



# Stony Brook University

## Department of Sociology

**Important Note:** Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule, but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in course announcements or through email.

**Sociology 200.01** Fall 2020

**Sociology of Medicine**

SBC: SBS

Tues/Thurs Online Course

SOC 200 is a required course for the HMS minor

Catherine Marrone, PhD

SBS S429 Tel: 632-4883

Office Hours: Mon 1:00-3:00

("In Office" by appointment only)

Additional "hours" by appointment via Zoom/ telephone calls.

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Joseph Marchia ([Joseph.marchia@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Joseph.marchia@stonybrook.edu))

See [Blackboard for complete listing of Teaching Assistant](#) (including Undergraduate Teaching Assistants) e-mail and Office Hours (virtual and non-virtual) information.

This course is the exploration of the connection between social structure and health. Using sociological perspectives and methods and addressing current public health concerns-- students learn that health and illness are much more than the biomedical representations we have come to accept. In particular, we try to understand our utter fascination with all things medical and our [perhaps] overuse and over reliance on Medicine to solve a multitude of our "problems." We also come to understand the real outcomes of differences in access to health care, both to individuals and to the "community." This course is particularly relevant given the coronavirus pandemic and as a result, we will spend a good amount of time interconnecting the course with this current public health crisis. The third and final section of the course focuses on our "graying" society. As a nation we appear wholly unprepared to deal with the dramatic demographic changes created by an aging population; a *growing* older -and bigger--cohort places incredible demands on the health care system as well as on many social institutions, chief among them, the family. Therefore, a good deal of attention will be paid to the important social, political and economic problems surrounding health care reform and the continuing debates over the US health care system.

### ***Learning Outcomes:***

In keeping with the Stony Brook Curriculum (SBC) category of SBS, upon completion of this class students will be able to:

"Understand the major concepts and phenomena that form the basis of knowledge in the social sciences. " In addition, students will come to understand the research methods used by the social sciences particularly those of Medical Sociologists and Epidemiologists, which include their data collection and "application of evidence." Further, students will come to understand the specific sociological theories that drive Medical Sociology as well as the field of Aging. One of the more important "outcomes" for students in this class will be that they can, in keeping with the SBC curriculum, "interpret" the research in the field and ultimately come to develop their own insight on a number of the incredibly pressing sociological issues presented in the course.

### ***Course Delivery Mode and Structure:***

This is an online *asynchronous* course that will be delivered using Blackboard. Students will be able to view

recorded lectures as they get posted, weekly. In Blackboard, you will access online lessons, course materials and resources. Each week will have one Learning Module, which will outline the readings and film and lectures as they relate to that module.

***SPECIAL NOTE:*** We will make every effort to titrate the lecture recordings to meet the various needs of the students and this means that the format/platform may change in the first few weeks of the semester. However, the notion of following along with the modules will not change.

***How We Will Communicate:***

We will communicate primarily through Blackboard and through e-mail and where appropriate, through Voice Thread. Students are highly encouraged to “meet” with TAS (and with Professor Marrone, on a regular basis.) Professor Marrone will be able to hold office hours for much of the semester outside the SBS building (front of the building) for students who would prefer to meet outside and not inside the building. These meetings will take place by appointment.

***Required readings:*** There are two required texts for this course: *The Sociology of Health & Illness: Critical Perspectives*, (10<sup>th</sup> ed.) by Conrad and Leiter. (These readings will be noted as **H&I** in the syllabus). The second book is a novel, *Family Life*, by Akhil Sharma. **In addition, there are a number of required readings posted in Blackboard and listed by title or name of author.**

In addition to the readings, there will be a series of films available through links in Blackboard. All reading, film and lecture material is considered testable. This course follows a highly lecture and reading driven format-- for this reason and others, students are encouraged to be very engaged with all elements of the class available in Blackboard.

***Grading*** is based on varied elements that include the following: three on-line quizzes of equal weight, two discussion (written) “briefs,” to be based on topics presented in modules, as well as one extra credit paper-- which is optional. The final (3rd) quiz will be given during Final Examinations Week (please check immediately for any final exam conflicts). **Students will receive separate point grades from for each quiz and each written assignment. Quizzes 1 and 2 will be held Online on Thursdays; quiz 3 will be Online during Finals Exam Week-see below.** All readings and class discussions are considered testable material. Any films (and there will be several,) are considered required unless they are noted as “recommended.”

Make-up work is not permitted-- except in circumstances where students can provide fully documented (and acceptable) excuses. Missed work will count as a zero toward the final grade calculation. Blackboard is utilized as a site for all grading information for the course.

**There is an optional extra credit writing assignment** offered during the last (third) section of the course. Any points (valuation to be explained in Blackboard) received for this assignment will be added to a student’s graded points.

***Americans with Disabilities Act/ Student Accessibility Support Center Statement:*** If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Student Accessibility Support Center, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, Room 128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Student Accessibility Support Center. For procedures and information go to the following website: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities>.

**Academic Integrity Statement:** Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty is required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty please refer to the academic judiciary website at:

[http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic\\_integrity/](http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/)

**Critical Incident Management:** Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of University Community Standards any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn.

**Copyright Alert:** Any material provided to the students for this course through of any of its platforms is strictly for the use by the students currently enrolled in this class and in this term. Therefore, no class content can be distributed without permission of the professor.

**Support!** We will have the assistance of a number of outstanding teaching assistants who will be holding regular "office hours" and review sessions and who will be readily accessible through e-mail. The course will also utilize Blackboard for posting *transcribed* notes and to keep students apprised of any schedule changes.

