

SOCI 4114
SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTHCARE
Fall 2020

Seminar: Zoom, Mondays 2:30-5:30pm

Instructor: Dr. Sanders

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

SOCI 4114 examines the Canadian health care services and deliver from a sociological perspective, drawing particularly on a political economy approach. Healthcare funding and organizational issues, the medicalization of society, the shift to patient autonomy and consumer empowerment, the popularity of complementary and alternative medicine, Indigenous health perspectives, contemporary midwifery, and emerging health social movements will all be explored. Finally, we would be remiss if we did not apply the experience of COVID-19 as a real-life lesson from which to critically reflect upon the value of the theories and concepts offered by the sociology of healthcare. While we utilize some texts and articles from other disciplines (e.g., nursing, medicine, public health) the approach to this course remains firmly sociological.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To identify the central social, political, and economic factors that influence delivery of and access to healthcare;
- To develop a sound understanding of the political economy tradition and how healthcare is being reshaped by market pressures;
- To appreciate ways sociologists have treated healthcare as an object of study;
- To construct, defend, and critique sociological arguments about healthcare;
- To articulate thoughtful discussion questions and engage in respectful discussion of course material during seminar.

COURSE FORMAT

This course is run as a seminar. Much of our time will be spent in shared dialogue or in breakaway groups. You will be expected to carefully read all assigned material before class and to share your thoughts and perspectives during class discussion. This means developing a critical sociological imagination about contemporary health services, including taken-for-granted notions of health, illness, and healthcare.

COURSE READINGS

- Chappell, Neena L. and Margaret J. Penning. 2010. *Understanding Health, Health Care, and Health Policy in Canada: Sociological Perspectives*. Oxford: University Press.
- Mykhalovskiy, Eric, et al. (eds.) 2020. *Health Matters: Evidence, Critical Social Science, and Health Care in Canada*. Toronto: University Press.
- Sutherland, Ross. 2011. *False Positive: Private Profit in Canada's Medical Laboratories*. Black Point, NS: Fernwood Publishing.
- Supplementary readings will be provided through D2L.

COURSE EVALUATION AND SUMMARY OF TESTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Description	Final due Date	Weight
Biweekly assignments	Ongoing	25%
Seminar participation	Ongoing	25%
Midterm	19 October	25%
Final	07 December	25%

Biweekly assignments are assigned and to be submitted on or before the assigned date. Your work will be evaluated on the extent to which comprehension of the material is demonstrated (i.e., is it evident that you read) as well as grammar and paragraph organization, clarity of writing, and application and originality (i.e., not just repeating the text). Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day including weekends.

The success of this course relies on active **seminar participation**. This means articulating thoughtful questions and answers to questions, and engaging in respectful discussion of course material during seminar. It may also include facilitating class discussion and presenting summaries or discussion questions. I do not expect that you will do these things perfectly from the start, but I do expect you to demonstrate improvement over the semester.

The **midterm** includes short answer and essay questions and is designed to evaluate your ability to apply key concepts, not recitation of materials. There are no make-ups except with appropriate authoritative documentation (e.g., no parents, no partners).

The **final** assignment is an opportunity to impress me with what you have learned this semester by using the course readings as a basis to analyze and critique the “healthy debates” articles, which focus on federalism and privatization in healthcare. How do the course readings contribute to the debates, either in support or against the arguments presented, and why and how so? The final can be in the form of an audio PowerPoint presentation (10-15 minutes), a short film (5 minutes), or a written paper (5-10 pages).

One **extra credit** paper may be submitted—an academic book review of a chapter from *Health Matters*. I recommend meeting with me to discuss your idea.

GENERAL POLICIES

Email: Please email me through D2L (see address above). I will respond to student emails during my office hours. Emails should be brief and require only a 1-2 sentence response. More detailed inquiries should be reserved for office hours. Please do not send emails that ask questions that can be answered by reading the course outline (e.g., due dates). When emailing professors, it is good practice to use standard workplace etiquette: emails should be brief yet professional, include a salutation, be coherent and use complete sentences, and be courteous in tone.

Grades and feedback: I will provide written feedback on tests and assignments that are submitted by the due date. For late work, I will provide oral feedback during office hours or by appointment, but the onus is on you to take the initiative to receive feedback. 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 appointment. I am happy to talk by phone, so please do not hesitate to contact me to make a phone appointment.

Attendance: There is no greater predictor of doing well in a course than attending classes. This course runs synchronously and as such students are expected to be present in seminar each week. I consider it common courtesy for cameras to be on during discussions, plus it helps me better evaluate attendance and participation. Zoom backgrounds are available if you have privacy concerns.

