



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 2246a
Sociology of Health and Illness
Summer 2016
online

Instructor: Lauren Barr

Office Hours: on campus or on Facebook Messenger by appointment
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Without health life is not life; it is only a state of languor and suffering - an image of death.

Buddha

Course Description

This course uses a sociological perspective to explore health and illness and their relationship with social structure and social processes. In Part One we will address the conceptual and theoretical issues involved in defining, measuring, and analyzing health and illness from a sociological perspective. Part Two will examine inequality in health and illness. In Part Three we look at the relationship between social institutions, such as work, and health. And in Part Four we discuss the process of medicalization and examine the social experience of illness, as well as the buffering effect of social relations.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Use their 'sociological imagination' and demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between society, health and the experience of illness
- Recognize and understand the impact of demographics in Canada and the experience of the social determinants of health
- Write a focused, critical and poignant reflection on a selected sociological topic
- Read, analyze and discuss academic journals assigned in class (online)
- Demonstrate clear critical reading, thinking and analytical skill through online discussions, examinations and written papers

Requisites

Anti-requisite(s): Sociology 2245 or former Health Sciences 245.

Pre-requisite(s): 1.0 from: Sociology 1020, 1021E, 1025A/B, 1026F/G, 1027A/B

Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any antirequisite course(s) that they have taken. If the student does not have the requisites for a course, and does not have written special permission from his or her Dean to enroll in the course, the University reserves the right to cancel the student's registration in the course. This decision may not be appealed. Financial and academic penalties will apply to a student who is dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Required Text(s)

Strohschein, L & Weitz, R. (2014). *The Sociology of Health, Illness and Health Care in Canada*. Toronto: Nelson Publishing.

Online articles posted as PDF files

Method of Evaluation

ASSESSMENT	DUE DATE	GRADE VALUE
Participation	Ongoing throughout term	15%
Assignment	July 17	20 %
Midterm	June 18 - time TBD	30 %
Final Exam	July Exam Period	35 %

Assessment Overview:

Participation: 15% An early warning mark will be provided half way through, the final mark will be returned before the final exam.

This course is intended to be interactive, thus its success will depend on an active and informed discussion by everyone in the class. Your ongoing support of the course material and involvement in the discussions online are required to create an environment of critical academic reflection. There will be postings available each week related to the reading topics. There will also be open ended discussions available at all times. You are expected to be online both posting and responding to others each week. Your final mark will reflect your consistent participation, as well as the quality of each contribution.

Written Assignment 20 %: (total 6-8 pages) You will be asked to select a topic related to our course and conduct research using journals. You will then find five articles that will be used to create a small literature review. Once you have created a summary of existing research you will find a gap in the research and identify how you might conduct research in the future on this topic.

There will be no excuses accepted for late submissions as everyone has an entire week in which to log on and overcome any technological difficulties that may unexpectedly arise. In additions, it is clearly indicated on the course outline when these discussions will take place therefore, holidays, other school/work commitments will not suffice as excuses. If you miss a discussion question, absolutely no late responses will be accepted. If you do not post a response, you receive a zero.

Instructions with more information will be provided online in the RESOURCES section.

Midterm Examination (30 %) and Final Examination (35%) Each exam will be scheduled in person. They may consist of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions in order to test the students understanding of the fundamental health concepts.

Important Policies

A Note on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking:

Students may be required to submit their assignments to turnitin.com on the class WebCT website after they are completed. These papers will be subject to submission for textual originality.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Course Schedule and Readings:

will be posted on OWL at the beginning of class