

# Cultural Diversity In Health And Illness (8th Edition)



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## Synopsis

The eighth edition of this well-respected book continues to promote an awareness of the dimensions and complexities involved in caring for people from diverse cultural backgrounds. Completely revised and updated, **CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN HEALTH AND ILLNESS** examines the differences existing within North America by probing the health care system and consumers, and examples of traditional health/ **HEALTH** beliefs and practices among selected populations. An emphasis on the influences of recent social, political, and demographic changes helps to explore the issues and perceptions of health and illness today, while new introductory and capstone chapters help place material within perspective. An essential for any health-care professional, this book sets the standard for cultural perspectives and more importantly **HEALTH**—“the balance of the person, both within one’s being—physical, mental, and spiritual—and in the outside world—natural, communal, and metaphysical. (Terms, such as **HEALTH**, are written this way to emphasize holistic meaning.)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The sixth edition of this well-respected book continues to promote an awareness of the dimensions and complexities involved in caring for people from diverse cultural backgrounds. Completely revised and updated, it includes the latest information on the health care delivery system in a new organizational format. It examines the differences existing within North America by probing the health care system and consumers, and examples of traditional health beliefs and practices among selected populations. An emphasis on the influences of recent social, political, and demographic

changes helps to explore the issues and perceptions of health and illness today. FEATURES INCLUDE: Free Pocket Guide to Assessment and Health Tradition Free Companion Website [www.prenhall.com/spector](http://www.prenhall.com/spector) with activities and test questions Revised organization to create a better flow of content New content on generational differences Updated chapter on the health care delivery system including discussions of barriers and alternatives New MediaLink icons that refer students to more information on the website New Application questions at the end of every chapter Coverage on the concept of faith in the context of healing or macro-religious traditions Demographic background discussion of each of the U.S. Census Bureau's categories of the population for a statistical overview of the diversity of patient populations

Required for a class. The goal of the book is missed, partly because it is clearly written from a provider-centered framework that fails to teach cultural humility. Completely false information regarding alternative health practices is presented as the truth here, which only furthers the gulf of misunderstanding between providers and users of complementary/alternative medicine. So much outdated information, including listing of the government of the Khmer Rouge as a country- it hasn't existed for since 1979. In an effort to be recent and relevant, 9/11 is once mentioned as the result of poor cultural understanding in the American Healthcare system. I hope anyone using this book as required for classes is required to read others and research some of the garbage in here. There are gems in here, but there is so much awful that the gems are difficult to appreciate. This is the 8th edition of the book, and it's clear the author has updated very little edition to edition. It needs a complete rewrite. It's so bad, I will be petitioning to have this book replaced in the curricula.

This book was so bad that I dropped the class on the first day (as soon as I read the first two chapters). Side note - There were 4 reviewers for this book and one just holds a BS from community college (which is fine but not for high level academic reviewing) Primary issues with the textbook: A) Uncited or questionable "specific examples" of the benefits of religion on health on p. 25-26 (citation of Levin on intercessory prayer on health by paranormal means - this is from a book called God, Faith, and Health and does not actually cite the article/research so I can't say with certainty, but I'm relatively sure this is not widely accepted or replicated research) B) Contradictory information (p. 8 states the 14 CLAS standards "must be met by most health care-related agencies" yet the footnote to box 1-1 on page 10 states that "CLAS standards are non-regulatory and do not have the force and effect of law"); C) Subjective definitions - the continued use of health/HEALTH and other terms that are already established yet that the author has decided to give her own personal meaning to; D)

Extreme bias against allopathic medicine<sup>1</sup>) asking if health care providers are health care advocates or patient advocates as if these are mutually exclusive (p. 15).<sup>2</sup>) p. 137 has a chart comparing Homeopathic "HEALER" vs Allopathic Physician and describes the healer in very positive terms while making the physician sound cold and uncaring, while never mentioning the arguably most important part of medicine - efficacy. On the same page she also describes her experiences with "HEALERS" and it seems like this chart is totally anecdotal and without basis in any kind of research. There were also a few minor issues that were almost funny - the author starts the book with a poem that she herself wrote that asks the reader to "reach out / Maybe with that physical touch / Or eyes, or aura" (yes - aura!), and each chapter begins with 4 photos that the author took which she then uses to aid in unnecessary and flowery metaphors (ex: a photo of a glass door in Spain "Figure 1-3 found in Avila, Spain, was made of translucent glass. Here the person has a choice - peer through the door and view the garden behind it or open it and actually go into the garden for a finite walk. This reminded me of people who are able to understand the needs of others and return to their own life and heritage when work is completed." EVERY glass door works like this, has she never seen a glass sliding door in someone's house before?)

This book was required for a nursing class and I am not impressed. From the paperback type paper to the extremely generalized views on most cultures I could have found better resources on the web. There is some helpful info on specific cultures relating to birth and death, but photographs are black and white and look 40 years old. Hard to believe this is the latest edition.

Had to have this book for Multi-Cultural approaches to health care; I found the book very wordy, difficult to read. What may be the most irritating is the author's style of combining terms health/HEALTH, illness,ILLNESS, curing/HEALING to "convey the blending of modern and traditional connotations for the terms." This is repeated throughout the book. Also some of her sources in defining health traditions are obscenely outdated; for instance on page 112 she states that hypnotism "artificially creates a condition in which the person appears to be asleep and acts in obedience to the will of the operator as regards both motion and sensation, this definition was from 1924!!! It is different that the current definition as cited by the APA, and NIH. Another citation on page 136 states that "Some critics of today's health care systems choose to condemn it, with more vociferous critics such as Illich, citing its failure to create a utopia for humankind" cited from 1975!!.

This book is incredibly boring and poorly written. The sentence structures are, at times, bizarre and

the beginning of each chapter begins with a totally pointless paragraph about small photos the author has taken (it doesn't add anything to the chapter). There's a lot of "filler" information and many paragraphs could be easily condensed down into a sentence.

The professors using this garbage as a text book should be ashamed of themselves. It is an embarrassing addition to education in the field of nursing. The author used this book as a forum to disseminate her vacation photos and covered that intent with contrived symbolic meanings. I honestly felt myself growing less intelligent with each turn of a page.

How many ways can you say the world diversity?? It is basically taking census info and talking about every little detail, as if viewing the chart wasn't enough. Haven't actually seen yet where it describes how to become more culturally competent as a healthcare professional.

Horrible writing. This author is very repetitive and has her opinion in about half the chapter. Writing style is poor and sometimes strings together a series of complicated big words to sound intelligent when she could've said things simpler. Only have this for school...

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