## SYLLABUS

Content/ Sections: (separated approximately by week)  
Note dates are when module content will appear.

The Required Readings:  
(Please note that additional readings may be mentioned and required within Modules.)

### **First day of class, Tuesday, Aug 25<sup>th</sup>**

#### MODULE 1 will appear in Blackboard

Introduction to the course  
The Sociological Perspective and Medicine  
The Pandemic's Reach

Social Inequality/Measuring Health Outcomes  
Poverty as a Variable in Measuring Health

H&I articles 1-3

#### MODULE 2 WEEK 2 SEPT 1ST

Social Theory and Health  
Medicine as an Institution of Social Control  
The Social Construction of Illness  
Medicalization

H&I 4, 5  
BBoard Health/Immigrants

#### MODULE 3 WEEK 3 SEPT 8TH

The *Character* of Illness  
Chronic Illness and Social Identity—Stigmatizing Illnesses  
How Society and Individuals try to "Manage" Pain

H&I 8, 9, 11, 12  
*Family Life* (Begin reading)

**QUIZ 1 Administered Online on Thursday of this week-details announced in Blackboard**

#### MODULE 4 WEEK 4 SEPT 15TH

Medicine in Practice

H&I 15, 36

Physician Dominance and the Structure of  
Medicine

*BBoard* What's Making us Sick?

MODULE 5 WEEK 5 SEPT 22ND

V Physician/Patient Interaction Over Time

H&I 28, 16, 40, 41

MODULE 6 WEEK 6 SEPT 29TH

The Health Care System

H&I 25, 26, 27, 42

What is the Affordable Care Act?

All *Money Matters* in Health Care

**DISCUSSION BRIEF-details announced in Blackboard**

MODULE 7 WEEK 7 OCT 6TH

Nurses and other key Health Care Providers

H&I 18, 21 *BBoard* Doctor-Nurse Game

MODULE 8 WEEK 8 OCT 13TH

Providers continued...

H&I 22, 23

"Big Pharma" [as] Providers

Alternative and Complementary Medicine

What gives rise to "self-care"?

MODULE 9 WEEK 9 OCT 20TH

Patient Autonomy/Patient Determination

H&I 10, 14, 30

Medicine and the "End-of-Life"

*BBoard* Intensive Care

**QUIZ 2-Administered Online on Thursday of this week- details announced in Blackboard**

MODULE 10 WEEK 19 OCT 27TH

Demographic Shifts and consequences

H&I 33

Finish reading *Family Life*

A Debate Over "Rational Suicide"

**(NOTE most readings below accessible on Bboard)**

MODULE 11 WEEK 11 NOV 3RD

Aging and Changes in Medicine

H&I 46, Aging: Concepts...

Old Age as Decay

What do we do with all of the Old People?

MODULE 12 WEEK 12 NOV 10TH

Old Age and Vulnerability

A Brain Scan May Predict...

The Physical and Social Effects of the *Aging Body*

Sexless Years/ Sex and the Single

Dementia (of global concern)

Dementia

**DISCUSSION BRIEF 2-details announced in Blackboard**

MODULE 13 WEEK 13 NOV 17TH

Caregiving to the Old --

Influence of Ethnicity/Caregiver

That's "Women's Work"? Cross-cultural look at caregiving

Assessmt. of Geriatric

EXTRA CREDIT *OPTION* POSTED IN BLACKBOARD

WEEK 14 No MODULE (Thanksgiving Break, WEEK OF NOV 24TH)

MODULE 14 WEEK 15 DEC 1<sup>ST</sup>

Health and Sickness "Later on  
The Elderly are Getting Complex...

Suicide Elderly

Can the Young and Old Work out the Costs?  
Which Groups Bear the *Burdens* in an Aging Society?  
Looking toward the future--Conclusion of Course  
EXTRA CREDIT DUE (OPTIONAL)

Washington: Ideal Place  
Medicare  
Older People Need Rides/Lyft

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**QUIZ (3) Tues, Dec 15<sup>th</sup>** (more details to follow in Blackboard)

**Additional items (perhaps) of interest to students:**

The following link refers you to the Academic Policies and Regulations section of the on-line Undergraduate Bulletin:

[http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/policies\\_expectations/min\\_instructional\\_student\\_resp.php](http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/policies_expectations/min_instructional_student_resp.php)

The following link is a brief guide to 'Student Success Resources' that are available on our campus: <https://ucolleges.stonybrook.edu/links/academic-success-resources.pdf>.

*Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation* are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Student Accessibility Support Center. For procedures and information go to the following website:

<https://ehs.stonybrook.edu/programs/fire-safety/emergency-evacuation/evacuation-guide-people-physical-disabilities>

- To access mental health services, call Counseling and Psychological Services at 631-632-6720; Counselors are available to speak with 24/7.
- For IT Support: Students can visit the Keep Learning website at <https://sites.google.com/stonybrook.edu/keeplearning>  
For information on the tools you need for alternative and online learning.  
Need help? Report technical issues at <https://it.stonybrook.edu/services/itsm>  
Or call 631-632-2358.
- For information on Library services and resources please visit the [Continuity of Library Operations](#) guide.

There is a Facebook group for Sociology Majors as well as any students taking Sociology courses (Stony Brook Soc Major). Please feel free to join.

For Students lacking access to the requisite computer setup or Internet speed:

For laptop loans: <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/studentaffairs/student-support/>; for IT support: <https://it.stonybrook.edu/services/itsm>.

Please see Mrs. Sharon Workman, SBS s402 for any matters related to the Sociology Major or our Minor in "Health, Medicine and Society" (MHS). Please note that this class (SOC 200.) is required for the Minor.

