TuTh 12:30-1:50 pm PST  
**Tuesdays: In-person Lecture – CENTR 214**  
**Thursdays: Synchronous Virtual Lecture** (Exceptions: September 28th & December 7th)  
(Link in Canvas ‘Announcements’)

**Zoom Office Hours: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm PST Tuesdays**

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**SOCI 135 - Medical Sociology**

What characterizes ‘human nature’? What is the relationship between biology and society? How, and on what basis, do medical facts emerge? What is the relationship between medical knowledge and practice? How does scientific knowledge and practice more broadly relate to larger social systems? What role do politics and ethics play in the construction, reproduction, and transformation of medical knowledge and practice?

This course approaches medical knowledge and practice in light of central sociological concepts including class, race, gender, sexuality, and disability. The course takes an explicitly critical approach in the sense of not taking concepts, claims, or practices for granted. Our aim will be to explore the social and historical roots of medical knowledge and practices in order that we may all contribute to more informed reflection and action inside and outside the medical field.

**Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**
Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Develop and deploy a critical sociological perspective; more specifically, understand and apply major critical sociological concepts – including class, race, gender, sexuality, and disability - as they relate to the knowledge and practice of Western biomedicine;
- Reflect upon the socially constructed character of ‘human nature’ and taken-for-granted medical and scientific facts;
- Critically reflect upon the interdependent relationships between natural and social environments; designations of ‘normal’ and ‘abnormal’;
- Identify and communicate interesting aspects of, or illuminating relations between, theoretical concepts and empirical applications;
- Critique concepts and analyses, evaluating their capabilities and limitations;
- Write short-answer essays with organized, well-supported arguments;
- Identify potential interventions or transformations aimed at addressing issues of human freedom, happiness, and health.

**Canvas**

- Course Syllabus (Syllabus)
- Weekly Readings and Weekly Lecture Slides (Files)
- Recorded Lectures (Media Gallery)
- Documentary Assignments, Midterms & Final Paper (Assignments)
- Weekly Office Hours Zoom Link (Announcements)
- Thursday Weeks 1-9 Synchronous Lecture Zoom Link (Announcements)

Canvas will be used to communicate all course-wide announcements.

Please be sure that you are able to access Canvas for the duration of the course.

Please be sure to check Canvas regularly for any course-wide announcements.

**Email and Office Hours**

Please allow me 24 hours to respond to your email during the week (Monday-Friday). Over weekends and university holidays, please know that I will respond at the start of the work week. If you know you have a question or will need to be in touch, please do so sooner than later. If you have questions that require in-depth answers, I may request that we meet during virtual office hours or by zoom appointment.

I am available in virtual office hours each Tuesday from 10:00 am -12:00 pm PST.

A zoom link for office hours is available under our ‘Announcements’ tab on Canvas.

**Assignments & Grading**

The final grade for our class will have four components worth a total of 500 points.
(140 points) 1st Midterm (Week 5)
Due end of day (11:59 pm PST) on Friday November 3rd

(140 points) 2nd Midterm (Week 9)
Due end of day (11:59 pm PST) on Friday December 1st

(100 points) Final Exam (Finals Week)
Due end of day (11:59 pm PST) on Friday December 15th

(40 points each x 3 = 120 points) Documentary Assignments
Due end of day (11:59 pm PST) on Fridays of Weeks 4, 7, 10

Our Midterms will consist of a combination of term identifications (IDs) and short-essay questions.

Documentary Assignments (3) will consist of 2-page guided reflections on topics presented in relation to course materials. UCSD Library & VPN Login Required for Documentary Assignments #2 & #3.

The Final Paper will consist of a 5-page essay, critically synthesizing materials covered across the quarter.

Details of each graded component will be covered in lecture.

UCSD Library & VPN Login Information (For Documentary Assignments #2 & #3)
https://blink.ucsd.edu/technology/network/connections/off-campus/VPN/

Course Grading Scale

98+: A+
98-93: A
92-90: A-
89-88: B+
87-83: B
82-80: B-
79-78: C+
77-73: C
72-70: C-
69-60: D
59 and below: F

Please Note: Late work will lose 1/3 of a letter grade per day late.

Please Note: No coursework will be accepted, and no grade adjustments will be made past the last day of our university-scheduled course final – Friday December 15th.

Optional Extra Credit

A write-up (1-2 pages double-spaced) reflecting on our Unnatural Causes (Week 1) and/or Sicko (Week 10) documentaries may be submitted for extra credit.

Extra credit points will be added to final papers at the end of the quarter.

Each extra credit write-up is worth 10 points. Up to 20 points total of extra credit available.

Please submit extra credit reflections directly to Professor Payne via email (capayne@ucsd.edu) any time up to end of day (11:59 pm) Friday December 15th. Please include your name and our course # (SOCI 135).

