

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

Fall 2020/Winter 2021

Instructor: Dr. Sanders
Office hours: Wednesdays 12-1pm or by appointment via Zoom
Contact: p: 807-343-8530; email me via D2L

COURSE DESCRIPTION

SOCI 2509 is a survey of the sociology of health and illness. An important feature of this course is that it examines the critical role that social factors have in influencing the health and illness of individuals, groups, and society at large. The readings and lectures focus on sociology's contribution to the study of medicine, patterns of disease, the experience of illness, and the Canadian health care system. Lectures will engage with contemporary, real world examples of health and illness as well as provide additional background on the history of medicine, disparities in access to care, the political economy of health, theories of risk and health promotion, recent changes to health care in Canada, and new frontiers in the sociology of health and illness. Upon graduation, students pursuing employment in health care and health-related services will likely find themselves working with researchers and practitioners from diverse academic and professional backgrounds. This course will prepare students for working in these settings and social contexts by providing a critical yet empirically-based approach to understanding health, disease, illness, and health care.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course focuses on developing an understanding of the theories and research that comprise 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 expression.

COURSE READINGS

Texts are available through the LU bookstore or in e-format using the links provided.

- Strohschein, Lisa and Rose Weitz. 2014. *The Sociology of Health, Illness & Health Care in Canada: A Critical Approach*. Toronto: Nelson Education. Available in e-format at: <https://www.nelsonbrain.com/shop/isbn/9780176514174>
- Armstrong, Pat and Hugh Armstrong. 2016. *About Canada: Health Care, 2nd Edition*. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing. Available in e-format at: <https://fernwoodpublishing.ca/book/about-canada-health-care-2nd-edition>
- Additional weekly readings will be posted in folders on the D2L course website.

COURSE EVALUATION AND SUMMARY OF TESTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Description	Due Date	Value
Test 1	Week of Oct 28	20%
Test 2	Week of Dec 02	20%
Test 3	Week of Feb 10	20%
Test 4	April 09	20%
Online Quizzes	10 fall/10 winter	20%
Extra Credit	see schedule below	1 point each

Tests are comprehensive and include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Test questions are designed to evaluate ability to apply key concepts as opposed to rote memorization of details. There are no make-up tests except with appropriate documentation (e.g., no parents, no partners, etc.); make-up tests are essay format.

Weekly **online quizzes** become available on Wednesdays at 1pm and must be completed within 48 hours. Quizzes consist of four randomly selected multiple-choice questions that test basic reading comprehension. You can track your progress using the grading tool on D2L. Quizzes cannot be made up under any circumstances as the questions are made public.

Students may complete up to **four short extra credit assignments** (approx. 1 page) throughout the year. Each short assignment is worth up to 1 point toward the final grade. Assignments are to be submitted to the appropriate D2L folder by the dates listed in the calendar below.

An **extra credit paper** (approx. 10 pages) can be completed. Your task will be to analyze a film for key themes (e.g., medical vs. social model of illness, labeling theory and residual deviance, medicalization, political economy of health care). Students must schedule a meeting with me at least 4 weeks prior to the end of classes to discuss this option and receive specific instructions.

GENERAL POLICIES

Email: Please email me through D2L. I will respond to student emails during 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. 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 courteous in tone. I generally do not reply to discourteous email.

Grades: Quizzes and tests will not be returned, however I will review individual tests with students during office hours or by appointment. 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 appointment.

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 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>

FALL TERM SCHEDULE*

Week 1 (Sept 09): The Sociology of Health & Illness and Why It Matters

- *SHIHC* Ch. 1, "Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care"
- Course pack reading
- Quiz 1

Week 2 (Sept 16): Sociological Approaches to Health & Illness

- *SHIHC* Ch. 2, "The Social Sources of Disease and Death"
- Course pack reading
- Quiz 2

Week 3 (Sept 23): Social Factors and Health & Illness

- *SHIHC* Ch. 3, "Social Determinants of Health and Illness: Age, Sex and Race"
- Course pack reading
- Quiz 3

Week 4 (Sept 30): Social Factors and Health & Illness (con't)

- *SHIHC* Ch. 4, "Socioeconomic Inequalities in Health"
- Course pack reading
- Quiz 4

Week 5 (Oct 07): Social Factors and Health & Illness (con't)

- *SHIHC* Ch. 5, "Work and Family Life"
- Course pack reading
- Quiz 5

Week 6 (Oct 14): Reading Week

- No lecture or assigned readings (a wise student would study for Test 1)
- Test review available

Week 7 (Oct 21) 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
- No quiz assigned this week

Week 8 (Oct 28): Test Week

- Test 1 active from Wednesday 1pm to Friday 1pm

Week 9 (Nov 04): The Meaning and Experience of Health & Illness

- *SHIHC* Ch. 7, "The Social Meanings of Illness"

* Fall and winter schedules subject to change as needed.

- Course pack reading
- Quiz 6

Week 10 (Nov 11): The Meaning and Experience of Health & Illness (con't)

- "Social Dimensions of Mental Illness" (Wade et al.)
- Course pack reading
- Quiz 7

Week 11 (Nov 18): The Meaning and Experience of Health & Illness (con't)

- *SHIHC* Ch. 8, "The Experience of Disability, Chronic Pain and Chronic Illness"
- Course pack reading
- Test review available
- Quiz 8

Week 12 (Nov 25): 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 #2
- Quiz 9

Week 13 (Dec 02): Test Week

- Quiz 10 (Bonus quiz! Cumulative material from all weeks)
- Test 2 active from Wednesday 1pm to Friday 1pm

Enjoy the winter break!

Don't forget to purchase the Armstrong & Armstrong book
as we will be reading it in early January.

WINTER TERM SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Jan 06): 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)
- Quiz 11

Week 2 (Jan 13): Our Health Care System: Settings, Professions & Technology (con't)

- *About Canada: Health Care* (Chapters 1-4)
- No quiz assigned this week

Week 3 (Jan 20): Our Health Care System: Settings, Professions & Technology (con't)

- *About Canada: Health Care* (Chapters 5-8)
- Course pack reading
- Quiz 12

Week 4 (Jan 27): Our Health Care System: Settings, Professions & Technologies (con't)

- *SHIHC* Ch. 12, "Health Care Professions"
- Course pack reading
- Test review available
- Quiz 13

Week 5 (Feb 03): Our Health Care System: Settings, Professions & Technologies (con't)

- *SHIHC* Ch. 13, "Health Care Settings and Technologies"
- Last day to submit Extra Credit #3
- Quiz 14

Week 6 (Feb 10): Test Week

- No quiz assigned this week
- Test 3 active from Wednesday 1pm to Friday 1pm

Week 7 (Feb 17): Reading Week

- No lecture or assigned readings

Week 8 (Feb 24): Topic 1

- *SHIHC* Ch. 14, "Issues in Bioethics"
- Course pack reading
- Quiz 16

Week 9 (Mar 03): Topic 2

- Course pack reading
- Quiz 17

Week 10 (Mar 10): Topic 3

- Course pack reading
- Film
- Quiz 18

Week 11 (Mar 17): Topic 4

- Course pack reading
- Quiz 19

Week 12 (Mar 24): Topic 5

- Course pack reading
- Quiz 20

Week 13 (Mar 31): Topic 6

- Course pack reading
- Last day to submit Extra Credit #4
- No quiz assigned this week
- Test 4 distributed. The final test is essay format. More instructions to come.