SOC 475: Sociology of Health Care Systems

3:00-4:20 Tu Th  
114 Berkey Hall  
2nd Semester, Jan-May 2008

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Syllabus

Goal:  
To increase awareness and understanding of the social context of health and disease, including social epidemiology, provider patient interpersonal relations, social organizations, health professions, and the influence of socio-economic factors on health care access, utilization and status from a comparative cross national perspective.

Learning Objectives:

- Ability to define and identify key terms in medical sociology, social epidemiology, and health care delivery, which will be assessed in recalling facts, terms, and basic concepts in short answer identification questions.
- Ability to comprehend major theories and models in medical sociology, social epidemiology, and health care delivery which will be assessed by describing, comparing, summarizing and interpreting them in essay questions.
- Ability to develop hypotheses, analyze data and report on health attitudes and behavior from a general social survey which will be assessed by a written term paper.

Texts:

- Cockerham, William C. Medical Sociology. 10th
- European Observatory Health care systems in eight countries: trends and challenges
  Available on line at http://www.euro.who.int/document/OBS/hcs8countries.pdf
  Additional websites on non US Health Care Systems listed in reading schedule.

Manual:

- Perlstadt, Harry Questionnaire Analysis Handbook: State of State Surveys
  Will be emailed and put on ANGEL as an MSWord Document in February

Learning Assessments:

- All exams are short answer and essay. I do not give multiple choice exams
  
  First Exam  (100 pts not %)
  Second Exam (100 pts not %)
  Term Paper (100 pts not %)
  Third Exam (100 pts not %)

Term Paper and Computer Work:

- The term paper will be based upon the student's analysis of data using Data on Demand from an IPPSR telephone survey of Michigan households that included a series of questions on health status, beliefs, behavior, and providers.
  
- The Questionnaire Analysis Handbook will be available in February and contains instructions for setting up your analysis, using the computer and accessing the codebook for the survey.
  
- One class will be devoted to going over the term paper and computer lab work. You will learn everything you need to know about using the computer and this software.
  
Lab Times: A computer lab time will be set up

- The data is on the IPPSR website http://www.ippsr.msu.edu/SOSS/SOSSdata.htm so that you can do your computer work from any computer with internet access.

Honors Option:

- An additional paper involving some reading and participant observation maybe available for honors college students. Please indicate your interest before end of January.