Respect

At their best, college courses flourish when everyone involved takes seriously the responsibility to engage course material in a critical manner. Critical engagement is grounded in thoughtful reflection, and such thoughtful reflection may provide opportunities for respectful disagreement. Respectful disagreement often leads to illuminating discussions and further thoughtful engagement for us all. There is a world of difference between disagreement and disrespect.

What I expect and require in our class – both in-person and online - is a mature and mindful space that refrains from personal attacks and explicit or implied hostility. In the intellectual and ethical interests of us all, I do not tolerate disrespectful or hostile discussion. As we cultivate our learning spaces together, it promotes our intellectual endeavors to harbor these differences and similarities, agreements and disagreements, towards promoting the free exchange of ideas and a space where that is possible.

Academic Integrity

All academic work must be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. Avoid even unintentional plagiarism. Give full credit to the sources for your ideas and writing. Collaboration in studying is OK; collaboration in writing is not. Use of AI generators to do one’s SOCI 135 coursework is a violation of academic integrity.
Violations of academic integrity will result in a grade of ‘0’ for the assignment. Violations will also be referred to the college for administrative action. If you have any questions regarding academic integrity, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me at any time. Please also consult the bottom of this syllabus for further information.

UCSD’s academic integrity information can be viewed at: https://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/index.html

Please look it over and do not hesitate to be in touch with any questions.

**Course Content & Schedule (Subject to Minor Variation as Necessary)**

**Please note that page numbers given for texts refer to pages of/in readings – not the page numbers across the top of any pdfs of these readings.**

**Week “Zero: – Introduction to Course**

**Week One – Questions of Health and Illness in Social Contexts**

- **Wing, Steve.** 1994 “Limits of Epidemiology” *Medicine and Global Survival*. 1(2) pp. 74-86


- **Unnatural Causes** Clips *(Extra Credit Available)*


**Week Two – Biopower: Productions of Health & Normalcy**

Fausto-Sterling, Anne. 1993 “The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female are Not Enough” *The Sciences*. March/April **pp. 20-24** (Check out the letters to the editor after the article).


**Week Three – Biological Determinism and Ideological Loops**


Martin, Emily. 1991 “The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male and Female Roles” *Signs*. 16(3) **pp. 485-501**

**Week Four – Reification, Race, Racism**

Chadha, Noor, Bernadette Lim, Madeline Kane, and Brenly Rowland. 2020. *Toward the Abolition of Biological Race in Medicine: Transforming Clinical Education, Research, and Practice*. Institute for Healing and Justice in Medicine Policy Brief. **Pp. 5-40**


Cimini, Kate. 2021. ‘We’re born Indian and we die white’: California Indigenous fear COVID deaths undercounted” in Cal Matters.
https://calmatters.org/california-divide/2021/03/california-indigenous-fear-covid-deaths-undercounted/

Documentary Assignment #1 Due: Friday October 27th

Week Five – Neoliberalism & Mental Health

Esposito, Luigi and Fernando M. Perez. 2014 “Neoliberalism and the Commodification of Mental Health” Humanity and Society. 38(4) pp. 414-442

Midterm #1 Review
Week Six - Reproduction: Eugenical Control vs. Emancipatory Autonomy


  - Chapter 4 – *Comstockery to the Baby Boom* pp. 60-69
  - Chapter 5 – *Population Panic to the Baby Bust* pp. 70-80


Week Seven – Medical Expertise: Professional & Lay Knowledges I


- **Documentary Assignment #2 Due: Friday November 17th**
Week Eight – Final Paper & Midterm #2 Walk-Through

- Tuesday November 21st – Final Paper & Midterm #2 Walk-Throughs

- Thursday November 23rd – No Class – Holiday!

Week Nine – Medical Expertise: Professional & Lay Knowledges II


- Hobson-West, Pru. 2007 “‘Trusting Blindly Can Be the Biggest Risk of All’: Organized Resistance to Childhood Vaccination in the UK” Sociology of Health and Illness. 29(2) pp. 198-215


- Midterm #2 Due: Friday December 1st by end of day - Canvas ‘Assignments’

Week Ten - Health Care, Capitalism, and Comparative Contrasts


- Davis, Lennard. 2021 “In the Time of Pandemic, the Deep Structure of Biopower Is Laid Bare” Critical Inquiry 47(S2) pp. 138-142
Tuesday & Thursday In-Class Documentary Viewing: *Sicko*. 2007 Director: Michael Moore. (Extra Credit Available)

Documentary Assignment #3 Due: Friday December 8th

Final Paper Due Friday December 15th (11:59pm) - Canvas ‘Assignments’

Welcome!
I look forward to exploring Medical Sociology together this quarter!

*Sociology Department*
Main Office SSB 401: [https://sociology.ucsd.edu/](https://sociology.ucsd.edu/)

*Advising*
[https://sociology.ucsd.edu/undergraduate/advising.html](https://sociology.ucsd.edu/undergraduate/advising.html)

*Accommodations and Important Resources*
Every learning environment should be accessible to all. If you have a disability and require accommodations for this class, please contact:

**UCSD’s OFFICE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** [https://osd.ucsd.edu/](https://osd.ucsd.edu/)

**RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES**

Please let me know as soon as possible if, for any religious reasons, you will require an extension on a part of your overall assessments.

**UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES**

Please let me know as soon as possible if, for any university activities, you will require an extension on a part of your overall assessments.

**COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES**

The Counseling Center (CAPS) offers counseling for personal & career concerns, self-help information, and referrals for additional mental health services. It is located in UCSD’s Galbraith Hall 190.

[https://caps.ucsd.edu/make-appointment/appointments.html](https://caps.ucsd.edu/make-appointment/appointments.html)

**NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE:** 1-800-273-8255

**STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES**

[https://wellness.ucsd.edu/studenthealth/Pages/default.aspx](https://wellness.ucsd.edu/studenthealth/Pages/default.aspx) (or: studenthealth@ucsd.edu)

**UCSD HUB/BASIC NEEDS CENTER**

UCSD has a Response Team that helps students who need immediate support. This support could include short-term provision of food, shelter, or financial crisis among other items. In many situations, campus personnel will coordinate with community social service agencies to support our students in these situations. If you are in need of immediate support, please contact basicneeds@ucsd.edu or call 1-858-246-2632.

[https://basicneeds.ucsd.edu/](https://basicneeds.ucsd.edu/)

**WELL BEING – “The Zone”**

[https://students.ucsd.edu/well-being/index.html](https://students.ucsd.edu/well-being/index.html)
GENDER NEUTRAL BATHROOMS

There are gender-neutral restrooms on campus. A complete list with maps can be found at: https://maps.ucsd.edu/map/Default.htm?id=1005#!ce/37654?ct/0.18011?me/32.876073117796686,-117.22527980804445?z/15?lvl/0

REPORTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Please know that I, like all UCSD faculty, am mandated to report any allegations of sexual assault involving members of the University community to the campus Title IX office. You do not have to follow up with them if you do not wish to, but it is important that you are aware of your resources as well as rights, such as withdrawing from a class if need be. Review information about your rights, how to pursue a university discipline charge and a criminal charge, and how to report the violence without pursuing any charges at: https://sos.ucsd.edu/filing-a-report/index.html or call: 858-534-8298.

UCSD ESCORT SERVICE

Call extension 4-WALK or (858) 534-9255 from sunset to 4 a.m. daily. After 1 a.m., police department staff may provide this service. You can arrange a repeating escort so a community service officer (CSO) will meet you at the same place and time, which makes it more convenient to get a late-night escort.

SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM ADVOCATE

http://care.ucsd.edu/ or call: 858-534-5793

TRITON TRANSFER HUB

https://transferstudents.ucsd.edu/

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND PROGRAMS OFFICE (ISPO)

https://ispo.ucsd.edu/

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT & INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES (OASIS)/EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (EOP)

Especially helpful for first generation, non-traditional, and English as a Second Language Students, but of course open to all: https://oasis.ucsd.edu/ (or call: 858-534-3760)
UCSD CAREER CENTER

The UCSD Career Center can help you assess your interests.
858-534-3751 https://career.ucsd.edu/ (or: careercenter@ucsd.edu)

WRITING HUB

If you need help with writing with this or any class, please contact the UCSD Writing Hub.

https://writinghub.ucsd.edu/

BLACK RESOURCE CENTER

858-534-0471 https://brc.ucsd.edu/

WOMEN’S CENTER

858-822-0074 https://women.ucsd.edu/

SAN DIEGO LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER
3909 Centre St., San Diego, CA 92103
http://www.thecentersd.org/

UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SERVICES

858-822-6916 https://uss.ucsd.edu/ (or: undoc@ucsd.edu)

TRANSGENDER CARE

(858) 534-3300 https://wellness.ucsd.edu/studenthealth/services/Pages/transgender-care.aspx

RAZA RESOURCE CENTRO

858-822-0072 https://raza.ucsd.edu/

INTERTRIBAL RESOURCE CENTER (ITRC)

858- 822-0048 https://itrc.ucsd.edu/

CROSS CULTURAL CENTER
CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses. You are plagiarizing or cheating if you:

- For written work, copy anything from a book, article, website, or AI generator and add or paste it into your paper without using quotation marks and/or without providing the full reference for the quotation, including page number
- For written work, summarize / paraphrase in your own words ideas you got from a book, article, or the web without providing the reference for the source
- Use academic visuals obtained from a book, article, or website without providing a reference for the visual
- Recycle a paper you wrote for another class
- Turn in the same (or a very similar paper) for two classes
- Purchase or otherwise obtain a paper and turn it in as your own work
- Copy the work of a classmate

Consequences of cheating and plagiarism

Consequences are at the instructor’s and the administration’s discretion. Instructors are mandated by the UCSD system to report the offense to the administration. Consequences may include any of the following: warning; failing the assignment; failing the class; probation; suspension; expulsion