

SOCI 2509-YDE: SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH & ILLNESS IN CANADA*

Fall 2019/Winter 2020

Lecture: Audio lectures released Mondays at 1pm

Instructor: Dr. Sanders

Office: RB 2038

Office hours: T/W 12-1pm or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of SOCI 2509 is to introduce you to the exciting realm of health sociology! We will use a sociological perspective to explore the relationships between health, illness, health care, and social institutions and processes. An important feature of health sociology is that it elucidates the critical role that social factors have in influencing the wellness of individuals, groups, and society at large. In Unit 1, we will address 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. And finally, in Unit 5 we apply what we've learned to a contemporary issue, the sociology of pharmaceuticals. As you will learn, the sociological perspective has much to offer to analyses of health, illness, and health care.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

- To learn about and distinguish between the social, economic, and political factors that shape medicine as an institution and the experience of wellness;
- To methodologically evaluate evidence and claims about health and health care;
- To develop a critical perspective by challenging taken-for-granted notions of medicine, including dominant and "alternative" conceptions of wellness and of health care;
- To demonstrate 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:

- Strohschein, 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 weekly readings will be posted in folders on the D2L course website.

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

COURSE EVALUATION AND SUMMARY OF TESTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Description	Due Date	Value
Test 1	Week of Oct 22	20%
Test 2	Week of Nov 26	20%
Test 3	Week of Feb 11	20%
Test 4	April 07	20%
Online Quizzes	10 fall/10 winter	10%
Participation	Ongoing	10%

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

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.

The **participation** component of this course consists of responding to online exercises that apply reading and lecture material to current events, news items, and audio/video clips (quizzes, short answers, critical reflections, etc.).

Students may submit up to four **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 come to me with any questions or concerns about this policy prior to handing in assignments or taking the tests.

Grades: I do not discuss grades by email or provide detailed breakdowns of graded work by email. All grade inquiries must be in person during office hours or by phone. I'm always happy to talk in person or by phone, so please do not hesitate to contact me to make an appointment.

Email: I will respond to student emails during my office hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Questions about course content, tests, and assignments will be addressed in the weekly audio lectures in order to benefit everyone. Please do not send emails that ask questions that can be answered by reading the course outline (e.g., due dates). Emails should be courteous and brief, requiring only a 1-2 sentence response.

FALL TERM SCHEDULE

UNIT 1: We begin by discussing how we define and measure health and illness, sociological perspectives for understanding health and illness in society, and social epidemiology.

Week 1 (Sept 03): The Sociology of Health & Illness and Why It Matters

- *SHIHC* Ch. 1, “Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care” and “Medical Model” (Bury)

Week 2 (Sept 10): Sociological Approaches to Health & Illness

- *SHIHC* Ch. 2, “The Social Sources of Disease and Death”
- “Ebola and the Construction of Fear” (Sternheimer)

UNIT 2: Next we learn about “social determinants,” or the social distribution of disease. How is health related to social position?

Week 3 (Sept 17): Social Factors and Health & Illness

- *SHIHC* Ch. 3, “Social Determinants of Health and Illness: Age, Sex and Race”
- “NWAC Report” on Indigenous Women’s health

Week 4 (Sept 24): Social Factors and Health & Illness (con’t)

- *SHIHC* Ch. 4, “Socioeconomic Inequalities in Health”
- “Social Class” (Scambler)

Week 5 (Oct 01): Social Factors and Health & Illness (con’t)

- *SHIHC* Ch. 5, “Work and Family Life”
- “Emotional Labor” (Theodosius)

Week 6 (Oct 08): Social Factors and Health & Illness (con’t) and Test

- *SHIHC* Ch. 6, “Illness and Death in the Developing World”
- Last day to submit Extra Credit #1

Week 7 (Oct 15) Reading Week

- No lecture or assigned readings (a wise student would begin studying for Test 1)

Week 8 (Oct 22): Test Week

- Test review
- Test 1 active from Sunday 1pm to Tuesday 1pm

Unit 3: We 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 9 (Oct 29). The Meaning and Experience of Health & Illness

- *SHIHC* Ch. 7, “The Social Meanings of Illness”
- “Medicalization” (Gabe)

Week 10 (Nov 05): The Meaning and Experience of Health & Illness (con’t)

- “Social Dimensions of Mental Illness” (Wade et al.)
- “Is ADHD a Mental Health Crisis, or a Cultural One?” (Lunau)
- *What’s the Point* podcast “Mental Health and Stigma”

Week 11 (Nov 12): The Meaning and Experience of Health & Illness (con’t)

- *SHIHC* Ch. 8, “The Experience of Disability, Chronic Pain and Chronic Illness”
- “Stigma” (Monaghan & Williams)

Week 12 (Nov 19): The Meaning and Experience of Health & Illness (con’t)

- *SHIHC* Ch. 9, “The Body and the Pursuit of Health”
- Last day to submit Extra Credit #1

Week 13 (Nov 26): Test Week

- Test review
- Test 2 active from Sunday 1pm to Tuesday 1pm

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 and reforms in the Canadian public health care system.

Week 1 (Jan 07): Our Health Care System: Settings, Professions & Technologies

- *SHIHC* Ch. 10, “The History of Health Care in Canada”
- *SHIHC* Ch. 11, “Health Care in Other Countries” (read pp. 258-68)

Week 2 (Jan 14): Our Health Care System: Settings, Professions & Technology (con’t)

- *About Canada: Health Care* (Chapters 1-4)

Week 3 (Jan 21): Our Health Care System: Settings, Professions & Technology (con’t)

- *About Canada: Health Care* (Chapters 5-8)
- Recommended: “Inside the nearly eight-year long fight of Brian Day, the doctor who would free Canadians from medicare”

Week 4 (Jan 28): Our Health Care System: Settings, Professions & Technologies (con't)

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

Week 5 (Feb 04): Our Health Care System: Settings, Professions & Technologies (con't)

- *SHIHC* Ch. 13, "Health Care Settings and Technologies"

Week 6 (Feb 11): Complementary and Alternative Medicine and Test Week

- Complementary and Alternative Health Care (Easthope & Hornosty)
- Test review
- Test 3 active from Sunday 1pm to Tuesday 1pm
- Last day to submit Extra Credit #3

Week 7 (Feb 18): Reading Week

- No lecture or assigned readings.

Unit 5: We conclude with issues in health sociology for the 21st century. We apply what we've learned to sociological analyses of pharmaceuticals. We examine how sociologists orient to pharmaceutical drugs as objects of inquiry and pose questions about social, cultural, and political relations through research on pharmaceutical treatments and clinical trials.

Week 8 (Feb 25): Moving Forward: Health Sociology in the 21st Century—Bioethics & Pharmaceuticals

- *SHIHC* Ch. 14, "Issues in Bioethics"
- "BiDil: Assessing a Race-Based Pharmaceutical" (Brody & Hunt)

Week 9 (Mar 03): Moving Forward: Pharmaceuticals and the "Social"

- Social Lives of Medicines: "An Anthropology of Materia Medica" (Whyte et al.)
- "The Pharmaceuticalisation of Society?" (Williams et al.)

Week 10 (Mar 10): Moving Forward: The Political Economy of the Pharmaceutical Industry

- "The Pharmaceutical Industry and Health Canada" (Lexchin)
- FILM: *The High Cost of Pharmaceuticals: Canada's Drug Problem* (2016, CBC) and "Universal Prescription Drug Coverage in Canada" (Morgan & Boothe)

Week 11 (Mar 17): Moving Forward: Pharmaceuticals and the Construction of New Markets

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

Week 12 (Mar 24): Moving Forward: The Pharmaceuticalization of Public Health

- “New Forms of Citizenship and Socio-Political Inclusion” (Cataldo)
- “A Critical Case Study Analysis of the Logic and Practices of Prescribing HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to At-Risk Adolescents” (Sanders, Owczarzak & Petroll)

Week 13 (Mar 31): Moving Forward: Globalizing Pharmaceutical Research

- “Clinical Trials Off-Shored” (Petryna)
- Last day to submit Extra Credit #4
- Test 4 distributed. The final test is short essay format. You will be given a series of question that require a 1-page essay response. Completed tests are to be submitted in the appropriate D2L folder by April 07. More instructions to come.