



## Synopsis

The seventh 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 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. An essential for any health-care professional, this book sets the standard for cultural perspectives.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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more New Research on Culture feature depicting recent studies related to cultural competence  
New photographs displaying examples and icons of various cultures  
New learning outcomes at the beginning of every chapter  
Expanded content on the influence of spirituality and religion on health in cultural contexts  
Updated chapter on the health care delivery system including discussions of barriers and alternatives  
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

Dr. Rachel E. Spector has been a student of culturally diverse HEALTH and ILLNESS beliefs and practices for 35 years and has researched and taught courses on culture and HEALTH care for the same time span. Dr. Spector has had the opportunity to work in many different communities, including the American Indian and Hispanic communities in Boston, Massachusetts. Her studies have taken her to many places: most of the United States, Canada, and Mexico; several European countries, including Denmark, England, Finland, Iceland, Italy, France, Russia, Spain, and Switzerland; Israel and Pakistan; and Australia and New Zealand. She was fortunate enough to collect traditional amulets and remedies from many of these diverse communities and to meet practitioners of traditional HEALTH care in several places. She was instrumental in the creation and presentation of the exhibit "Immigrant HEALTH Traditions" at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, May 1994 through January 1995. She and has exhibited HEALTH-related objects in several other settings. Recently, she served as a Colaboradora Honorifica (Honorary Collaborator) in the University of Alicante in Alicante, Spain, and Tamulipus, Mexico. In 2006, she was a Lady Davis Fellow in the Henrietta Zold-Hadassah Hebrew University School of Nursing in Jerusalem, Israel. This text was translated into Spanish by Maria Munoz and published in Madrid by Prentice Hall as Las Culturas de la SALUD in 2003. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and a Scholar in Transcultural Nursing Society. The Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses, the state organization of the American Nurses' Association, honored her as a "Living Legend" in 2007. In 2008 she was recognized by the American Nurses' Association for her work in Human Rights.

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 its 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 medicine1) asking if health care providers are health care advocates or patient advocates as if these are mutually exclusive (p. 15).2) 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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Cultural Diversity in Health and Illness/Culture Care: Guide to Heritage Assessment Health (Cultural Diversity in Health & Illness (Spector)) Cultural Diversity in Health and Illness (7th Edition) Cultural Diversity in Health and Illness (9th Edition) Cultural Diversity in Health and Illness (8th Edition) Cultural Diversity in Health and Illness Leininger's Culture Care Diversity And Universality: A Worldwide Nursing Theory (Cultural Care Diversity (Leininger)) Glencoe iScience Modules: Life iScience, Animal Diversity, Student Edition (GLEN SCI: ANIMAL DIVERSITY) Measuring and Monitoring Biological Diversity. Standard Methods for Amphibians (Biological Diversity Handbook) Diversity Matters: Understanding Diversity in Schools (What's New in Education) Diversity and Cultural Competence in Health Care: A Systems Approach Health Communication: From Theory to Practice (J-B Public Health/Health Services Text) - Key words: health communication, public health, health behavior, behavior change communications Complete Guide to Symptoms, Illness & Surgery: Updated and Revised 6th Edition (Complete Guide to Symptoms, Illness and Surgery) Storied Health and Illness: Communicating Personal, Cultural, and Political Complexities Cultural Competencies For Nurses: Impact on Health and Illness Lubkin's Chronic Illness: Impact and Intervention (Lubkin, Chronic Illness) Chronic Illness: Impact And Intervention (Lubkin, Chronic Illness) Essentials Of Health, Culture, And Diversity: Understanding People, Reducing Disparities (Essential Public Health) Cultural Diversity: A Primer for the Human Services The Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care: A Critical Approach A Sociology Of Mental Health And Illness (UK Higher Education OUP Humanities & Social Sciences Health & Social Welfare)

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