

## Medical Sociology Exam 2

Please respond to the following questions. There is not length requirement for this exam; however, be sure that your answers are complete. Your responses should be typed.

This exam is due October 29, 2008 by 3:00 PM. Please do not e-mail your responses--bring them by my office (BG 204).

1. A significant portion of past research in medical sociology has concerned itself with the effect of sociodemographic variables on the utilization of health care services. Explain how these factors (age, sex, race/ethnicity, and socioeconomic factors) relate to the behavior of people seeking medical care.
2. Discuss Talcott Parsons' concept of the sick role.
3. While Parsons described the sick role of medicine as an instrument of social control, many believe that the powers of the medical institution have now expanded far beyond areas of genuine expertise. This has led to a medicalization of deviance. What is meant by this term and what might this suggest about the future of medicine?
4. Discuss labeling theory as it relates to health and illness.
5. While there is evidence that participation in health lifestyles that do not involve contact with physicians and other health personnel can spread across social class boundaries, there is other evidence showing that the poor remain least likely to use preventive care. Discuss why the poor are not likely to use these preventive health care services.