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SBCS 335  
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**Course Description per the Graduate Catalog**: The course examines health care inequality and policy in the United States. Health outcomes by race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and geographical location may be examined, as well as challenges confronting the health care system. The catalog description is available via ASSIST.

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes**:  
Students will be able to understand:  
(1) Major theoretical works in medical sociology,  
(2) How social factors create and shape health inequalities,  
(3) Processes in health care financing, reimbursement and insurance arrangements;  
(4) The role health care plays in maintaining health, and an appreciation of quality issues in health care;  
(5) The role of government in the health economy.  
(6) Cultural diversity by examining how issues such as gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, age, and sexual orientation shape health and illness in contemporary society;

**Course Requirements**:  
1. This is a fully online course which means that 100% of the course content delivered online. The course is available via Blackboard. It means that students are required to be familiar with Blackboard prior to taking this course. Students are required to have access to features of the course contained within a Blackboard platform.  
2. All students are encouraged to use Discussion Board and Chat for interpersonal communication and collaboration. Communication amongst peers is crucial and extremely beneficial in conceptualizing the issues being addressed. Also keep in mind that communication should be conducted in a professional, academic manner. Reactions that do not reflect quality, critical and well thought out analysis will not receive credit. Please remember that this is an academic, professional learning environment and your participation should reflect such standards. Discussion etiquette should replicate that found within the traditional classroom environment. Please provide respect for your peers by offering articulate responses based in critical analysis.  
3. The final grade is the sum of the grades for 6 tests which are based on the textbook, 6 reflection papers and the final exam (see the grading policy below).  
4. Six times during the semester, you are required to write a 1-page reflection paper on reading(s) of your choice. These reflection papers should be based on the readings which are be posted on Blackboard.  
   **Instructions**: Summarize the main points briefly (in approximately 1 page of double-spaced text) and add critical evaluation and other thoughts of your own (also approximately 1 page). The summary and the reflections do not necessarily have to be in two sequential chunks; either sequential or interwoven is fine. Your own reflections should bring in some additional content, such as connections with another reading, relevant current events or culture, personal experience related to the content, etc., not just your emotional or analytical
reactions to the reading. These are informal, journal-style papers and will be graded accordingly; it matters whether you accurately capture the author’s main points, but the style and format do not matter; your additional reflections should be thoughtful and creative, but they do not need footnotes and do not need to scale great heights of brilliance and originality to get full credit.

5. Failure to submit a test or a paper by the due date will result in a zero grade (unless you have been granted permission by me prior to the exam or have documented evidence of a family emergency or illness).

6. There will be no opportunities to earn extra credit, and no make-up tests. Nevertheless, consistently high test scores will reflect positively on your final grade for the course.

Grading Policies

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Grade is Composed of:</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tests (six; each = 5%)</td>
<td>30 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Papers (six; each = 5%)</td>
<td>30 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale

- A 90-100
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60-69
- F <60

Calendar of Activities

The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at [https://my.utrgv.edu/home](https://my.utrgv.edu/home) at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Some important dates for spring 2019 include:

- January 14: First day of classes
- January 17: Last day to add a course or register for spring 2019
- January 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day – NO classes
- April 10: Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule
- April 19-20: Easter Holiday – NO classes
- May 2: Study Day – NO classes
- May 3-9: Final Exams
- May 10-11: Commencement Exercises

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Required on all syllabi. Do not modify.

Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services.

Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information and to request accommodations.

Student Accessibility Services:

**Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at [ability@utrgv.edu](mailto:ability@utrgv.edu). **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at [ability@utrgv.edu](mailto:ability@utrgv.edu).

**MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:** Required on all syllabi. Do not modify.
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available on or about:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module 1</th>
<th>February 13 – 19</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 2</td>
<td>April 10 – 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Fall Semester</td>
<td>April 10 – May 1</td>
</tr>
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**ATTENDANCE:** Recommended on all syllabi; may be modified by the instructor as long as it is not inconsistent with UTRGV policy.

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

**SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:** Recommended on all syllabi.

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:** Required on all syllabi. Do not modify.

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**COURSE DROPS:** Recommended on all syllabi; may be modified by the instructor as long as it is not inconsistent with UTRGV policy.

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

**STUDENT SERVICES:** Recommended on all syllabi.

Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U
Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- Advising center: BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)