

# University of North Texas at Dallas

## Spring 2025

### SYLLABUS

SOCI 3380: Cultural Diversity and Health				3 Hrs
Department of		Sociology	Division of	Liberal Arts and Sciences
Instructor Name:		Syeda S. Jesmin, Ph.D., MPH		
Office Location:		Founder's Hall #259		
Office Phone:		972-338-1589		
Email Address:		Syeda.jesmin@untdallas.edu		
Office Hours:		Mondays: 11 am- 1 pm; and by appointment		
Classroom Location:				
Class Meeting Days & Times:		Asynchronous class		
Course Catalog Description:		Significant issues that affect the provision of health promotion activities to diverse cultures; examines influences of individualism versus collectivism, time orientation, poverty, language barriers, communication styles, and familiarity with health care environments (including technology) on the health of vulnerable cultural groups.		
Prerequisites:		None		
Required Text:		Cultural Diversity in Health & Illness <b>Edition:</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> ; <b>ISBN:</b> 9780134413310; <b>Author:</b> Spector; <b>Publisher:</b> Pearson; <b>Formats:</b> PAPERBACK, BryteWave Format; <b>Copyright Year:</b> 2017.		
Access to Learning Resources:		UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: <a href="http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm">http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm</a> UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: <a href="mailto:1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com">1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com</a>		
Course Goals or Overview:				
The United States is one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world. All cultures have systems of health beliefs to explain what causes illness, how it can be cured or treated, and who should be involved in the process. This course will study various cultural and vulnerable groups and their health beliefs and behaviors. The goal will be to examine the ways in which diverse personal, socio-cultural and institutional factors impact health and wellbeing, risks of diseases and illnesses, and obstacles to obtaining health care, including language barriers, lack of access to care, and lack of insurance. In particular, students will recognize that an individual, family, and/or community lives, works, and dies within a cultural framework. Recognizing the cultural care context is critical in developing culturally sensitive health promotion and services.				
Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student will				
1	Demonstrate an understanding of cultures and socioeconomic disadvantages affect health.			
2	Develop an understanding of the importance of cultural sensitivity in health promotion activities.			
3	Critically analyze issues affecting health disparities among cultural and vulnerable groups.			
4	Create health education/intervention programs to increase awareness of disease risks and service utilization among cultural and vulnerable groups.			

## COURSE OUTLINE

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated by announcements during class.

### Tentative Schedule\*

## CLASS READINGS & EXAM DATES

Weeks	Topics	Assignments due
Module 1 Weeks 1-2 Jan 13-26	Introduction to the course Chapter 1 Building Cultural and Linguistic Competence Chapter 2 Cultural Heritage and History	Introduce yourself Discussion 1
Module 2 Weeks 3-4 1/27-2/9	Chapter 3 Diversity Chapter 4 Health and Illness	Discussion 2 Quiz 1
Module 3 Weeks 5-6 2/10-2/23	Chapter 5 Health Traditions Chapter 6 Healing Traditions	Discussion 3 Quiz 2
Module 4 Weeks 7-8 2/24-3/9	Chapter 7 Familial Health Traditions Chapter 8 Health and Illness in Modern Healthcare	Discussion 4 Quiz 3
Module 5 Weeks 9-10 3/10-3/23	Chapter 9 Health and Illness in the American Indian and Alaska Native Population Chapter 10 Health and Illness in the Asian Population	Discussion 5 Quiz 4
Module 6 Weeks 11-12 3/24-4/13	Chapter 11 Health and Illness in the Black Population Chapter 12 Health and Illness in the Hispanic Populations	Discussion 6 Quiz 5
Module 7 Weeks 13-14 4/14-4/27	Chapter 13 Health and Illness in the White Populations Chapter 14 Cultural Competency	Major paper
Module 8 Weeks 15-17 April 28- May 2	Presentations due (5/2)	

## Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

### Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or	Total
6 Discussion Forums	6@ 25 points each	150
5 quizzes	5@60 points each	300
Final written project	1@ 100 points	100
Presentation	1@50 points	50
<b>Total:</b>		<b>600</b>

### Grade Determination:

A = 540- 600 pts; i.e. 90% or better

B = 480 – 539 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %

C = 420 – 479 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %

D = 360 – 419 pts; i.e. 60 – 69 %

F = 359 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

## Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency in the course's learning outcomes.

