

San José State University
Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
Soci 223: Sociology of Health and Illness

Spring 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Natalie Boero
Office Location:	DMH 211
Telephone:	(408) 924-5345 (email or Canvas is better)
Email:	natalie.boero@sjsu.edu or via Canvas
Office Hours:	Mondays 10:15-11:30am, Wednesdays 10:15-11:30am
Class Days/Time:	Monday 6:00-8:45pm
Classroom:	DMH 235B

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on the course Canvas page. You are responsible for regularly checking the course Canvas page as well as your email for notifications relevant to the course.

*****I do not offer extra credit during the semester*****

Course Description

Required Texts

Jennifer Reich, (2018) “Calling the Shots: Why Parents Reject Vaccines.”

Anne Fadiman, (2012 edition) “The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures.”

Georgiann Davis, (2015) “Contesting Intersex: The Dubious Diagnosis.”

Other Required Readings

I will post additional readings on the course Canvas page in PDF format.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Office Hours, email and Canvas

I encourage all of you to come by my office hours (listed above). Even if you don't have a specific question, office hours are a great chance for me to get to know you better and for you to give me feedback on the course. If you are having any problems that could impact your success in the course, come see me as soon as possible. It is much easier to deal with problems early on. Please note that I do not give incompletes except in the most extreme situations, and then only if a student has already completed a majority (at least 75%) of the work for the course.

I am also available by email at the address above or through the Canvas site. However, given the large number of students in my classes, I may take a day or two to respond to emails. It is also important that you check your email as well as the "news" section of Canvas for any course updates. I will email the class of any changes in the schedule. If you do email me, please include your name and the course number and section in the subject line.

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that "Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading."

Please note: You cannot make up in-class activities and exercises.

University Policies (Required)

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> Make sure to review these university policies and resources with students.

***SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

A Note to Students with Children:

This classroom is open to students' children when you have difficulty securing childcare. Please bring something age appropriate for your child to do during class, and if you can, let me know ahead that they will be joining us. My priority is for all students to attend and participate in class, so do not feel that you have to decide between class and caring for your kids. That said, please use this option only when necessary given the smaller size and limited number of seats in some classrooms.

Grading

Class Presentations (30%): All students will be responsible for leading three class discussions. Class discussion leaders (two students per week) are expected to: organize class discussion by summarizing the readings of the week, presenting specific questions to the class that consider the readings' contributions, strengths and weaknesses, and relate the readings to other course materials. The best presentations involve effective leading of discussion and creativity! Please feel free to use power points, news articles, videos etc. in your presentations. Class presentations will be worth **30%** and must be completed to pass this course.

Midterm Exam (15%): There will be a take-home midterm exam worth **15%** of your final grade.

Annotated Bibliography (10%): This assignment will be an annotated bibliography of sources for your final paper. It is worth **10%** of your final grade.

Participation (10%): Participation in class activities and discussions will be worth **10%** of your final grade.

Paper presentation (5%): Each student will give a 10-15 minute in-class presentation on their final term paper. This presentation is worth **5%** of your grade.

Final Paper (30%): Your final term paper will be worth **30%** of your final grade.

***** I DO NOT OFFER EXTRA CREDIT *****

Soci 223: Sociology of Health and Illness

Spring 2020, Course Schedule

*** You will be notified in advance through Canvas of any changes made to the schedule**

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1		No Class
2	1/27	Introduction
3	2/3	What is Medical Sociology? The Social Determinants of Health Reading: McKinlay&McKinlay, "Medical Measures and the Decline of Mortality"; Conrad and Leitner, "Intro", Castellani & Rafferty, "Medical Sociology", World Health Organization, "The Social Determinants of Health" (PDF)
4	2/10	The Social Determinants of Health con't Reading: Lantz et al: "Socioeconomic Factors, Health Behaviors, and Mortality, Results From a Nationally Representative Prospective Study of US Adults", Marmot, "The Influence of Income on Health" (PDF), TBA
5	2/17	Race and Gender Disparities in Health Reading: Courtenay, "Constructions of Masculinity" (PDF), Reiker et al, "Understanding Gender and Health" (PDF), Williams, "Miles to go Before We Sleep" (PDF), Dubbin et al, "Illness Narratives of African Americans" (PDF)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6	2/24	Culture and Health Reading: Fadiman selected chapters
7	3/2	Culture and Health Reading: Fadiman selected chapters, Olcon and Gulbas, “Because That’s the Culture” (PDF)
8	3/9	Medicalization and Social Control Reading: Zola, Reissman, Kaw (PDF)
9	3/16	Medicalization Reading: Davis selected chapters and Conrad (PDF)
10	3/23	Medicalization con’t Guest Speaker: Georgiann Davis Davis selected chapters and TBA
11	3/30	NO CLASS SPRING BREAK
12	4/6	NO CLASS MONDAY 4/6 Take Home Midterm Exam Due via Canvas Friday 4/10
13	4/13	Health and Healthcare Activism Reading: Reich selected chapters, TBA
14	4/20	Health and Healthcare Activism Guest Speaker: Jennifer Reich Reading: Reich selected chapters, TBA
15	4/27	The U.S. Healthcare System Reading: Interladni, “Why Doesn’t the United States have Universal Healthcare – the 1919 Project” (PDF), Starr, “The Social Transformation of American Medicine” (PDF)
16	5/4	Healthcare Reform in the United States Reading: TBA
17	5/11	Last Day of Class – Paper Presentations FINAL PAPER DUE VIA CANVAS MONDAY, MAY 18th BY 10 AM no late papers will be accepted!

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines