

**Sociology 230: Social Aspects of Health & Illness**  
Spring 2015

Elizer Hall 157  
M/W/F – 10:45-11:50am

**Instructor: Prof. Alexandra Vinson**

Email: alex.vinson@emory.edu

Office hours: Fridays 9am-10am and 12pm-1pm, or by appointment

Office location: Modular Unit 1, Room 4

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course we will cover classic topics in medical sociology, such as changing medical professional dynamics, medicalization, and health social movements. You will also learn about major topics in public health, such as health disparities, dieting and obesity. We will use sociological perspectives to examine certain diseases and conditions, such as breast cancer, erectile dysfunction, and HIV/AIDS. The course will be a mix of lecture and discussion, and you will be evaluated on the basis of four written exams and in-class participation, including small group work and informal presentations.

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**COURSE MATERIALS**

All assigned readings can be found on the Soc 230 Course Reserves site.

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**COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance**

Each absence above three will reduce your total score by one point. In order to do well in Soc 230, you will need to attend every class meeting as very little of the lecture material comes from required texts. Class begins promptly at 10:45am and arriving more than five minutes late will be counted as an absence.

**Academic Integrity**

The Oxford College Honor Code and Conduct Code are in full effect for every aspect of Soc 230. Each time you sign your name to any required work, including the attendance sheet, you are pledging yourself to the Honor Code. Signing another student's name on any attendance sheet is a violation of the Honor Code.

**Accessibility & Accommodations**

Please send me an email or come to my office hours before the Add/Drop/Swap period ends if you need assistance arranging accommodations through the Office of Disability Services or if you would like to discuss accessibility issues as they relate to your performance in this course.

## GRADING POLICY

### Grading Scale

|    |        |    |          |
|----|--------|----|----------|
| A  | 93-100 | C+ | 77-79    |
| A- | 90-92  | C  | 73-76    |
| B+ | 87-89  | C- | 70-72    |
| B  | 83-86  | D  | 60-69    |
| B- | 80-82  | F  | below 60 |

## COURSE SCHEDULE

## Unit 1: FOUNDATIONS

## ASSIGNED READINGS

Jan 14—Introduction to Course  
Jan 16—Brief History of American Medicine  
Jan 19—NO CLASS  
Jan 21—Allied Health Professions  
Jan 23—Medical-Industrial Complex  
Jan 25—Macrosocial Forces & Health  
Jan 28—The Epidemiological Transition

## Unit 2: THE DOCTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Jan 30—The Changing Profession  
Feb 2—Training Physicians  
Feb 4—Training Physicians  
Feb 6—Technology & Medical Work  
**Feb 9—TEST #1**

Atkinson  
Hafferty

## Unit 3: THE PATIENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Feb 11—Medical Expertise  
Feb 13—Medicalization  
Feb 16—Medicalization  
Feb 18—Illness Experience  
Feb 20—Social Model of Disease  
Feb 23—Health Social Movements  
Feb 25—Death & Dying

Loe  
Barker  
Moran  
Conrad (1985)  
Klawiter

**Unit 4: SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF  
MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE**

Feb 27—Gender & Sex

Martin

Mar 2—Race

Hamza

Mar 4—Tuskegee

Gamble

**Mar 6—TEST #2**

**[SPRING BREAK]**

**Unit 5: SOCIAL FORCES & HEALTH**

Mar 16—The Doctor-Patient Relationship

West

Mar 18—Differential Treatment of Patients

Mar 20—Health Disparities

Williams & Sternthal

Mar 23—Health Disparities

Mar 25—Environments & Health

Mar 27—Obesity

Mar 30—Bodily Diversity & Body Norms

**Apr 1—TEST #3**

**Unit 6: HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS**

Apr 3—Quality, Cost & Access

Apr 6—The American “Patchwork” System

Weitz

Apr 8—Insurance

Quadagno

Apr 10—U.S. Healthcare Reforms in the 20<sup>th</sup>  
Century

Apr 13—The Affordable Care Act

Apr 15—The Affordable Care Act

Apr 17—Sick Around the World

Apr 20—Sick Around the World

Apr 22—Comparative Health Care Policy

Apr 24—Complementary & Alternative  
Medicine

**Apr 27—TEST #4**