

FORM I – SUMMARY PAGE FOR PROPOSAL #

1. **Course Number and Title:** SOCI 4102 – The Sociology of Health and Disparities
2. **Submitting College:** CLASS
3. **Department(s) Generating The Proposal:** Social and Behavioral Sciences, Department of Sociology
4. **Effective Date:** Fall 2013
5. **Brief Summary of Proposal:**

This undergraduate elective course is worth three (3) credit hours. The study of health, illness, death and disparities will provide students with an in-depth look at published reports and books on variations in health conditions among groups of people based on social and physical environmental factors such as race, class, biological sex, values and belief systems, occupation, living conditions and other aspects of our social structure that can affect the health of societal members.

6. **Type of Proposal:** New course
7. **Graduate School Endorsement Status:** N/A

8. **Impact on Library Holdings :** None
Existing:
Additional:
Deletions:

9. **Impact on Existing Programs:**

This course offers a new elective class for undergraduate program students who are interested in health disparities.

10. **Additional Resources Required**

Personnel: None
Non-personnel: None

11. **Approvals:**

- Department Curriculum Committee
Signature _____ Date _____

- Department Chair
Signature_____Date_____

- College Curriculum Committee
Signature_____Date_____

- College Dean
Signature_____Date_____

- New Programs & Curriculum Committee
Signature_____Date_____

- Faculty Senate
Signature_____Date_____

FORM II - COURSE ADDITION FORM FOR PROPOSAL

- A. **Course Number:** SOCI 4102
- B. **Course Title** The Sociology of Health and Disparities

C. **Catalogue Description:**

This course will provide an in-depth look at health conditions among groups of people based on social and physical environmental factors such as race, class, biological sex, values and belief systems, occupation, living conditions and other aspects of social structures that can affect the health and well-being of societal members.

D. **Rationale:**

This class is an elective 4000 level course for undergraduate students who are interested in studying health disparities in the United States.

- E. **Credit Hours:** 3 credit hours

- F. **Impact on Library Holdings:** None

- G. **Syllabus:** (attached)

- H. **Similarity to, or duplication of Existing Courses:** None

I. **Textbook selection:**

Freund, Peter E., McGuire, Meredith B., and Linda S. Podhurst. 2003. (4th ed.). *Health, Illness, and the Social Body, A Critical Sociology*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

Cockerham, William C. 2012. (12th ed.). *Medical Social*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.

- J. **Grading:** (see attached syllabus)



SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Liberal Arts and Social Science
Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

SOCI 4102–The Sociology of Health and Disparities

SYLLABUS

Instructor:
Office: Social Science Building, Room
Phone: or email:
Office Hours:

Course Description:

This elective course is worth three (3) credit hours. The study of health, illness, death and disparities will provide students with an in-depth look at published reports and books on variations in health conditions among groups of people based on variables such as race, class, biological sex, values and belief systems, occupation, living conditions and other aspects of our social structure that can affect the health of societal members.

This course will begin its examination of health disparities by focusing on the origins of the U.S. healthcare industry and conditions and ideologies that currently drive this industry. A primary goal of this course is to provide students with a framework integrating both social and physical environmental factors that produce both health and illness in a society. However, in order to gain a greater understanding of social (interactions) and physical environmental (material objects) factors that influence health and illness in a society, students will also be introduced to medical models (or theories) such as the Western bio-medical perspective in which presumes that diseases are located solely within the body, in addition to other models that focus on specific disease causing agents. This approach will allow students the opportunity to examine variables outside of the human body for answers to the disparities in health, illness and death question in our society.

The primary focus of this course is on U.S. society however, contrasts and similarities with other nations will be included, providing a cross-cultural perspective.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course students should be able to demonstrate mastery of the following:

1. Understand the historical and contemporary goals of the health care industry.
2. Recognize social and physical environmental factors that influence the way of life, health, illness and death in a society.
3. Recognize how variables found in social and physical environments such as race, class, biological sex, values and beliefs, occupation, and other aspects of any social structure produces disparities in health among groups of people.
4. Compare and contrast the disparities in health between societies.
5. Identify medical models used to treat illness.

In order to achieve the above stated learning objectives, students must be able to:

1. Identify historical and current goals that influence the health care industry.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the social and physical environmental forces that create societies way of life, health and death.
3. Identify and apply basic concepts, theories, and methods utilized in sociological research.
4. Identify, articulate, and analyze the causes and outcomes of health disparities.
5. Define and recognize the nature and function of the various institutions that impact societal member's health.
6. Demonstrate the ability to effectively engage and interact with others in a collegial atmosphere. Accomplishing this course objective requires two things: 1) That you attend class regularly and on time, and 2) That you participate in general class discussions and other course activities.

