The image of the solitary doctor caring for us from birth has faded since the latter half of the twentieth century. We now come into contact with numerous health care professionals, sometimes for just a brief episode in our lives. The contact may not even occur face-to-face, but over the telephone, e-mail, or video conference. Any conclusions that result from this contact may be shared among several individuals, whose profession and expertise are now deemed critical for coordinating the management of our health.

Health care is evolving, but are the problems being solved? Our goal in this course will be to cultivate a sociological perspective of health care, which we will use to evaluate health care in whatever form it takes in the future. By the end of the course you will be able to use this perspective to:

- Identify sources for research on health and health care
- Evaluate research that assesses health care innovations
- Compare and contrast health care globally
- Develop and understand arguments for or against an innovation
- Communicate the findings of health care research and its implications to others

CANVAS

Our course has Canvas website: https://uwm.edu/canvas/home/. You will use the same username (username@uwm.edu) and password that you use for your UWM email account. If you have any questions about content on the course website, please contact me. If you have questions about, or problems using, the Canvas website, please see this website for ways to contact them and receive help: https://uwm.edu/canvas/students/.

COURSE FORMAT

Because we are no longer bound to the traditional lecture, the course is organized around a series of topics that build on one another rather than what can be covered neatly during a prescribed lecture slot. Each of these topics is called a Module and we will complete 4 different Modules this semester.

Each Module contains assigned readings and recorded PowerPoint lectures. It is important for you to recognize that one is not a substitute for the other. In order to perform well on the course requirements, you will need to review both.
All assignments are due at 7PM Central Standard Time (Milwaukee time). This will make it more likely that if technical issues or other emergencies arise just before the due time, I have enough time to respond.

Should you decide to work on the weekends, any questions you want answered by me should be sent to me (camposca@uwm.edu) by Sunday at 10AM CST.

REQUIRED READING

All readings that are required for the class can be located on the course’s Canvas website.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignments in this course add up to 100 points. Note that for certain assignment groups, your lowest score will be dropped.

Syllabus Quiz (2% of grade): To encourage you to settle into the course, there will be a Syllabus Quiz on Canvas. The Syllabus Quiz has four (4) multiple choice questions, which are worth 0.5 point each, thereby making the entire quiz worth 2 points. It is meant to be easy, so long as you have reviewed the syllabus prior to taking the quiz. You will have 10 minutes to complete the Syllabus Quiz.

Reading Quizzes (30% of grade): For every Module, there will be a Reading Quiz on Canvas, for a total of four (4) quizzes. Your lowest score on a Reading Quiz will be dropped. Each Reading Quiz will have a total of ten (10) questions, which will be either multiple choice or true/false questions. The questions will come from the assigned readings and video lectures. You will have thirty (30) minutes to complete each Reading Quiz. You may take each Reading Quiz only once. The Reading Quizzes are designed to be easy, so long as you review the assigned readings and video lectures prior to taking them. I’m basically copying material directly from the readings and video lectures for these quizzes.

Discussion Posts (15% of grade): For every Module, there will be a discussion on Canvas, for a total of four (4) Discussion Posts. Your lowest score on a Discussion Post will be dropped.

Essay (53% of grade): The primary product of this course. The Essay is a paper where you convince others about the merits and pitfalls of telehealth. You will be tasked with conducting literature reviews, in which you will find peer-reviewed empirical articles. You will use the evidence you find in these peer-reviewed empirical articles to support your argument.

You will write different parts of the Essay throughout the semester and submit them through our course’s Canvas website. There are six (6) parts of the Essay:

1. Introduction (4pts)
2. Effects of telehealth on patients (15pts)
3. Effects of telehealth on health care professionals (15pts)
4. Effects of telehealth on groups (15pts)
5. Effects of telehealth on health care organizations (15pts)
6. Conclusion and revisions (4pts)

Toward the end of the term, you will combine the different parts into one document, revise it in light of feedback you will receive throughout the semester, and submit the final version through our course’s Canvas website. Depending on your revisions, you may be eligible to receive up to half of the points you were not awarded initially.

Once these final scores on the different parts of your essay are calculated, the lowest score you receive on parts #2 through #5 will be dropped.

**MISSED/LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

We are currently living in an unprecedented time, where acute stressors arise unexpectedly and chronic stressors are common. In recognition of this, I am dropping your lowest scores on various assignments (see previous section for details). This gives you flexibility to either miss an assignment or attempt it given the stressor(s) you are experiencing, without having to provide documentation.

As for late assignments, each assignment will have a 12-hour grace period where you may submit the assignment up to 12 hours past its due time with no penalty to you. Since the due time for any assignment is always 7PM CST, this means you have until the next day at 7AM CST to submit it with no penalty to you.

After this grace period, you may submit the assignment without having to provide documentation, but you will be penalized. Starting at the end of the grace period, I will deduct 10% of the maximum possible score for the assignment from your score. For each additional 24 hours that pass the end of the grace period, I will deduct an additional 10% of the maximum possible score for the assignment from your score. Eventually, enough time will pass that you will not be eligible to receive any credit for your assignment.

Below are some sample scenarios demonstrating this late assignment policy.

- An assignment is worth up to 10 points and is due Friday at 7PM CST. You submit the assignment on Friday at 10PM CST. Result: No late penalty.
- An assignment is worth up to 10 points and is due Friday at 7PM CST. You submit the assignment on Sunday at 3AM CST. Result: I deduct 1 point from your score for the assignment.
- An assignment is worth up to 10 points and is due Friday at 7PM CST. You submit the assignment on Sunday at 11AM CST. Result: I deduct 2 points from your score for the assignment.

Because the lowest score will be dropped on several different assignment groups, students who miss more than one assignment within an assignment group (e.g., you miss two Reading Quizzes, or you miss two Discussion Posts) or with poor scores on more than one assignment within an assignment group (e.g., you only get 1 point on two or more Reading Quizzes or two
or more Discussion Posts) are likely experiencing stressors that will make it difficult to complete this course and that warrant discussion with an advisor.

**GRADES**

Your final grade will be based on the number of total points you receive for completing course requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>74-76</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-93</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<td>80-83</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>60-63</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Partial points will always be rounded up. For example, if your final score is 89.25, I will round up to 90 and assign you an A-.

**HOW MUCH TIME SHOULD YOU EXPECT TO SPEND ON THIS COURSE?**

As the UW System assumes “that study leading to one semester credit represents an investment of time by the average student of not fewer than 48 hours” (UWS ACPS 4), a 3-credit course such as this one will require a minimum of 144 (3 x 48) hours of your time. You may find it necessary to spend additional time on a course; the numbers below only indicate that the course will not require any less of your time.

- **37.5** hours reviewing instructional materials prepared by your instructor and placed online. This is instead of physically coming to class and sitting through a lecture.
- **75** hours preparing for class, which may include reading, note taking, completing minor exercises and assignments, and discussing course topics with classmates and the instructor in structured settings.
- **31.5** hours preparing for and writing major papers and/or exams.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

All assignments are due on the listed date by 7PM CST.

*Course Overview*

Read:

1. Syllabus
2. Telehealth during COVID-19 pandemic

Watch:

1. Course introduction
2. What is telehealth?

Assignments due:
1. Syllabus Quiz (Friday, Jan 28)
2. Essay Part 1 (Wednesday, Feb 2)

Module 1 - Patients

Read:
1. Social determinants of health
2. Patient privacy
3. Vital places
4. Innovation and health disparities

Watch:
1. The patient’s perspective

Assignments due:
1. Reading Quiz 1 (Friday, Jan 28)
2. Discussion Post 1 (Part A: Friday, Feb 18; Part B: Friday, Feb 25)
3. Essay Part 2 (Wednesday, Feb 23)

Module 2 – Health Care Professionals

Read:
1. Medical-legal partnership
2. Psychiatry
3. Women in medicine
4. Nurse practitioners and physician assistants

Watch:
1. The health care professional’s perspective

Assignments due:
1. Reading Quiz 2 (Friday, Mar 18)
2. Discussion Post 2 (Part A: Friday, Mar 11; Part B: Friday, Mar 18)
3. Essay Part 3 (Wednesday, Mar 16)

Module 3 – Groups

Read:
1. Shared decision-making
2. Status in health care teams
3. Cross-occupational collaboration
Watch:

1. Sociology of groups in health care
2. Being Mortal

Assignments due:

1. Reading Quiz 3 (Friday, Apr 15)
2. Discussion Post 3 (Part A: Friday, Apr 8; Part B: Friday, Apr 15)
3. Essay Part 4 (Wednesday, Apr 13)

**Module 4 – Organizing health care**

Read:

1. Hospice care
2. Medicaid expansion
3. Medicare4All
4. Value-based care

Watch:

1. Organizing health care

Assignments due:

1. Reading Quiz 4 (Friday, May 6)
2. Discussion Post 4 (Part A: Friday, Apr 29; Part B: Friday, May 6)
3. Essay Part 5 (Wednesday, May 4)

**Final**

Assignments due:

1. Essay Part 6 (Friday, May 20)

**UNIVERSITY AND SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICIES**

The Secretary of the University maintains a web page that contains university policies that affect the instructor and the students in this course, as well as essential information specific to conduct of the course. The link to that page is:


**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities.** In the pursuit of equal access and in compliance with state and federal laws, the University is required to provide accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is expected that a statement be placed on your syllabus informing students to contact you to arrange needed accommodations. A sample syllabus statement can be found here: https://uwm.edu/arc/wpcontent/uploads/sites/97/2015/08/Recommended-Syllabus-Statement.pdf.

**Religious Observances.** Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm
Students called to active Military Duty. Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty are found at the following: https://uwm.edu/active-duty-military/

Incompletes. You may be given an incomplete if you have carried a course successfully until near the end of the semester but, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond your control, have been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of course work. An incomplete is not given unless you prove to the instructor that you were prevented from completing the course for just cause as indicated above. The conditions for awarding an incomplete to graduate and undergraduate students can be found at the following: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_31_INCOMPLETE_GRADES.pdf

Discriminatory Conduct (such as sexual harassment). Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience and well-being of students, faculty and staff. Policies regarding discriminatory conduct can be found at: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discriminatory_Policy.pdf

Academic Misconduct. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Policies for addressing students cheating on exams or plagiarism can be found at the following: https://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/

Complaint Procedures. Students may direct complaints to the Sociology Department Chair or the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the Sociology Department Chair, the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences, or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. Policies may be found at: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discriminatory_Policy.pdf

Grade Appeal Procedures. A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the sociology department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College of Letters & Science. Procedures for undergraduate student grade appeal can be found at: https://uwm.edu/letters-science/advising/answers-forms/policies/appeal-procedure-for-grades

Procedures for graduate student grade appeal can be found at https://uwm.edu/graduateschool/appealing-academic-decisions/

Final Examination Policy. Policies regarding final examinations can be found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S22.htm

Book Royalties. In accord with Department of Sociology policy, the royalties from the sale of faculty-authored books to students in their classes are donated to a UWM Foundation/Sociology Account to support future awards and activities for UWM students in Sociology.