

SOCI-360: SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH & MEDICAL CARE

Effective Term

Fall 2026

CC Approval

11/01/2024

AS Approval

11/14/2024

BOT Approval

11/21/2024

COCI Approval

06/02/2025

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Sociology (Master's Degree)	

Subject Code

SOCI - Sociology

Course Number

360

Department

Sociology

Division

Social Sciences (SOCS)

Full Course Title

Sociology of Health & Medical Care

Short Title

Socio of Health & Medical Care

CB03 TOP Code

2208.00 - Sociology

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

Rationale

This course will provide students in the Respiratory Care BS program with a relevant upper-division elective in the social and behavioral sciences.

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description

Exploration of core topics in the study of health and the delivery of medical care. Diverse perspectives on health care policy will be examined from a sociological approach. Students will develop an understanding of fundamental ideas and problems in the areas of health and medical care.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit

No

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Grading Options

Letter Grade Only

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites

Prerequisite(s)

Completion of SOCI-120 or SOCI-122 with a minimum grade of C.

Limitation on Enrollment

Enrollment is limited to students accepted into the Respiratory Care Baccalaureate Degree program.

This is a program that has a requirement that a cohort of students complete upper division GE courses.

Requisite Justification

Requisite Description

Course Not in a Sequence

Subject

SOCI

Course

120

Level of Scrutiny

Content Review

Upon entering this course, students should be able to:

Analyze social phenomena using a variety of theoretical perspectives.

Requisite Description

Course Not in a Sequence

Subject

SOCI

Course

122

Level of Scrutiny

Content Review

Upon entering this course, students should be able to:

Analyze social phenomena using a variety of theoretical perspectives.

SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?

No

Units

3.00000

Lecture Hours

54

Lab Hours

0

Activity Hours

0

Work Experience Hours

0

Outside of Class Hours

108

Total Contact Hours

54

Total Student Hours

162

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?

Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Entirely Online	Permanent

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Evaluate healthcare policy from sociological, political, economic, legal, and ethical perspectives.
2.	Summarize and discuss contemporary health policy problems and issues.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Discuss how socio-economic and cultural factors can affect health and healthcare policy outcomes.
2.	Compare the pros and cons of US health policies to international approaches to care.
3.	Describe the process through which health policy is made in the US, including the role of legislators, judges, government agencies, non-government agencies, and for-profit actors.
4.	Understand the unique nature of the American system of health care delivery, and the historical forces that shaped it.
5.	Discuss strategies for improving the equitable delivery of health care in the US.
6.	Evaluate policy tradeoffs and clearly communicate a case for or against specific policy options.
7.	Analyze the interplay between social determinants of health, including racism and other forms of systemic oppression, and health policy.
8.	Anticipate the effects of policy on health equity, including consequences of health policies and practices that harm under-served groups.

Course Content

1. Determinants of health
 - a. biological and hereditary factors
 - b. socioeconomic factors
 - c. cultural factors
 - d. environmental factors
 - e. case studies: smoking, asthma, obesity
2. Public Health as an approach
 - a. concept and appropriateness of public health approaches to issues such as:
 - i. gun violence
 - ii. teen pregnancy
 - iii. depression
 - iv. substance abuse
 - v. obesity
 - vi. tobacco use
 - vii. environmental pollution
 - viii. bullying
 - b. history of public health and public health policy responses to crises such as: cholera, polio, HIV/AIDS, COVID-19, famine, and malaria
3. Healthcare policy and health
 - a. US healthcare laws and institutions
 - i. organizing healthcare delivery
 - ii. organizing healthcare insurance
 - b. issues of need, access, and cost
 - i. setting priorities, allocating resources
 - ii. market-based mechanisms versus non-market-based mechanisms
 - c. future and emerging issues
 - i. aging populations
 - ii. globalized and mobile populations
 - iii. newly emerging pathogens or illnesses
4. Politics and the policy-making process in healthcare
 - a. key players and interest groups
 - i. who are they?
 - ii. how do their interests dovetail or conflict?
 - b. the legislative process
 - i. students will explore at least one major health care policy initiative by considering legislative responses to health care crisis
 - c. implementation and oversight
 - i. how to ensure quality healthcare delivery
 1. role of government
 2. role of NGOs
 3. role of patients
5. Policy alternatives
 - a. varying policies and approaches within the US
 - i. Healthy SF
 - ii. Medicaid and CHIP in differing states
 - b. varying policies by other developed countries.
 - i. healthcare in Britain
 - ii. healthcare in France
 - iii. healthcare in Japan
 - c. other public health alternatives
 - i. what will patients want from their providers?

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Lecture	Attend lecture, take notes and ask questions.
Group Work	Think-pair-share activities.

Discussion	Respond to the topic, give feedback and engage other students in conversation.
Visiting Lecturers	Hear from experts in the field.

Online Adaptation

Types	Examples of learning activities
Lecture	Watch/listen to live or recorded lecture, take notes and ask questions.
Group Work	Think-pair-share using group pages/other collaborative apps and tools.
Discussion	Respond to prompt in discussion board forum, give feedback and engage in conversation with other students.
Other	Guest speakers via live or recorded video.

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

- Announcements/Bulletin Boards
- Discussion Boards
- E-mail Communication
- Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

- Chat Rooms
- Discussions
- Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Class Participation	Contribute to class discussions, complete a quiz or survey during/immediately after class.
Essays/Papers	Synthesis and evaluation of study outcomes and findings.
Oral Presentations	Present a summary of a specific health policy to the class.
Exams/Tests	Multiple-choice and short-answer questions based on lecture and other assigned material.

Assignments

Reading Assignments

1. Read and synthesize peer-reviewed articles and case studies.
2. Read from the textbook and other assigned materials.
3. Number of pages will vary, but a minimum of 750 pages of reading and analysis will be required.

Writing Assignments

1. Summary reflection/evaluation essays focusing on weekly reading assignments (250-300 words/each).
2. Comprehensive case study analysis (1000-1500 words).

Outside-of-Class Assignments

1. Research and then present to the class the current state of a public health issue and critique the policies that have attempted to address it.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Material Type

Textbook

Author

McLaughlin, C. and McLaughlin, C.

Title

Health Policy Analysis: An Interdisciplinary Approach

Edition/Version

4

Publisher

Jones & Bartlett Learning

Year

2023

ISBN #

9781284279955

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Weitz, R.

Title

The Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care: A Critical Approach

Edition/Version

8

Publisher

Cengage

Year

2020

ISBN #

978-0357045077

SECTION G - Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity

How does your course and/or course outline of record reflect strategies for accommodating and engaging diverse student populations, advancing equitable outcomes, and fostering inclusion for all students?

N/A

Course Codes (Admin Only)

CB00 State ID

CCC000652967

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No