

# **Advanced Medical Sociology**

**SOCI 8200**

**The University of Georgia  
Department of Sociology**

**Fall 2006**

**Dr. Leigh A. Willis, PhD, MPH**

<b>Time:</b>	<b>M; 2:30- 5:30pm</b>
<b>Room:</b>	<b>Baldwin Hall 114A</b>
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## Tentative Syllabus

- I. **Aims:** The Aim of this course is to introduce students to the field of medical sociology. The course will address, and understand, a range of concepts, theories and contemporary issues relating to health and illness.
- II. **Course Objectives:** Upon completion of this course, each student will have carefully examined the following:
  - a. The Development of Medical Sociology
  - b. Epidemiology and Social Determinants of Health
  - c. The Relationship between Society and Stress
  - d. Health and Illness Behaviors
  - e. The Structure of Health Occupations
  - f. Doctor-Patient Interactions
  - g. The Structure of Hospitals
  - h. Health Care Delivery Systems in the US and Worldwide
- III. **Structure:** This will be a combined lecture/discussion course. Learning about key issues relative to causes and consequences of health and illness. Therefore we will discuss the topics as described in the syllabus, and then we will discuss important writings/literature.
- IV. **Texts:**
  - a. Medical Sociology by William C. Cockerham, 10<sup>th</sup> edition, 2007. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson-Prentice Hall.
  - b. Readings in Medical Sociology by William C. Cockerham and Michael Glasser, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2001. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson-Prentice Hall.
- V. **Attendance Policy:** Regular attendance will be taken in class. It is the responsibility of the students to attend class.
- VI. **Academic Misconduct:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Such dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, abetting (helping someone cheat), fabrication, misrepresentation of work, and plagiarism (i.e. presenting someone else's work as your own). Any violation will be dealt with severely and to the extent by UGA policies on academic misconduct. If you are unclear about what academic misconduct is refer to the academic honesty website:  
[http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic\\_honesty/academic\\_honesty.htm](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/academic_honesty.htm).
- VII. **Disability Policy:** It is the policy of the University of Georgia to make reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability and desire accommodations to complete requirements, please notify the course instructor in writing as soon as possible.

## Tentative Schedule of Topics and Readings:

<b>August 21</b>	<b>Introduction to Medical Sociology: (Willis)</b> Chapter 1
<b>August 28</b>	<b>Epidemiology: (Willis)</b> Chapter 2; (Link and Phelan 1995)
<b>September 4</b>	<i>Labor Day</i>
<b>September 11</b>	<b>Social Demographic Factors and Health:</b> Chapter 3; (Umberson et al. 2006) (Riska 2002) (Ross and Wu 1995) (Kirby and Kaneda 2006) (Lobmayer and Wilkinson 2000)
<b>September 18</b>	<b>Social Stress and Health: (Willis)</b> Chapter 4 ; (Thoits 1995) (Drentea 2000) <i>1<sup>st</sup> set of Article Reviews</i>
<b>September 25</b>	<b>Health and Illness Behavior</b> Chapters 5 & 6; (Cockerham 2005) (Ross and Bird 1994) (Williams 2003) <b>Guest Lecture: Dr. Silvia Girardo</b>
<b>October 2</b>	<b>The Sick Role</b> Chapter 7; (Reir 2000) (Thoits 2005) (Link and Phelan 2006) (Fife and Wright 2000) (Okie 2006) <b>Guest Lecture: Dr. Jack Fincham</b>
<b>October 9</b>	<b>Alternative Healing Options</b> Chapter 8 (Abrums 2000) (Foote-Ardah 2003) (Welsh et al. 2004) <i>2<sup>nd</sup> set of Article Reviews</i>
<b>October 16</b>	<b>Physicians and Doctor Patient Interaction</b> Chapters 9 & 10; (Weitz 1999) (Hardey 1999) (Hoff, Whitcomb and Nelson 2002)

	(Remennick 2006) (Laveist and Nuru-Jeter 2002)
<b>October 23</b>	<b>Physicians in a Changing Society (Willis)</b> Chapter 11; (Hinze 1999) (Hafferty and Light 1995) (Warren, Weitz and Kulis 1998) (Hoff 2003) <b>Guest Speaker: Dr. Meg Cramer</b>
<b>October 31</b>	<b>Supplementary and Complementary Health Occupations:</b> Chapter 12; (Porter 1992) (Charles-Jones, Latimer and May 2003) <i>3<sup>rd</sup> set of Article Reviews</i>
<b>November 6</b>	<b>The Hospital</b> Chapter 13;
<b>November 13</b>	<b>Health Care Delivery in the US</b> Chapter 14; (Mechanic 2004) (Quadagno 2004) (Seccombe and Amey 1995) (Donelan and Blendon 1996) <b>Guest Lecture: Dr. Jeffrey Wenger</b>
<b>November 20</b>	<b>Health Care in Developed Countries (Willis)</b> Chapter 15; (Mechanic 1995) <i>4<sup>th</sup> set of Article Reviews</i>
<b>November 27</b>	<b>Health Care in Developing and Former Socialist Countries (Willis)</b> Chapter 16; (Cockerham, Snead and Dewaal 2002) (Cockerham 1997)
<b>December 4</b>	<b>Paper Presentations</b>
<b>December 11</b>	<b>Papers Due 5pm</b>

## Course Assignments

1. **Class Presentations:** Throughout the semester students will be required to present articles and chapters. The material will be assigned on the first day of class. Presentations will be evaluated based on clarity and thoroughness.
  