Attendance Policy:

You are expected to attend each scheduled class period. The minimum attendance requirement for this class is _____ (____) days or ninety percent (90%), not including the final exam day. Students who have _____ (____) absences will receive a one letter grade reduction in their final grade for the course. Students are responsible for signing the appropriate daily roll sheet, and for providing the instructor with official notices for excused absences. Please note that repeated tardiness and early departures will also be considered as absences. If punctuality becomes a constant problem, the instructor reserves the right to implement a policy, whereas students will not be able to enter once class is in session.

If hazardous conditions exist and class has not been cancelled, students may choose to use one of the absences provided by the attendance policy. Excused absences without penalty will be at the discretion of the instructor according to University policy.

Exams:

Students will be given three (3) exams worth fifty (50) points each, including the final to ensure that they understand the course material. The three exams are worth one-hundred (100) total points. Only University approved excuses will be accepted for not taking the first exam on the scheduled date. The instructor must be notified in advance if you are going to miss the first exam. Make-up exams must be taken within two (2) days of the original test date. Unexcused absences will result in 0 test points toward your final grade. All excuses will be considered on a case-by-case basis according to University policy. The final exam must be taken on the scheduled test date. There will be no make-ups for the final exam.

Individual and Group Participation, and Book and Journal Assignments:

Participation is essential to the learning process in this class. Each student will be randomly assigned to groups throughout the semester, and expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings, to work on group projects, and/or maintain a journal. Individual and group participation, and book and journal assignments are **worth seventy five (75) total points**. Book assignments will require homework. I will provide you with questions related to your reading, and you will be expected to find this information in the assigned section of your book. Journal assignments will also require homework. I will provide you with a topic, and you will be expected to find a related article in a newspaper or magazine, and briefly summarize and give your opinion on the article. Your summary and opinion must be typed. The article must be attached to the back of your summary before turning it in. Individual/group projects and book/journal assignments will be randomly assigned. All assignments must be turned in on the designated date. Only University excused absences will be accepted for permission to make-up group and journal assignments at the discretion of the instructor.

Literature Review/Presentation:

You will be required to make a presentation over your selected topic. In addition to the presentation, you will also be required to write a literature review based on your theory of some aspect related to this course. The final presentation and literature review is **worth seventy five (75) total points** toward your final grade.

Literature Review:

As stated above, the presentation will require you to write a literature review based on your theory over some aspect of the course topic, health, illness, death and disparities. The literature review is **worth fifty (50) total points** toward your final grade. These papers should be no less than 6 and no more than 7 pages in length, double spaced, using Times New Roman or Garamond letter styles, and no larger than a size 12 letter font (do not use justification or other techniques to increase the length of your paper). Your literature review must be turned in on _____ . Literature reviews will not be accepted after the due date, **NO EXCEPTIONS**.

The literature review should include your theory, justification for your theory, and some expertise of the assigned readings as listed under the scheduled readings. You must incorporate at least five ideas from the assigned reading (this means that I should find at least five (5) citations within your written text from the book). Information from the assigned readings should be brief and cited appropriately. The balance of this paper should include your incorporation of other scholarly materials such as books or journal articles to support your theory. Articles found on the internet may only come from JSTOR, Lexus Nexus, or other sociological data bases (contact the library for assistance). You must incorporate ideas from at least ten (10) outside sources in your paper. You must also cite authors within the text, and provide quotation marks for “short” direct quotes if applicable (see attached for examples on how to reference authors within the text). Thus, there should be fifteen (15) total citations within your text. You may only use the same author once for outside source credit (same authors teamed with a different author is acceptable). In addition, you may not use the work of any author, who is not listed as such in any book or article that you are using. For example, if Strong and associates is quoting or using charts in their book from Stephanie Coontz, you cannot claim Strong and associates as having made the statement or creating the chart. You must find and note the original source.

The literature review must show that you have read the assigned book chapters and/or articles, and that you can incorporate this material into your writing as support for your theory.

You must use a separate page for the title of your paper, your name, and date (do not include your name or headings on the actual text pages). In addition, all books (including your selected page(s) from the book) and or articles being used must be cited in alphabetical order on a separate page (See attached for examples on how to cite authors on the reference page). Please note that your assigned text is a compilation of various articles edited by Tiemann and Associates, therefore all articles from this book must be cited appropriately showing, Tiemann and Associates as editors (You should have 11 citations on your reference page). Please note: the title and citation pages do not count towards the total number of pages requested.

Your pages must be numbered, but use automatic numbering on your computer. Make sure that there are two spaces between each period, and that your paragraphs are the appropriate length (a change in subject matter is a good indicator for a new paragraph). Points will also be deducted for papers that are difficult to read, so if you have questions regarding spelling, grammar, and or structure, please visit the campus re-write center.

Make sure that you understand and follow the above instructions to prevent a loss of points. Five (5) points will be deducted for every missing or incorrect component in your paper, so BE CAREFUL TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS.

