No readings.

Come to seminar prepared to give a short presentation on your final paper. Please email me your slides before seminar begins if you plan to use PowerPoint.

**FINAL PAPER. DUE: 12/10 (MONDAY), 1:00PM VIA BLACKBOARD.**
Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:
Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:
Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255
Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Sexual Assault Resource Center
For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: sarc.usc.edu

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086
Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. equity.usc.edu

Bias Assessment Response and Support
Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

The Office of Disability Services and Programs
Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu

Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710
Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa
Diversity at USC
Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. diversity.usc.edu

USC Emergency Information
Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu

USC Department of Public Safety
UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime. Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu