



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 2246B-001
Sociology of Health and Illness
Winter 2024
Tuesdays 1:30-4:30
Delivery Method: in-person
Instructor: Dr. Anna Zajacova
Office Hours: TBD
Email: SOC2246.W24@gmail.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines how health and illness are related to social processes and social structure. We will investigate how the social organization of Canadian society influences and is influenced by the types and distribution of disease and illness. Patterns of health and illness in Canada will be studied in relation to the variables of age, gender, class and race. In addition, the impact of stress, work and the environment on the health of Canadians will be addressed. This will be followed by an examination of the social experience of illness.

Issues surrounding health and health care are at the forefront of economic, social, and political discourse in most countries around the world. The overarching goal of this course is to help you become a better-informed citizen with respect to health and health-care issues by analyzing health and medical institutions sociologically.

Prerequisite(s): None

Anti-requisite(s): SOC 2245

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the completion of the class, students will be able to

- Provide a broad overview of the field of medical sociology
- Understand the links between social factors and health
- Appreciate how age, sex, race/ethnicity, social class, and other sociodemographic characteristics shape health and illness over the lifecourse
- Explain major historical and current issues related to medical institutions, the medical professions, and health care in Canada
- Critically evaluate the how a society's views on health and medical care fit within its broader cultural and structural perspectives.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Germov and Hornosty 2017. "Second Opinion: An Introduction to Health Sociology, Second Canadian Edition." Oxford University Press. E-book rental \$54.99 at https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2023B&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/SOC2246B
- **Additional readings possible, posted on OWL.**

COMMUNICATION

1. **The primary method of communication will be in-class announcements**, typically also written on weekly course slide decks.
2. **Post questions and comments on the Forum on our course OWL site.** We will aim to respond within 24 hours during the work week.
3. **Ask questions in class**
4. **Come visit during student hours – you are always welcome!**
5. If you have a question specific to your situation, you can email us at SOC2246.W24@gmail.com. We will aim to respond within 48-72 hours. We may ask you to repost your question on the Forum and will answer it there for the benefit of your colleagues unless it's a question unique to you.

EVALUATION

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

Evaluation Breakdown

Class participation	14%
Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 2	10%
Assignment 3	10%
Mid-term exam	27%
Final exam	29%

- **Class participation** marks will be collected on an ongoing basis in all or most classes, via written responses (modes can include paper & pencil, or on OWL via Tests and Quizzes). **The lowest 3 scores are dropped automatically.** This can be low scores or zero scores due to missed classes. This is universal accommodation that covers all medical, personal, technical, connection, or any other circumstances or problems. No further accommodation is possible, for any reason. Note Academic Considerations do not apply to missed participation (see below)
- **Assignments** will be short one-page documents, detailed information on OWL under Assignments.
- **Mid-term exam** will be in class, 90 minutes, predominantly multiple choice and potentially other question types likely (fill-in-the-blank, short answers)
- **Final exam** will be cumulative, place and time TBD, 120 minutes, predominantly multiple choice and potentially other question types (fill-in-the-blank, short answers, etc.)

As per departmental grade guidelines, it is expected that the **class average for this course will be around 72%.**

STUDENT ABSENCES AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Your instructor cannot provide any accommodation based on any student requests. No exceptions are possible so we can be **fair** to all students.

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

Assessments worth less than 10% of the overall course grade: This pertains to the ongoing class attendance and participation assessments. **Lowest 3 scores are dropped automatically.** This can be low scores or zero scores due to missed classes. This is a universal accommodation that covers all medical, personal, technical, connection, or any other circumstances or problems. No further accommodation is possible, for any reason, even with official Academic Consideration. No exceptions are possible so we can be fair to everyone.

Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:

For work totaling 10% or more of the final course grade, students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible.

You do not need to email me; I receive emails from the Counselling Office and will abide by the official Considerations. For assignments, you need to turn in the work the day after the last day covered by the Consideration.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class exam will be required to write a makeup exam. Course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test. One makeup date will be provided for each exam. If a student has another valid absence for that makeup date, they will be asked to complete the exam in the following term. Students should not email their instructor with requests for special consideration; the instructor is unable to make exceptions.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND ASSOCIATED READINGS

Tentative; changes may occur and will be announced on OWL and in class.

Week 1, 1/9	Introduction to medical sociology Readings: GH Chapter 1
Week 2, 1/16	Theory and methods in sociology of health and illness Readings: GH Chapter 2 and 3
Week 3, 1/23	Individual and macro-level social factors and health Readings: GH Chapters 4 and 8 RECOMMENDED DAY TO COMPLETE ASSIGNMENT 1
Week 4, 1/30	Demographic factors and health Readings: GH Chapters 5 and 6 ASSIGNMENT 1 FIRM DEADLINE: Article summary & reflection

Week 5, 2/6	Social-psychological factors in health (stress, social support) Readings: https://openbooks.library.baylor.edu/psychscience/chapter/stress-health-wellness/ Chapter 13: Stress, Health, and Wellness. Read up to “Positive Psychology” subsection.
Week 6, 2/13	Social construction of health and illness, medicalization Readings: GH Chapter 9
2/20 No class, Reading Week	
Week 7, 2/27	Mid-Term Exam
Week 8, 3/5	Experience of illness, disability, aging, and dying Readings: GH Chapters 10 and 11 RECOMMENDED DAY TO COMPLETE ASSIGNMENT 2
Week 9, 3/12	Medicine as a social institution Readings: GH Chapter 12 Kaba, R., & Sooriakumaran. (2007). “The Evolution of the Doctor-Patient Relationship.” <i>International Journal of Surgery</i> 5: 57-65. ASSIGNMENT 2 FIRM DEADLINE: Photoessay
Week 10, 3/19	Nursing and allied health professions Readings: GH Chapters 15 and 16
Week 11, 3/26	Health care systems – models and evaluation Readings: Strohschein & Weitz. 2014. "Health Care in Other Countries." Pp. 258-277 in <i>The Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care in Canada: A Critical Approach</i> : Nelson. RECOMMENDED DAY TO COMPLETE ASSIGNMENT 3
Week 12, 4/2	Health care in Canada. Class review. Readings: GH Chapter 13 ASSIGNMENT 3 FIRM DEADLINE: Presentation outline

Final exam time and room TBD

Academic Policies.

Please review the Department of Sociology “[Important Academic Policies](https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic_Policies.pdf)” document https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic_Policies.pdf for additional information regarding:

- Scholastic Offences
- Plagiarism
- Copyright
- Academic Accommodation
- Accessibility Options
- Mental Health