

**SOCI/GERO 2509-SDE\***  
**SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH & ILLNESS IN CANADA**  
Summer 2022

**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 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing. Available in e-format at: <https://fernwoodpublishing.ca/book/about-canada-health-care-2nd-edition>

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

## COURSE EVALUATION AND SUMMARY OF TESTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Description	Due Date	Value
Test 1	July 15	25%
Test 2	July 27	25%
Test 3	August 12	25%
Online Quizzes	as scheduled	25%

**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.

**Online quizzes** are scheduled regularly and must be completed within 24 hours of becoming active on D2L. 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.

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 contact me through D2L (not by LU email). I will respond 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>

## SCHEDULE

### **04 July: Introduction to Course, Expectations, and Overview (Module 0)**

- No readings or quizzes assigned, but please listen to audio intro lecture to answer basic questions and for fair warning of what you are getting into for this course

### **05 July: The Sociology of Health & Illness and Why It Matters (Module 1)**

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

### **06 July: Sociological Approaches to Health & Illness (Module 2)**

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

### **07 July: Social Factors and Health & Illness (Module 3)**

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

### **08 July: Social Factors and Health & Illness (con't) (Module 4)**

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

### **11 July: Social Factors and Health & Illness (con't) (Module 5)**

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

### **12 July: Social Factors and Health & Illness (con't) (Module 6)**

- *SHIHC* Ch. 6, "Illness and Death in the Developing World"
- No quiz

### **13 July: Study Day**

- No quiz, no assigned readings, study for the test

### **14 July: Limbo Day**

- Either study for an additional day or take the test early and then have a day off—you decide

**15 July: Test 1**

- Test active for 48 hours starting 14 July at 12:01am

**18 July: Take-a-Breather Day**

- No quiz, no assigned readings
- You've been working hard, so take a breather today and don't do any work for this course😊

**19 July: The Meaning and Experience of Health & Illness (Module 7)**

- *SHIHC* Ch. 7, "The Social Meanings of Illness"
- Course pack reading
- Quiz 6

**20 July: The Meaning and Experience of Health & Illness (con't) (Module 8)**

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

**21 July: The Meaning and Experience of Health & Illness (con't) (Module 9)**

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

**22 July: The Meaning and Experience of Health & Illness (con't) (Module 10)**

- *SHIHC* Ch. 9, "The Body and the Pursuit of Health"
- Quiz 9

**25 July: Study Day**

- No quiz, no assigned readings, study for the test

**26 July: Limbo Day**

- Either study for an additional day or take the test early and then have a day off—you decide

**27 July: Test 2**

- Test active for 48 hours starting 26 July at 12:01am

**28 July: Breather Day**

- No quiz, no assigned readings
- You've been working hard, so take a breather today and don't do any work for this course😊

**29 July: Our Health Care System: Part 1 (Module 11)**

- *SHIHC* Ch. 10, “The History of Health Care in Canada”
- Quiz 11
- Please note that Quiz 10 is not assigned for this course

**01 August: Our Health Care System: Part 2 (Module 12)**

- Course pack reading
- No Quiz

**02 August: Our Health Care System: Part 3 (Module 13)**

- *About Canada: Health Care* by Armstrong & Armstrong (Chapters 1-4)
- Course pack reading
- No Quiz

**03 August: Our Health Care System: Part 4 (Module 13 continued)**

- *About Canada: Health Care* by Armstrong & Armstrong (Chapters 5-8)
- Quiz 12

**04 August: Settings, Professions & Technologies: Part 1 (Module 14)**

- *SHIHC* Ch. 12, “Health Care Professions”
- Course pack reading
- Quiz 13

**05 August: Settings, Professions & Technologies: Part 2 (Module 15)**

- *SHIHC* Ch. 13, “Health Care Settings and Technologies”
- Quiz 14

**08 August: Settings, Professions & Technologies: Part 3 (Module 16)**

- Course pack reading
- Quiz 15

**09 August: Sociology and Medical Ethics (Module 17)**

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

**10 August: Study Day**

- No quiz, no assigned readings, study for the test

**11 August: Limbo Day**

- Either study for an additional day or take the test early and then have a day off—you decide

**12 August: Test 3**

- Test active for 48 hours starting 11 August at 12:01am

**15 August: Breather Day**

- You're done!
- You've been working hard, so take a breather today and don't do any work for this course 😊

Congratulations on completing the course (\*cue confetti\*).

Enjoy the rest of spring and summer,  
and good luck with your program!