

SOCI 2509: SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH & ILLNESS IN CANADA*

Lecture: T/Th 1-2:30pm
Location: RB 2024
Instructor: Dr. Sanders
Office: RB 2038
Office hours: Tuesdays 2:30-3:30 at *The Study* or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of SOCI 2509 is to introduce you to the important and exciting realm of health sociology. This course uses a sociological perspective to explore health and illness and their relationship with social structure and social processes. What makes health sociology so important is that it elucidates the critical role that social factors have in influencing the wellness of individuals, groups, and society. In Unit 1, we will address the conceptual and theoretical issues. In Unit 2, we will examine relationships between inequality and health and illness. In Unit 3, we will consider how social factors affect people's experience of wellness. In Unit 4, we will explore facets of the Canadian health system. Finally, in Unit 5 we apply what we've learned to a contemporary issue, the sociology of pharmaceuticals. As you will see throughout the year, there is no shortage of opportunities to apply a sociological perspective to analyses of health, illness, and health care.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course focuses on developing an understanding of both the empirical and theoretical underpinnings of health sociology. The learning objectives are:

- To provide students with an introduction to the social, economic, and political factors that shape medicine as an institution and the experience of wellness;
- To introduce classical and contemporary works in medical sociology, and to appreciate the ways that sociologists have treated "medicine" as an object of study;
- To methodologically evaluate evidence and claims about health and health care;
- To foster respectful discussion and to encourage students to take a critical perspective by challenging taken-for-granted notions of medicine;
- To improve students' skills at reading, critical analysis, note taking, and synthesizing sociological theory and research into academic writing and discussion.

COURSE READINGS

We will use the following books available at the LU Bookstore:

- Stroschein, Lisa and Rose Weitz. 2014. *The Sociology of Health, Illness & Health Care in Canada: A Critical Approach*. Toronto: Nelson Education.
- Armstrong, Pat and Hugh Armstrong. 2016. *About Canada: Health Care, 2nd Edition*. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing.
- Additional readings are uploaded to the D2L course website.

* This is a general outline and is subject to change. Contact me for current unabridged version.

COURSE EVALUATION AND SUMMARY OF TESTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Value</u>
Test 1 (in class)	19 October	15%
Test 2 (in class)	23 November	15%
Group Presentation	28/30 November	10%
Test 3 (in class)	15 February	15%
Test 4 (take home)	05 April	15%
Online Quizzes	10 in Fall/10 in Winter	20%
Participation	-	10%
Extra Credit	see schedule below	TBD

Tests. Tests are comprehensive and include multiple choice and short answer questions. There are no make-ups except with appropriate documentation; make-up tests are essay format.

Group Presentation. The group project is designed to have students critically engage with a contemporary health issue. Groups will provide a 10-minute analytic presentation to the class.

Quizzes. Weekly online quizzes must be completed prior to the Tuesday lecture. Quizzes are accessible through D2L; they become active on Sundays at 1pm and close Tuesdays at 1pm.

Participation. This course relies on weekly participation. Students are expected to reflect on readings in advance of class and bring questions to lecture for open discussion. Your participation grade will reflect the degree of participation and preparation you show throughout the year.

Extra Credit. Students may submit up to two extra credit assignments. Due dates are listed below. Only paper copies will be accepted. Each assignment is worth up to 1 point toward the final grade.

Plagiarism. All work must be completed with academic integrity. Please review the LU policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty; it can be accessed from the LU homepage or the course information module of the course website. Please discuss with me any questions or concerns about this policy prior to handing in assignments or taking the tests.

Accommodations. LU is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. This commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you think you may need accommodations, you are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as early as possible. Please visit: <http://studentaccessibility.lakeheadu.ca>

Grades. I do not discuss grades by email. Grade inquiries must be in person during office hours or by appointment.

Email. Please do not send emails addressing complex issues or asking questions that can be answered by reading the course outline or by consulting fellow students. I will respond to emails during office hours. Emails should be courteous and brief, requiring only a 1-2 sentence response.

FALL TERM SCHEDULE

UNIT 1: We begin with a brief history of disease and medicine in the western world; students are introduced to key concepts in the sociology of health & illness and social epidemiology.

Week 1. Welcome! The Sociology of Health & Illness and Why It Matters

- 05 Sept: *SHIHC* Ch. 1, "Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care"
- 07 Sept: D2L, "Medical Model" (Bury)

Week 2. Sociological Approaches to Health & Illness

- 12 Sept: *SHIHC* Ch. 2, "The Social Sources of Disease and Death" and "Ebola and the Construction of Fear" (Sternheimer)
- 14 Sept: in class film

UNIT 2: Next we learn about the social determinants of health and the influence of structures and social roles on population health.

Week 3. Social Factors and Health & Illness

- 19 Sept: *SHIHC* Ch. 3, "Social Determinants of Health and Illness: Age, Sex and Race"
- 21 Sept: D2L, "NWAC Report" on Indigenous Women's health

Week 4. Social Factors and Health & Illness (con't)

- 26 Sept: *SHIHC* Ch. 4, "Socioeconomic Inequalities in Health"
- 28 Sept: D2L, "Social Class" (Scambler)

Week 5. Social Factors and Health & Illness (con't)

- 03 Oct: *SHIHC* Ch. 5, "Work and Family Life"
- 05 Oct: D2L, "Emotional Labor" (Theodosius)
- Extra Credit #1 due 06 October 2017 before lecture

Week 6. Reading Week

- 10/12 Oct: No lecture (a wise student would begin studying for Test 1)

Week 7. Social Factors and Health & Illness (con't) and Test

- 17 Oct: *SHIHC* Ch. 6, "Illness and Death in the Developing World" and test review
- 19 Oct: Test 1 (in class)

Unit 3: We now shift gears to the social construction of health, that is the ways society frames and responds to matters of wellness and disease as well as how people make sense of the experience of being ill.

Week 8. The Meaning and Experience of Health & Illness

- 24 Oct: *SHIHC* Ch. 7, "The Social Meanings of Illness"
- 26 Oct: D2L, "Medicalization" (Gabe)

Week 9. The Meaning and Experience of Health & Illness (con't)

- 31 Oct: D2L, "Social Dimensions of Mental Illness" (Wade et al.)
- 02 Nov: D2L, "Is ADHD a Mental Health Crisis, or a Cultural One?" (Lunau) and *What's the Point* podcast "Mental Health and Stigma"

Week 10. The Meaning and Experience of Health & Illness (con't)

- 07 Nov: *SHIHC* Ch. 8, "The Experience of Disability, Chronic Pain and Chronic Illness"
- 09 Nov: D2L, "Stigma" (Monaghan & Williams)

Week 11. The Meaning and Experience of Health & Illness (con't)

- 14 Nov: *SHIHC* Ch. 9, "The Body and the Pursuit of Health" and "Medicalization of Beauty" (Sternheimer)
- 16 Nov: in class film

Week 12. Test 2

- 21 Nov: Film discussion, test review, and work on group presentations
- 23 Nov: Test 2 (in class)

Week 13. Group Presentations

- 28 Nov: Group presentations
- 30 Nov: Group presentations
- Extra Credit #2 due 30 November 2016 before lecture

WINTER TERM SCHEDULE

Unit 4: Fresh off the winter break, we begin a new section on the sociology of health care, focusing on clinical settings, services, professions, and mounting concerns about cost control in health care.

Week 1. Our Health Care System: Settings, Professions & Technologies

- 09 Jan: *SHIHC* Ch. 10, "The History of Health Care in Canada"
- 11 Jan: *SHIHC* Ch. 11, "Health Care in Other Countries" (read pp. 258-68)

Week 2. Our Health Care System: Settings, Professions & Technology (con't)

- 16 Jan: *About Canada: Health Care* (Chapters 2-3)
- 18 Jan: *About Canada: Health Care* (Chapters 4-7)

Week 3. Our Health Care System: Settings, Professions & Technologies (con't)

- 23 Jan: *SHIHC* Ch. 12, "Health Care Professions"
- 25 Jan: D2L, "Gift Horse or Trojan Horse?" (read pp. 2613-15)

Week 4. Our Health Care System: Settings, Professions & Technologies (con't)

- 30 Jan: *SHIHC* Ch. 13, "Health Care Settings and Technologies"
- 01 Feb: TBD

Week 5. Our Health Care System: Settings, Professions & Technologies (con't)

- 06 Feb: D2L, "Complementary and Alternative Health Care" (Easthope & Hornosty) and critiques of CAM
- 08 Feb: in class film

Week 6. Test

- 13 Feb: Film discussion, test review, Extra Credit #3 due before lecture
- 15 Feb: Test 3 (in class)

Week 7. Reading Week

- 20/22 Feb: No lecture

Unit 5: We conclude with issues in health sociology for the 21st century. We apply what we've learned to sociological analyses of pharmaceuticals.

Week 8. Moving Forward: Health Sociology in the 21st Century—Bioethics & Pharmaceuticals

- 27 Feb: *SHHC* Ch. 14, "Issues in Bioethics"
- 01 Mar: D2L, "BiDiI: Assessing a Race-Based Pharmaceutical" (Brody & Hunt)

Week 9. Moving Forward: Pharmaceuticals and the "Social"

- 06 Mar: D2L, "Social Lives of Medicines" (Whyte et al.) and "Living Drugs" (Fraser et al., pp. 123-128)
- 08 Mar: D2L, "The Pharmaceuticalisation of Society?" (Williams et al.)

Week 10. Moving Forward: The Political Economy of the Pharmaceutical Industry

- 13 Mar: D2L, "The Pharmaceutical Industry and Health Canada" (Lexchin) and "How the Pill Became a Lifestyle Drug" (Watkins)
- 15 Mar: in class film and "Universal Prescription Drug Coverage in Canada" (Morgan & Boothe)

Week 11. Moving Forward: Pharmaceuticals and the Construction of New Markets

- 20 Mar: D2L, "Potency in all the Right Places" (Mamo & Fishman)
- 22 Mar: D2L, "Science, Medicine and Virility Surveillance" (Marshall)

Week 12. Moving Forward: The Pharmaceuticalization of Public Health

- 27 Mar: D2L, "New Forms of Citizenship and Socio-Political Inclusion" (Cataldo)
- 29 Mar: D2L, "A Critical Case Study Analysis of the Logic and Practices of Prescribing HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to At-Risk Adolescents" (Owczarzak & Petroll)

Week 13. Moving Forward: Globalizing Pharmaceutical Research

- 03 Apr: D2L, "Ethical Variability" (Petryna) and "Clinical Trials Off-Shored" (Petryna)
- 05 Apr: Course wrap up, Test 4 (take home) distributed in class, Extra Credit #4 due before lecture