

**SOCI/GERO 2509-YDE\***  
**SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH & ILLNESS IN CANADA**  
Fall 2022/Winter 2023

**Instructor:** Dr. Sanders  
**Office hours:** Tuesdays 12-1pm or by Zoom appointment  
**Email:** contact me via D2L (not lakeheadu.ca email)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

SOCI 2509 is a survey of the sociology of health and illness. We will examine the critical role that social factors have in influencing the health and illness of individuals, groups, and society. 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, and recent changes to health care in Canada. 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 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

---

\* This is an abridged syllabus. See D2L folder or contact instructor for unabridged version.

## COURSE EVALUATION AND SUMMARY OF TESTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Description	Due Date	Value
Test 1	Week of Oct 25	25%
Test 2	Week of Nov 29	25%
Test 3	Week of Mar 28	25%
Online Quizzes	Ongoing	25%
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. Make-up tests are essay format.

Weekly **online quizzes** become available on Tuesdays 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 **three 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. Extra credit assignments cannot be submitted late under any circumstances.

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 (see address above). I will respond to emails during office hours. Emails should require only a brief response. More detailed inquiries should be reserved for office hours. 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, avoid emojis and texting jargon/slang, and courteous in tone. Please include the course number in the subject line and do not use the "reply" function on an unrelated email for correspondence (start a new email for a new question/request).

**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 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 (Sep 06): 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 (Sep 13): Sociological Approaches to Health & Illness**

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

### **Week 3 (Sep 20): 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
- Quiz 3

### **Week 4 (Sep 27): Social Factors and Health & Illness (con't)**

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

### **Week 5 (Oct 04): Social Factors and Health & Illness (con't)**

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

### **Week 6 (Oct 11): Reading Week**

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

### **Week 7 (Oct 18) 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 25): Test Week**

- Test 1 active from Tuesday 1pm to Thursday 1pm

### **Week 9 (Nov 01): 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 08): 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 15): The Meaning and Experience of Health & Illness (con't)**

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

**Week 12 (Nov 22): 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 (Nov 29): Test Week**

- Quiz 10 (Bonus quiz! Cumulative material from all weeks)
- Test 2 active from Monday 1pm to Thursday 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 10): Our Health Care System: Origins and Shifts**

- *SHIHC* Ch. 10, "The History of Health Care in Canada"
- Quiz 11

### **Week 2 (Jan 17): Our Health Care System: International Comparisons**

- *SHIHC* Ch. 11, "Health Care in Other Countries" (focus on pp. 258-68)
- Quiz 12

### **Week 3 (Jan 24): Our Health Care System: Critique of Privatization**

- *About Canada: Health Care* (Chapters 1-2)
- No quiz assigned this week

### **Week 4 (Jan 31): Our Health Care System: Critique of Privatization (con't)**

- *About Canada: Health Care* (Chapters 3-5)
- Quiz 13

### **Week 5 (Feb 07): Our Health Care System: Critique of Privatization (con't)**

- *About Canada: Health Care* (Chapters 6-8)
- Course pack reading
- Quiz 14)

### **Week 6 (Feb 14): Settings, Professions & Technologies (con't)**

- *SHIHC* Ch. 12, "Health Care Professions"
- Course pack reading
- Quiz 15

### **Week 7 (Feb 21): Reading Week**

- No lecture or assigned readings

### **Week 8 (Feb 28): Settings, Professions & Technologies (con't)**

- *SHIHC* Ch. 13, "Health Care Settings and Technologies"
- Quiz 16

### **Week 9 (Mar 07): Settings, Professions & Technologies (con't)**

- Course pack reading
- Quiz 17

### **Week 10 (Mar 14): Settings, Professions & Technologies (con't)**

- *SHIHC* Ch. 14, "Issues in Bioethics"
- Course pack reading
- Last day to submit Extra Credit #3

- Quiz 18

**Week 11 (Mar 21): Study Week**

- Test review available

**Week 12 (Mar 28): Test 3**

- Test 3 active from Tuesday 1pm to Thursday 1pm

**Week 13 (Apr 04): Contingency day in case of delays, crisis, power outages, etc.**

- Keep this date in your calendar as class day in the event that there is an interruption and something must be rescheduled.

Enjoy the summer break!