## ***I. DISCUSSION FORUMS***

Students will be asked a specific question or questions related to course materials six times throughout the semester. *These questions will be posted on Canvas.* You will have a minimum of THREE DAYS to post your response, read statements from other students, and submit comments to them. Discussion Area submissions are worth a total of  $6 \times 25 = 150$  points.

Here are some guidelines regarding your participation in these class discussions.

1. Submit your well-considered response for each question or question I've designated for a particular chapter. Then, take a look at what others have said on the topic. Respond to at least TWO of your fellow students with at least one comment/question regarding something they have said.
2. As far as evaluating your discussion responses, I will be interested in whether a response shows an understanding of what sociology is and the sociological perspective. Integrate sociological concepts into your responses. Applying these concepts accurately shows your familiarity with the reading as well as your ability to apply it. Avoid simply repeating what others have already said in their responses. Take some time to offer different examples or ways of analyzing the issue. Also, it's important to remember that this isn't a talk show where it's adequate to simply state your personal opinion. Earning an "A" on the discussions requires going beyond the minimal requirements of the assignment.
3. Remember, this isn't The Jerry Springer Show. Occasionally, it's apparent that a response is meant to be cute or funny, but not serious and thoughtful. I'm not looking for comedic talent. The discussions require more than having a conversation with your colleagues in the class.
4. I strongly recommend that you take the time to compose your discussion response (e.g., in your software program like Microsoft Word or Works), save it, and then post it in the Discussion Area. Always keep a copy of your discussion responses in case of a technical problem on the course website.
5. As mentioned in the section above, students should be courteous to others in the class. That means no YELLING!!, personal insults, threats, profanity as well as other inappropriate postings in the Discussion Area. Sometimes students will disagree with each other. That's okay—disagreements should be expressed politely and intellectually (focusing on the course material).

## **II. Quizzes**

There will be 6 quizzes ( $6 \times 50 = 300$  Points).

## **III. FINAL PROJECT**

### **Part 1: Written**

You will be required to write a research paper on a topic of your choice. The final written project is worth 100 points and should include the following components. This paper would involve some kind of data collection on your own. Details will be provided in Canvas. I highly recommend you work on this paper as a team where 2-4 people will research together, submit, and present the paper.

Background (Current Health Problems in this racial/ethnic group; traditional definitions of health and illness): Review the literature and include background information on your target population and the health disparity this group is susceptible to. You should incorporate various aspects of diversity discussed in class as they relate to your target population.

Risk Factors (Cultural phenomena affecting health): Outline the various biopsychosocial and cultural factors that may contribute to the health disparity in your target group (e.g., race/ethnicity, sex, socioeconomic status, etc.).

Traditional Methods of Health Maintenance: Traditional methods of health restoration

Model Program/Organization: Describe a program or organization that is devoted to reducing health disparities in your target population. This organization should be targeting the health disparity you are focusing on.

**Part 2. Oral Presentation of Your Project:** Presentations will go for between 10- 15 minutes. This presentation will worth of 50 points. You can have a recorded presentation or a PowerPoint, or you have the option to be creative in how you present your paper. The presentations have to sent to me by April 25<sup>th</sup> so that I can upload them on Canvas for the class. Your peers will review your presentations.

## **University Policies and Procedures**

### **Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):**

#### **Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students:**

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to the faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment.

Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see [Disability Services Office](#). You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at [UNTDisability@untDallas.edu](mailto:UNTDisability@untDallas.edu) or at Building 2, room 204.

### **Canvas Instructure Accessibility Statement:**

University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser, and information on any assistive technology being used. [Canvas Instructure Accessibility Statement is also provided.](#)

NOTE: Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

### **Course Evaluation Policy:**

Student evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

**Assignment Policy:** (According to the instructor's discretion while working in concert with the division/program's guidelines).

**Quiz Policy:** (Online quiz and the ability to retake is solely at the instructor's discretion).

NOTE: Online quizzes may be proctored on campus per instructor's discretion.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to [UNT](#)

[Dallas' Student Code of Academic Integrity](#) for complete provisions of this code. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Web-based Plagiarism Detection: Please be aware in some online or hybrid courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

### ***Statement Regarding Artificial Intelligence***

The UNT-Dallas Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology acknowledges the evolving capabilities of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies and their various effects on student writing and content creation. The department and its programs take a use- with-permission approach to AI. Students are only permitted to use AI technology in the creation of any course content if permitted by the course instructor. If the use of AI technology is detected, without specific instructor permission, the student will be deemed in violation of the plagiarism policy (see Student Code of Conduct).

