



Chapter 19 Exercises

Multiple Choice

- Medical sociology is the systematic study of:
 - The causes and distribution of diseases
 - Doctor-patient relationships among ill and healthy patients
 - The rate at which social diseases spread among varying socioeconomic populations
 - The physical, mental, and social components of how humans manage health, illness, disease, disorders, and health care for both the sick and the healthy
- Which of the following is *not* a result of the commodification of health care?
 - The wealthy having greater access to healthcare
 - Poorer members of society experiencing illness caused by poor diet
 - HIV spreading across the United States at a rapid rate in the 1980s
 - Spousal benefits being frequently denied to gay and lesbian couples
- Sheryl was diagnosed with bipolar disorder when she was a teenager. She's hesitant to tell her friends and tries her best to hide her diagnosis from her coaches, teachers, and employers since she's seen other people with the illness be discriminated against on account of it. Bipolar disorder is an example of a(n):
 - Untreatable illness
 - Stigmatized illness
 - Withdrawn illness
 - Contested illness
- Obesity is rising at the fastest rate in which of the following countries?
 - High-income
 - Middle-income
 - Low-income
 - All countries regardless of income levels
- Until 1973, homosexuality was considered a psychological disorder by the American Psychological Association (APA). Which sociological perspective would be most concerned with why this was considered an illness and what effect that diagnosis had on society?
 - Exchange theory
 - Functionalist theory
 - Feminist theory
 - Symbolic interactionist theory
- What is one of the largest contributors to health problems in low-income countries?
 - Veganism
 - Clean water access
 - High-calorie diets
 - Sterilization
- Epidemiology is:
 - The study of how people manage issues of health and illness, disease and disorder, and healthcare for both the sick and the healthy
 - The study of the social process that normalizes "sick" behavior
 - The study of the process that changes "bad" behavior into "sick" behavior
 - The study of the incidence, distribution, and possible control of diseases
- Drake lives in Great Britain, where the British government owns and operates the country's health care system. This is an example of _____.
 - socialized medicine
 - limited healthcare
 - private healthcare
 - individual mandates

9. Which of the following would a social epidemiologist be likely to study?
 - a. The effects of redistricting on a local election
 - b. The prevalence of crime surrounding a hospital
 - c. The use of over-the-counter medicine as a recreational drug by young adults
 - d. The cancer rates surrounding a large manufacturing plant
10. The United States health care system consists of:
 - a. Socialized medicine
 - b. Public and private insurance coverage
 - c. Global healthcare
 - d. Private insurance coverage only
11. When a number of young, gay men began dying of a mysterious disease in the early 1980s, the public began referring to the disease as “the gay cancer,” stigmatizing the disease for doctors and patients. This is an example of:
 - a. The medicalization of deviance
 - b. The social construction of the illness experience
 - c. The decriminalization of HIV
 - d. The cultural meaning of illness
12. What are contested illnesses?
 - a. Illnesses that primarily affect residents of low-income areas
 - b. Illnesses that primarily affect the upper echelon of society
 - c. Illnesses considered questionable by some in the medical community
 - d. Illnesses that are on the verge of being eradicated by modern medicine
13. Taylor works as a legal assistant. His insurance doesn’t cover treatment for depression, and he spends 15% of his income each month to receive care. This is an example of
 - a. An individual mandate
 - b. Universal healthcare
 - c. Underinsurance
 - d. Public insurance
14. Which sociological perspective argues that sick people fill a societal role and are stigmatized by society if they spend longer in that role than is appropriate?
 - a. Conflict theory
 - b. Feminist
 - c. Symbolic interactionism
 - d. Functionalism
15. What sociologist pioneered the concept of the “sick role”?
 - a. Howard Becker
 - b. Stuart Hall
 - c. Talcott Parsons
 - d. Pierre Bourdieu
16. Which of the following is an example of legitimation?
 - a. Rihanna pretending to be ill so she can miss her chemistry exam
 - b. Marley’s doctor diagnosing him with bronchitis
 - c. Kelsey buying allergy medicine
 - d. Chuck giving Damion the flu
17. In recent years, a compulsion to engage in frequent and risky sexual behaviors was deemed sexual addiction. This is an example of:
 - a. Individualized deviance
 - b. Deviant qualification
 - c. Commodification of health care
 - d. Medicalization of deviance

18. Which sociological perspective argues that the commodification of health has created a large number of problems within the United States?
- Conflict theory
 - Functionalist
 - Feminist
 - Symbolic interactionist
19. Which of the following best defines the concept of the “sick role”?
- The pattern of expectations that define appropriate behavior for the sick and for those who take care of them
 - The social sanctions faced by a person who claims to be sick for too long
 - The discriminatory practices used by corporations when an employee takes sick leave
 - An illness that is questioned or considered questionable by some medical professionals
20. Dana lives in a country that guarantees health care for all of its citizens. Dana lives in a country with:
- Globalization healthcare
 - Optimization healthcare
 - Market-driven healthcare
 - Universal healthcare

Free Response

21. Pick a common illness and describe which parts of it are medically constructed and which parts are socially constructed.
22. What diseases are the most stigmatized? Which are the least? Does this vary in different cultures or social classes? Why or why not?
23. If social epidemiologists studied the United States in the colonial period, what differences would they find between now and then?
24. What do you think are some of the contributing factors to obesity-related diseases in the United States?
25. What factors contribute to the disparities in health among racial, ethnic, and gender groups in the United States?
26. Do you know anyone with a mental disorder? How does it affect their life?
27. What do you think are the pros and cons of the Affordable Care Act? Why?
28. Which theoretical perspective do you think best explains the sociology of health? Why?
29. What examples of medicalization and demedicalization can you think of?