Copyright compliance: I understand and agree that all instructional, reference, and administrative materials to which I am given access in this course (the course materials), whether they consist of text, still or kinetic images, or sound, whether they are in digital or hard copy formats, and in whatever media they are offered, are protected in their entirety by copyright, and that to comply with this copyright and the law.

1. I may access and download the course materials only for my own personal and non-commercial use for this course; and
2. I am not permitted to download, copy, store (in any medium), forward or share, transmit, broadcast, show, post or play in public, adapt, or change in any way any text, image, or sound component of the course materials for any other purpose whatsoever except as expressly authorized, and only to the extent authorized, in writing, by the course instructor. I further understand and agree that, if I infringe the copyright of the course materials in any way, I may be prosecuted under the Lakehead University Student Code of Conduct—Academic Integrity, which requires students to act ethically and with integrity in academic matters and to demonstrate behaviors that support the University's academic values.

Exam/assignment integrity

Plagiarism: All work must be completed with academic integrity. Please review the LU policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty, accessible from the LU homepage or the course information folder on the website. Please come to me with any questions or

concerns about this policy prior to handing in assignments or taking the tests. I understand and agree that:

1. Unless otherwise allowed by the course instructor, I must complete the assignments in this course without the assistance of anyone else.
2. Unless otherwise allowed by the course instructor, I must not access any sources or materials (in print, online, or in any other way) to complete any course exam.
3. I further understand and agree that, if I violate either of these two rules, or if I provide any false or misleading information about my completion of course assignments or exams, I may be prosecuted under the Lakehead University Student Code of Conduct—Academic Integrity, which requires students to act ethically and with integrity in academic matters and to demonstrate behaviors that support the University's academic values.

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>

SEMINAR SCHEDULE*

Seminar 1. Introductions and Federalism in Canadian Health Care (Sept 14)

- D2L readings
- **NOTE:** Seminar from 2:30-4pm

Seminar 2. Theoretical Underpinnings: Political Economy and the Critique of Evidence-Based Medicine (Sept 21)

- D2L readings
- **NOTE:** Two recommended are included in the D2L folder. They are not required.
- **Assignment 1:** Read Chappell and Penning, Chapter 1 (pp. 1-34), answer essay questions, due in "Assignment 1" folder by Thursday, Sept 24

Seminar 3. Health Matters Pt 1 (Sept 28)

- *Health Matters:* Mykhalovskiy et al. (pp. 3-14)
- *Health Matters:* Dale (pp. 33-51)
- *Health Matters:* McDonald & Wright (pp. 52-74)

Seminar 4. Health Matters Pt 2 (Oct 05)

- *Health Matters:* Wagner & Darling (pp. 92-110)
- *Health Matters:* Stephens (pp. 111-130)
- *Health Matters:* Grigovich (pp. 131-151)
- **Assignment 2:** Read Chappell and Penning, Chapter 2 (pp. 35-77), answer essay questions, due in "Assignment 2" folder by Thursday, Oct 08

Reading Week (Oct 12)

- No seminar, no assigned readings

Midterm (Oct 19)

- Midterm distributed, due by Thursday, Oct 22

Seminar 5. Health Matters Pt 3 (Oct 26)

- *Health Matters:* Bell (pp. 155-171)
- *Health Matters:* Ducey et al. (pp. 190-209)
- **NOTE:** Seminar from 2:30-4pm
- **Assignment 3:** Read Chappell and Penning, Chapter 3 (pp. 78-113), answer essay questions, due in "Assignment 3" folder by Thursday, Oct 29

Seminar 6. Health Matters Pt 4 (Nov 02)

- *Health Matters:* Kelly (pp. 210-228)
- *Health Matters:* Ford (pp. 247-262)

* Schedule subject to change as necessary.

Seminar 7. Privatization of Medical Laboratories Pt 1 (Nov 09)

- *False Positive* (Introduction and Chapter 1-2)
- **Assignment 4:** Read Chappell and Penning, Chapter 4 (pp. 114-167), answer essay questions, due in "Assignment 4" folder by Thursday, Nov 12

Seminar 8. Privatization of Medical Laboratories Pt 2 (Nov 16)

- *False Positive* (Chapters 3-6)

Seminar 9. Privatization of Medical Laboratories Pt 3 (Nov 23)

- *False Positive* (Chapters 7-9)
- **NOTE:** Seminar from 2:30-4pm
- **Assignment 5:** Read Chappell and Penning, Chapter 5 (pp. 168-202), answer essay questions, due in "Assignment 5" folder by Thursday, Nov 26

Seminar 10. "Healthy Debates" (Nov 30)

- D2L readings

Seminar 11. Final Assignment Due (Dec 07)

- No assigned readings. I am available for appointments to discuss final assignment or other matters.