### **Incomplete Policies:**

The deadline to file for an incomplete for the course is the last day in which there is regular instruction for the session (not including finals). In order to receive an incomplete in this course, the [Grade of Incomplete Form](#) posted on the Registrar forms site must be completed, signed, and returned to the Office of the Registrar by the deadline posted in the Academic Calendar. For other questions related to grade of incomplete, contact Dr. Dawn Remmers, Assistant Provost, at [dawn.remmers@untDallas.edu](mailto:dawn.remmers@untDallas.edu).

### **Classroom Policies**

#### **Attendance and Participation:**

To maintain financial aid award eligibility, class attendance must occur before the census date of the session or term of the course. Refer to [UNT Dallas' Registrar](#) for specific dates. If you are absent/not active in the course shell, it is YOUR responsibility to let the instructor know immediately, upon your return, the reason for your absence if it is to be excused. All instructors must follow university policy 7.005 covering excused absences; however, it is the instructor's discretion, as outlined in the course syllabus, of how unexcused absences may or may not count against successful completion of the course.

**Inclement Weather and Online Classes:** Online classes may or may not be affected by campus closures due to inclement weather. Unless otherwise notified by your instructor via e-mail, online messaging, or online announcement, students should assume that assignments are due as scheduled.

### **Online “Netiquette”:**

Some works in this class will be submitted via online Canvas. In any social interaction, certain rules of etiquette are expected and contribute to more enjoyable and productive communication. Emails, Discussion Board messages, and/or any other forms of written communication in the online environment should use proper “netiquette” (i.e., no writing in all caps (usually denotes yelling), no curse words, and no “flaming” messages (angry, personal attacks). Racial, ethnic, or gender slurs will not be tolerated, nor will pornography of any kind.

Any violation of online netiquette may result in a loss of points or removal from the course and referral to the Dean of Students, including warnings and other sanctions in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to [UNT Dallas Student Code of Conduct](#). Respect is a given principle in all online communication. Therefore, please be sure to proofread all of your written communication prior to submission.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

*Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions that violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.*

### **Communication guidelines**

Communicating online is an everyday activity for most of us; so much so that the tone and form of our communications oftentimes becomes highly informal and abbreviated. A breezy, informal communication style is fine with our friends but can become problematic when we're trying to communicate with formal acquaintances (i.e., class instructors) or in situations (such as in online course discussions) where we might be trying to convey or discuss complex ideas with relative strangers. As online communications are considered part of a college course, your writing style should conform to the rules of Standard English. Accordingly, you should introduce yourself, clearly state your reason for making contact, and use the spell-check feature before sending or posting. Please refrain from using emoticons, slang, or instant texting terms, and never resort to using vulgar language. Don't use all capital letters as it gives the impression you're SHOUTING! Finally- be professional and respectful. Here are some suggestions for contributing to online discussions:

- Ask Nicely. If you are not certain about the meaning of a comment, ask the original person to elaborate or clarify what they've written.
- Be respectful. Recognize and value the experiences, abilities, and knowledge each person brings to class. Acknowledge the diverse perspectives and viewpoints of class members.
- Disagree with ideas, not classmates. When disagreeing with the ideas of another, be sure that your comments are directed toward his or her ideas and not the actual person. Never use personal attacks to express your disagreement.
- Use humor carefully. Be cautious about injecting humor into your comments and remember that it's easy to misinterpret humor in written language.
- Be calm. If you're upset, compose a letter or message and save it for 24 hours before you send it.
- Reread messages. Reread any messages before you send them. You'll catch any errors and notice areas for revision.

**Technology Assistance:** In order to successfully access the materials in an online or hybrid course, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with the minimum system requirements listed on the first page of the syllabus.

If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using Google Chrome browser. If you still experience technical difficulties, first, notify your instructor. If the problem is still not resolved, call Student Assistance (Distance Learning) at the phone number listed on the first page of the syllabus.

Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see:

□ [UNT Dallas Canvas Technical Requirements](#)

□ [Canvas Instructure Supported & Unsupported Operating Systems](#)