

# Bemidji State University

## SOC 3090: Social and Ethical Issues in Health and Medicine

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: \*.\*

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

Examines social and ethical issues related to the practice of medicine. Students develop an understanding of the sociological causes of illness, the medicalization of society, and the values and assumptions of those who define and deliver medical care in society. Today people point to the fact that we are experiencing a crisis in health care in the U.S. Costs have skyrocketed, access to primary care is inequitable, infant mortality rates remain high, public accountability problems persist, and we continue to emphasize medical care over and above health care. Sociological interpretations raise questions about these issues, and point to the ways in which society continues to produce disease and illness. As these topics are explored through the sociological lens, the complex ethical dilemmas associated with medical understandings and possible alternatives that emphasize health are identified. Liberal Education Goal Area 9.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 01/14/2013 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Social production of disease and illness, issues of morality at the individual and societal level, examination of the social organization of medical care, critical debates in health care, alternative approaches to health and medicine, and comparative health policies.

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. By the end of the course students will be able to:
  - ¿ state assumptions sociologists make about the production of disease and illness
  - ¿ identify patterns of medical delivery
  - ¿ describe social roles associated with the practice of medicine
  - ¿ compare and contrast interpretations of medicine and health delivery
  - ¿ specify patterns of inequality in health care delivery (SOC Outcome 1)
  - ¿ use ethical understandings to critique social organizations and medical care (LE 9B)
  - ¿ understand and apply core concepts regarding obligation, justice and politics to the experience of health care, medical organizat

### E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
4. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

### F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

**G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted