

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY/UNIVERSITY OF AKRON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION
MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY
FALL 2008

1. The U.S. Healthcare system is often characterized—in both the popular press and in academic circles—as “broken” and “in crisis.” Draw on the sociological literature to discuss what is seen to be at the core of the crisis, the health insurance system. What is the historical context of this aspect of the crisis? What are the facts of health insurance in America today? How do sociologists address this problem?

2- You have been asked to write a chapter review for the *Annual Review of Sociology* on one of two themes:

A chapter on Longitudinal Studies of Health

or

A chapter on Ethnographic Studies of Health.

Chose one chapter to write. For that chapter you would provide the following introduction: (1) the types of research questions addressed by the method (longitudinal or ethnographic), more generally (2) why the method (longitudinal or ethnographic) has been essential to study the specific research question(s) covered in your Review piece; (3) how the method (again, longitudinal or ethnographic) has been applied differently across studies, (4) which of the studies you reviewed was the strongest methodologically, and why?