2. **Article Reviews:** Students will be required to review an article related which uses the sociological method to examine a health problem. The article reviews gives students and opportunity to examine the current literature with regards to health issues and share this information with other students. The article reviews should be informative as well as critical in nature. Students are required to locate their own article (if you have questions about the appropriateness of an article please consult with Dr. Willis). Please see class the schedule for due dates of article reviews. A 10 minute presentation will be required along with a **2-page summary** of the article (to be turned in to the instructor). A copy of the article should be provided for the instructor.
  
3. **Research Paper and Presentation:** Students will be required to complete a research paper on a health topic of their choosing. The topics should be narrow in scope and include areas that not discussed directly in class. The paper should reflect a careful review of existing literature and must be thoroughly referenced. The paper is to be **typed, double spaced and no longer than 35 pages including references.** References should be in ASA format. Papers will be evaluated on the basis of accuracy, thoroughness, and professionalism of the presentation. Students will be required to make a formal presentation of your papers to the class on **December 4<sup>th</sup>**. The presentation should be approximately **20-25 minutes**. It is **strongly** suggested that you utilize handouts, overheads, PowerPoint presentations, or other multimedia tools to enhance your presentation.

### Grade Compilation

(1) Research Paper	70 pts
(2) Research Paper Presentation	30 pts
(3) Class Presentations	50 pts
(4) Article Critique	10 pts
<b>Total</b>	<b>160pts</b>

## **Bibliography**

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## **Outlines for Research Papers**

There are two options for your research paper a synthetic research report or an analytic research report. The following are loose guidelines students may wish to use to help write their papers.

**Outline of Synthetic Research Report:** *Summary and conceptual integration of literature and proposals for new theoretical approaches.* (no data is analyzed per se)

### A. INTRODUCTION

- 1) Describe the phenomenon of central interest—the dependent variable. (Statement of the Problem)
- 2) List the independent, explanatory variables related to the variable of interest.
- 3) Specify which explanatory variables are of special interest to you, i.e. specify the scope of the paper.
- 4) Specify alternative theoretical approaches to understanding the interrelationships among variables and which theories are to be expounded upon in this paper.
- 5) Explain the significance of this paper:
  - i. Theoretical significance:
    1. How does this paper contribute to scientific knowledge pertaining to the variable of central interest?
    2. How is this work related to other explanations? How does it complement them?
  - ii. Practical significance:
    1. How does the paper contribute to the solution of practical problems regarding the variable of central interest?
    2. What non-science audiences would be interested in the findings? In other words, Who cares that you have done this studies

### B. LITERATURE REVIEW

- 1) Definition of terms
- 2) Previous conceptualizations and theories
- 3) Previous empirical evidence and tested hypothesis, i.e. findings.
  - i. Consider four aspects of association in this review: existence, strength, direction and nature.

### C. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

- 1) An overview of the shortcomings of previous theories
- 2) Innovations you propose in the conceptualization of the variable of central interest; new theories you propose
- 3) New hypotheses that follow from your theory

#### D. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

- 1) List conclusions of literature review and your theoretical framework
- 2) From what was learned in this paper, how can future research be geared toward making contributions to knowledge?
- 3) What practical knowledge resulted from this paper? What policy implications follow from it?

Outline of Analytic Research report (hypothesis testing and analysis of data).

#### A. PROBLEM STATEMENT OR INTRODUCTION

- 1) Describe phenomenon of central interest—the dependent variable. (e.g. incidence of CVD)
- 2) Relate the important explanatory (independent) variables, i.e., things associated with variation in the variable of central interest. (E.g. age, sex, medical history, personality variables, physiological variables, smoking behavior, etc.)
- 3) Specify which independent variables (relationships) are of special interest to you i.e., the scope of the paper. (E.g., personality variables). Specify what questions you intend to answer.
- 4) Theoretical Framework:
  - a. How are the independent variables related to the dependent variable?
  - b. Which independent variables are strongly associated with variation in the dependent variable?
  - c. Which variables are to be controlled to isolate the effects of others?
- 5) Significance of study:
  - a. Theoretical significance
    - i. How does this research contribute to scientific knowledge pertaining to an understanding of the dependent variable?
    - ii. How is this research related (or not) to other research on the dependent variable?
  - b. Practical Significance
    - i. How does the research contribute to the solution of practical problems, for example, high heart disease rates?
    - ii. What non-science audiences would be interested in the findings?
    - iii. Who cares that you have done this study?

## B. REVIEW OF CURRENT KNOWLEDGE

- 1) Summarize theories and findings of a general nature on the dependent variable.
- 2) Summarize theories and findings specifically relating independent variables of interest to you.

## C. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK (optional, depending on scope and length of paper)

- 1) Describe your theory
- 2) Generate specific hypothesis to be tested

## D. METHODOLOGY

- 1) Sources of data (mode of data collection, i.e. experiment, observation, survey, secondary sources)
- 2) The sample, how chosen, data collection procedures
- 3) General description of measurement procedure
- 4) Operational definitions (and validity and reliability)
  - i. The dependent variable
  - ii. Central independent variable(s)
  - iii. Control variables

## E. FINDINGS

- 1) General findings and data reduction: zero order, direct correlations between the dependent variable and independent variables
- 2) Multivariate findings, statistical controls
- 3) Consider four aspects of association between variables:
  - i. Existence
  - ii. Strength
  - iii. Direction
  - iv. Nature

## F. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

- 1) Summary: "These hypotheses were supported by the findings....."
- 2) Relate findings to theory. Was the theory supported?
- 3) Be sure to answer questions raised in the introduction are answered including practical questions
- 4) Future research: What directions do your findings point to for further development of theory?