MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY

SYO 4400

3 CREDIT HOURS

FALL, 2014

INSTRUCTOR:  Dr. Chuck Peek

3229 Turlington Hall

cpeek@ufl.edu

352.294.7185

OFFICE HOURS:  Wednesdays 10:00am – 1:00pm, and by appointment

COURSE WEBSITE:  http://lss.at.ufl.edu

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS:  You can communicate with me by posting general questions to the class discussion board or sending questions via email through the Canvas course website. Please send private questions to my UF email address (above).

REQUIRED TEXT:  There is no textbook for this class. Required readings will consist of a variety of articles and resources available online.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  This course examines the effects of group characteristics, social behavior and social organization on the causation, amelioration and prevention of mental and physical illness.

PURPOSE OF COURSE:  The purpose of this course is to introduce you to a sociological perspective of the study of health and illness. A major goal of this course is to provide the conceptual tools needed to understand the social and cultural dimensions of health and disease, in addition to the biological factors. Among the questions we will explore are: How is the risk of illness, injury, and other health problems related to social characteristics and contexts? What issues will shape the future of population?
COURSE GOALS AND/OR OBJECTIVES: The goal of the course is to understand how health and illness are connected to social behavior and the organization of society.

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

- Articulate the complementary nature of sociological and biomedical approaches to health
- Describe the ways that population health is measured
- Explain historical changes in population health
- Discuss the causes and consequences of population aging
- Describe the effects of inequality on health

COURSE POLICIES:

ATTENDANCE POLICY: As this is an online course, no class-room attendance is required. You will still need to allot the time needed to complete the requirements of this course. Please contact the Registrar’s Office for information on withdrawal dates and procedures if necessary.

QUIZ POLICY: You are required to complete 8 short quizzes during the semester. Quizzes must be completed on or before the due date (all due dates are listed in the Due Dates document). Quizzes taken after the due date will not count toward your final grade. This portion of your grade will be based on your 6 highest quiz scores (you may drop the lowest quiz score).

ASSIGNMENT POLICY: You are also required to submit 8 analysis papers during the semester. Analysis papers must be completed and submitted via Canvas on or before the due date (all due dates are listed in the Due Dates document). Only papers submitted via the course Canvas site will be accepted; do not send papers as attachments to my UF email address. Late analysis papers will not be accepted. This portion of your grade will be based on your 6 highest analysis paper scores (you may drop the lowest analysis paper score).

MAKE-UP POLICY: Any missed assignments due to illness, travel, holidays, school functions, job interviews, or technical or computer problems will receive a score of 0 (zero). However, you may drop the lowest 2 quiz scores and the lowest 2 analysis paper
scores. Since you are able to drop 2 quizzes and 2 analysis papers, no other provisions will be provided for making up work.

**COURSE TECHNOLOGY:** This course will require the use of a laptop or desktop computer with a high-speed internet connection. You will also need access to UF Library’s e-resources. To achieve this access, you will need access to a UF-networked computer or some type of software (such as Cisco Anyconnect Client) that will enable you to establish a Virtual Private Network connection. For more information, see the UF Library’s Connecting from Off-Campus website ([http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ufproxy.html](http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ufproxy.html)).

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**UF POLICIES:**

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office ([http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:** Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at [https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/).

**NETIQUETTE: COMMUNICATION COURTESY:** All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Failure to follow netiquette may result in a grade reduction.

UF netiquette policies may be found at: [http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf](http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf)

**GETTING HELP:**

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)
● (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
● https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml

Other resources are available at http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help for:

● Counseling and Wellness resources
● Disability resources
● Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
● Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints to submit a complaint.

GRADING POLICIES:

QUIZZES: You are required to complete 8 short quizzes during the semester that will account for 30 percent of your final grade. Quizzes will consist of 15 to 20 multiple choice questions and must be completed within a 30 minute interval on or before the due date (all due dates are listed in the Due Dates document). Quizzes taken after the due date will not count toward your final grade. This portion of your grade will be based on your 6 highest quiz scores (you may drop the 2 lowest quiz scores).

ANALYSIS PAPERS: You are required to submit 8 analysis papers during the semester that will account for 50 percent of your final grade. Analysis papers are brief (2-3 page) essays designed to gauge you understanding of the course material. Analysis papers must be completed and submitted via Canvas on or before the due date (all due dates are listed in the Due Dates document). Only papers submitted via Canvas will be accepted. Late analysis papers will not be accepted. This portion of your grade will be based on your 6 highest analysis paper scores (you may drop the 2 lowest analysis paper scores). A grading rubric for each analysis paper is available on the course website.

DISCUSSIONS: You are required to participate in 6 asynchronous discussions that will account for 20 percent of your final grade. For each discussion, you are required to participate by posting (1) one original post describing your position or opinion on a current health-related issue or debate, and (2) one reaction to a post of another member of the class. Posts should be approximately a paragraph in length (150-200 words). A grading rubric for posts is available on the Canvas site.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (6 highest scores of 8 total)</td>
<td>30 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis Papers (6 highest scores of 8 total)</td>
<td>50 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussions (6 total)</td>
<td>20 percent</td>
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**GRADING SCALE:**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>552 - 600</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>540 - 551</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>528 - 539</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>492 - 527</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>480 - 491</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>360 - 371</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>359 or less</td>
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COURSE SCHEDULE:

Dates, topics, required readings, and assignments can be found in the Due Dates document.

Disclaimer: This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.