Presentation:

The presentation is **worth twenty (25) total points** toward your final grade. You will decide which five sources (2 from the book and 3 scholarly of your choice) that you will use to make your presentation. You will be required to create a brief power point slide show, including the main points that you have selected to include. You will have five (5) minutes to make your presentation. The final presentation should show your ability to incorporate your ideas and the

work of others into one report. Selected citations must be clear in your verbal report, and included at the end of your power point presentation. You will be graded on: the inclusion of your theory, the inclusion of the required sources, clarity, creativity- including your power point presentation, and appropriate dress. Five (5) (points will be deducted for every missing element in your presentation, so **BE CAREFUL TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS.**

Your presentation and literature review is due on the date in which your name is called, **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Reading Assignments:

You will be responsible for reading the assigned material. In order to get a better understanding of the readings, I recommend that you skim the material to get an idea of the subject matter, and then go back and read the assigned pages, paying closer attention to detail. It is essential that you keep up with the reading assignments so that you will have a better understanding of the lectures, and to prepare you for group assignments, class discussions and the exams. **Please bring your book to class!**

Classroom Behavior Policy:

We will often engage each other in lively and sometimes heated discussions around topics having to do with health disparities. I fully encourage everyone to express their opinions regardless of their agreement or disagreement. However, our learning environment must be a safe place where everyone can feel confident in expressing his or her thoughts and feelings. This means that rude interruptions, derogatory comments, and personal attacks will not be tolerated. You may not always be comfortable with issues being discussed, and that is expected. However, I encourage you to remain part of the discussion, and to consider the issues being addressed.

I understand that the class period may take place during your normal meal time, however, eating and drinking is prohibited in class (bottled water is the only exception).

Newspapers, cellular phones (**MUST BE TURNED OFF**), and other distracting materials or objects are forbidden during the class period unless they are an integral part of class projects or discussion. Students who consistently violate this policy will be dismissed from class, and marked absent for the day.

In order to minimize distractions during lectures and class discussion, please take care of any outside activities, including restroom breaks prior to the class period. Students who repeatedly violate this policy will be dismissed from class, and marked absent for the day. In addition, the instructor must be advised prior to each class period if you have a legitimate excuse to leave early. Early dismissals will be at the discretion of the instructor according to University policy.

The University dress code will be enforced. Students not adhering to the dress code will be excused, and lose attendance credit for the day.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the standards of the University. These standards are outlined in detail in the SSU Student Handbook and Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Ethics; it is advisable for students to familiarize themselves with this information and to follow these guidelines accordingly.

Academic Integrity Policy:

Integrity without compromise is the standard for the college, and therefore, this class. Any student involved in any form of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will be given a grade of “F” for the course. In addition, a formal report of the incident will be submitted to the appropriate offices, through which further disciplinary action may be taken, including academic suspension. If you are in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, please go to <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>.

Disabilities:

The University System of Georgia complies with the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who seek academic accommodations must make their request by contacting Ms. Castilian-Moore in the Office of Counseling and Disability Services located in the King Frazier Annex, second floor, room 233. You may also reach Ms. Castilian-Moore by calling (912) 358-3115, or via email at moorea@savannahstate.edu.

The SSU Disability Handbook can be found at <http://www.savannahstate.edu/student-affairs/docs/Disability%20Services%20Services%20Handbook%202005.pdf>.

Grading:

Grades are based on a 300-point system. The three exams will account for 50% of your grade (150 points total), individual/group participation, and book/journal assignments are 25% (75 points total), and the presentation and literature review is 25% (75 points total).

270-300 = A
240-268 = B
210-238 = C
180-208 = D
178 and below = F

Required Text:

Freund, Peter E., McGuire, Meredith B., and Linda S. Podhurst. 2003. (4th ed.). *Health, Illness, and the Social Body, A Critical Sociology*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

Supplemental Text:

Cockerham, William C. 2012. (12th ed.). *Medical Social*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.

Reading and Exam Schedule

Week 1	Course Overview
Week 2	Student Presentations Library Literacy Visit
Week 3	The History of Healthcare in America The American Medical Association
Week 4	A Sociological Perspective on Health, Illness, and the Body
Week 5	Who Becomes Sick, Injured, or Dies?
Week 6	Mind, Body, and Society First Exam
Week 7	Group Presentations on Selected Topics
Week 8	Social Organization, Health, and Illness
Week 9	The Social Meanings of Sickness
Week 10	Experiencing Chronic Illness, Pain, and Disability
Week 11	Group Presentations on Selected Topics
Week 12	Seeking Health and Help Seeking Health and Help Public Service Assignment Second Exam
Week 13	The Social Construction of Medical Knowledge
Week 14	Modern Biomedicine: knowledge and Practice
Week 15	Stratification and Power in Health Care Systems
Week 16	Economic Interest and Power in Health Care Systems
Week 17	Paper Due Presentations Due
Week 18	Final Exam