



The University of Western Ontario

SOCIOLOGY 2246A SECTION 200

Sociology of Health and Illness

Fall 2021

Instructor: Professor Gale Cassidy

Office Hours: By appointment on Zoom

Email: gcassidy@uwo.ca

Blended Learning Courses

Welcome to Sociology 2246a. This is a blended course. In a blended course between 30% and 100% of the learning occurs in the online interactive learning environment. This course will be primarily online for the Fall semester, but there may be some in-person lectures and exams, depending on restrictions. In the Winter term there will be some in-person classes held. You will be given lots of advance notice.

Class Time: Tuesdays 12:30 to 3:30 pm

Zoom Lectures: <https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/98642356496> Passcode: will be posted on OWL.

In-person Lectures: UCC 37 when scheduled. You will be given lots of advance notice.

Many of you will have taken online courses last year, but they may be a new way of learning for some of you. Virtual learning offers accessibility to learning at Western with flexibility to plan your studies around work and family commitments; online courses are accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In this course you are expected to attend lectures, complete your readings, and submit your assignments by the scheduled due dates. Students should be prepared to commit 6 to 8 hours per week on this course. Some students may find virtual learning more challenging, compared to learning in on-campus classrooms. There are numerous strategies that can help students succeed in online learning. I will be posting them on OWL. I hope you enjoy this course!

Although this academic year might be different, Western University is committed to a thriving campus. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/> to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

Technical Requirements



Stable Internet Connection



Microphone



Webcam

Course Description

This course explores the social aspects of health and illness, examining the connection between social structure/processes and health outcomes. We will look at the conceptual and theoretical issues involved in defining and analyzing health and illness from a sociological perspective. We will consider the broad societal influences, including structural, cultural, political, economic, and interpersonal forces that impact health, and study the social causes and consequences of illness. We will explore how social structures and inequalities with respect to social class, race, gender, and age impact the patterns of health and illness in Canada and worldwide. Topics will include the social experience of being ill, mental health, addictions, as well as death and dying. The course will include lectures, videos, and guest speakers, which will enable students to become informed individuals and citizens regarding health and health care.

Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to

- provide a broad overview of the field of medical sociology.
- understand the relationship between society, health, and the experience of illness.
- distinguish the different perspectives on health and illness.
- recognize how social class, race/ethnicity, gender, age, and other sociodemographic characteristics shape health and illness over the lifecourse.
- demonstrate clear critical reading, thinking, and analytical skills in exams and papers.

Prerequisites: 1.0 from: Sociology 1020, 1021E, 1025A/B, 1026F/G, 1027A/B

Antirequisites: Sociology 2245 or former Health Sciences 245

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

1. Nancarrow-Clarke, J. (2020). Health, Illness and Medicine in Canada. 8th ed. Oxford University Press.
2. Additional readings will be posted on OWL.

How to Contact Me

I will be available to respond to questions regarding the course, requirements, and materials during Zoom meetings, following our online 'lectures' on Zoom, and possibly at in-person office hours. You are also welcome to communicate with me through messages on OWL. I will receive your messages in this course site. Please do NOT email me. I will respond to messages on OWL within 48 hours Monday to Friday between 9 and 5. Please refrain from messaging me with questions that have already been addressed online, on the course outline, or in class.

Evaluation Breakdown
OPTION #1

Evaluation Element	Worth	Dates
Paper – 4 to 6 pages	15%	November 9 th
Assignment	15%	November 30 th
Midterm Exam May be online or in-person depending on restrictions	35%	October 26 th
Final Exam May be online or in-person depending on restrictions	35%	During December Exam Period

OPTION #2

Evaluation Element	Worth	Dates
Paper – 6 to 8 pages	20%	November 30 th
Midterm Exam May be online or in-person depending on restrictions	40%	October 26 th
Final Exam May be online or in-person depending on restrictions	40%	During December Exam Period

Paper

You will be required to write a paper related to the sociology of health, illness or medicine. You will be given several topic options to choose from. Students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the course materials, and to incorporate theories and approaches discussed in class. Details will be available at the beginning of the course. A late penalty of 5% per day including weekends will be applied.

Assignment

If you choose to do the assignment option, you will decide on a topic of interest within the area of health and illness that has sociological significance. You will research the issue or topic and present it as a mini-lecture presentation, Prezi, video, or another creative/informative method you are given permission for. You will post your assignment for the class. More information will be provided on OWL at the beginning of the course. A late penalty of 5% per day including weekends will be applied.

Midterm and Final Exams

The midterms and final examination will be done either online on OWL and proctored on Zoom or in-person at Western, depending on restrictions. You will be given the information in ample time. The exams are NOT cumulative and will cover all course material, including lectures, PP slides, recordings, assigned readings, videos, guest presenters, etc. for the weeks outlined on the Schedule of Classes. They could include multiple choice or short answer questions, definitions, and true/false questions.

Grades

Due to privacy regulations, I am unable to send marks or discuss issues regarding grades by email. Please discuss them with me over a Zoom appointment. Final exam grades will be posted on OWL once they have been approved by the department. PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO extra work assigned for the purpose of improving grades. It is unfair to other students in the class who are not given the same opportunity. Also, I am unable to increase marks unless warranted. PLEASE DON'T ASK!

In keeping with departmental grade guidelines, it is expected that the class average for this course will be around 72%. Should the final overall grades yield a value significantly lower, grades will be adjusted upward to ensure an appropriate mean for the class.

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

All assignments must be posted on OWL by the due date. Late submissions will be penalized 5% per day including weekends.

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:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Policies on Examinations

No electronic devices will be allowed during examinations.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Policy on Missed Exams

Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation only. If you have a conflict with an exam date, it is your responsibility to discuss it with the Academic Counseling office as soon as possible, but no later than one week before the regularly scheduled exam and provide documentation of the conflict. If approved, you will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam.

If you miss an exam (this includes make-up exams) due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, please notify me by email **within 24 hours** of the missed exam because I need to know that you missed the exam. You then must provide notification and documentation to your Academic Counselor **within 48**

hours. If your problem is medical in nature, you should be seen by your doctor on the date of the exam. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor's documentation, you will be allowed to write a make-up exam. Make-up exams and extensions for assignment deadlines will be granted with approved documentation only. If you have a conflict with one of the exam dates, it is your responsibility to discuss it with the Academic Counseling office as soon as possible, but no later than one week before the regularly scheduled exam and provide documentation of the conflict. If approved, you will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a *Self-Reported Absence (SRA)* form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the [Senate policy](#) are met. Two important exceptions to this rule: SRAs will NOT be allowed for final examinations or assessments worth more than 30% of a given course. Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a [Student Medical Certificate](#) (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds) to your Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

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:

https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.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 519 661-2111 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/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES & READINGS

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Sept. 14	Overview of Sociology of Health & Illness	
Sept. 21	Theoretical Perspectives on Health, Illness, and Medicine	Text, Ch. 1
Sept. 28	Disease, Death, and Disability	Text, Ch. 2
Oct. 5	Environmental and Occupational Health and Illness	Text, Ch. 3
Oct. 12	Social Determinants of Health	Text, Ch. 4
Oct. 19	Diversities and Health	Text, Ch. 5
Oct. 26	MIDTERM EXAM	
Nov. 2	FALL BREAK	
Nov.9	Social-Psychological Explanations for Illness	Text, Ch. 6
Nov. 16	The Experience of Being Ill	Text, Ch. 7
Nov. 23	Mental Illness and Suicide	
Nov. 30	Addictions	
Dec. 7	Aging, Death, and Dying	
	FINAL EXAM	