

SOCIOLOGY 382 (A1)
SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS
Fall, 2014
M W F 3:00 - 3:50
T B 87

Instructor: Dr. Alison Dunwoody

Office: T 6-12

Office Hours: M and W 10:00 – 11:00, or by appointment

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NOTE: “Policy about course outlines can be found in § 23.4(2) of the University Calendar.”

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is designed to introduce students to some of the many issues associated with health, illness, and health care in contemporary Canadian society. It provides a critical framework for exploring how social forces shape the understanding, as well as, the experience of health and illness. **Prerequisite:** SOC 100 or consent of the Instructor.

- To illustrate how the concepts of health and illness are socially constructed
- To examine the social, political and economic factors that shape an individual’s experience of health and illness
- To think critically about the structure and organization of the health care system, the nature of health care occupations and the construction of medical knowledge

Required Course Text:

The Sociology of Health, Illness and Health Care in Canada (2014) by Lisa Strohschein and Rose Weitz (published by Nelson).

Course Requirements:

This course offers an optional Community Service-Learning (CSL) component for those students who wish to volunteer, as part of their learning experience, with one of the community organizations listed below. The expectation is that students opting for CSL will volunteer a minimum of 20 hours with their chosen organization. Consequently, the course requirements for CSL students will differ from the requirements for Non-CSL students. While all students will write a common mid-term (20%) and final exam (30%), CSL students will submit five reflective papers comprising 50% of their grade (10% each) and Non-CSL students will submit two assignments, the first to be worth 20% and the second to be worth 30%.

CSL Placement Opportunities:

The following organizations have volunteer opportunities available for this course:

- OPTIONS Sexual Health Association
- SKILLS Society-Project Citizenship
- Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council
- Catholic Social Services
- Common Place Services
- Boyle McCauley Health Centre
- Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties
- Edmonton Social Planning Council

Details regarding each organization's specific project(s) can be found in the CSL Portal, the link to which has been posted on eClass. Please be advised that placement opportunities are limited and that community partners have exclusive authority in accepting students for their projects. However, prior to contacting an organization, students must first meet with the Instructor to discuss their interests, preferences and objectives. Organizations will not accept applications from students without prior Instructor approval. Special office hours have been set aside for Friday September 5 from 4:00 until 5:30 and Monday September 8 from 11:00 until 12:30 for students wishing to discuss placements. No appointments will be scheduled during these hours. Students will be seen on a first come, first served basis only.

Grading Policy:

Grades will not be assigned on the basis of a particular distribution (e.g., bell curve) but will be assigned based on the individual merits of students. Grades are not negotiable. While guidelines for grading are provided by the University, they are to be thought of as just that, guidelines. Consequently, while the distribution of grades for this course will likely approximate these guidelines, they will not necessarily correspond with them exactly.

Mid-Term and Final Exam:

The mid-term and final exam will be comprised of multiple choice and short answer questions. Students are responsible for all lecture notes, class discussions, videos and assigned readings from the text. Sample exam questions will be posted on eClass at the conclusion of our coverage of each chapter.

Neither absence from class nor travel plans will be accepted as legitimate reasons for failure to attend an exam. An unexcused absence will result in a grade of zero for that exam. Should a student miss the mid-term, he or she must contact the Instructor via e-mail within two working days of the originally scheduled exam. Please note that depending upon the circumstances, appropriate documentation may be required (e.g., "Medical Declaration Form for Students," "Statutory Declaration," police report, death notice, court documents). Students with an excused absence must write the missed exam rather than shift the weight of that exam to other course requirements. If a student fails to write the final exam, he or she must formally apply to his or her Faculty within two working days following the missed exam in order to be considered for a deferral. The decision to grant a deferred final exam is not the Instructor's. Deferred examinations are intended to accommodate students who have experienced an incapacitating illness or severe domestic affliction; applications based on minor or inconsequential ailments will not be approved. Please also note that as stated in § 23.3(2)c of the Calendar, "a deferred examination will not be approved if a student (a) has not been in regular attendance where attendance and/or participation are required, and/or, (b) excluding the final exam, has completed less than half of the assigned work." There is only one date for deferred final exams. Students granted a deferred final exam will write the exam on Saturday January 17, 2015 at 9:00 am in TB W 2.

Reflective Papers for CSL Students:

All CSL students will submit a total of five reflective papers over the course of the term (due dates are specified below). These reflective papers will serve as the means by which students critically reflect on their CSL experiences and how those experiences have contributed to their learning of the subject matter. Each paper should be between 1000 and 1200 words. All papers must be submitted by the beginning of class on the day they are due. Papers sent electronically will not be accepted. Only in very rare circumstances will extensions be granted (i.e., extensions will NOT be given for technical problems or failure to appropriately manage responsibilities). Requests for extensions must be made in writing prior to the due date. Late papers will have 10% deducted per day beyond the due date (including weekends) and papers more than one week late will not be accepted. Due dates: September 26, October 10, October 31, November 14, and November 28.

Assignments for Non-CSL Students:

All Non-CSL students will complete two assignments. A full description of each assignment and the criteria by which they will be evaluated will be posted on eClass after the first week of classes. The first assignment will require students to choose a health-related ethnography and prepare a critical review of that ethnography. This review should be between 1500 and 1700 words. All reviews are due by the beginning of class on October 17. The second assignment requires students to prepare either a position paper on a selected topic OR an analysis of media portrayals of a particular disease/illness. The second assignment should be between 2000 and 2200 words. This assignment is due by the beginning of class on November 24. Assignments sent electronically will not be accepted. Only in very rare circumstances will extensions be granted (i.e., extensions will NOT be given for technical problems or failure to appropriately manage responsibilities). Requests for extensions must be made in writing prior to the due date. Late assignments will have 10% deducted per day beyond the due date (including weekends) and assignments more than one week late will not be accepted.

Tentative Lecture Schedule and Assigned Readings:

Date	Topic	Reading
Sept 3	Overview of the Course	
Sept 5	Introduction to Community Partners	
Sept 8-15	Part I – Sociological Approaches to Health and Illness	Chs 1-2
Sept 17-Oct 10	Part II – Social Factors and Illness	Chs 3-6
Oct 15	Mid-Term (covers Pts 1 and 2)	
Oct 17-Nov 3	Part III – The Meaning and Experience of Illness	Chs 7-9
Nov 5-26	Part IV – Health Care Systems, Professions, Settings, and Technologies	Chs 10-13
Nov 28-Dec 3	Part V – Issues in Bioethics	Ch 14

Class attendance is NOT optional. Periodically, videos will be shown in class, details from which are considered testable material. It is students' responsibility to ensure that they have all necessary materials in preparation for exams as neither lecture notes nor videos will be made available outside of class. Lecture outlines will be posted on eClass the evening prior to each class. However, outlines should not be taken as a substitute for attending class as important information may not be covered in the outlines.

Grading:

Description	Percentage	Grade	Value
Excellent	90 – 100	A+	4.0
	86 – 89.9	A	4.0
	82 – 85.9	A-	3.7
Good	78 – 81.9	B+	3.3
	74 – 77.9	B	3.0
	70 – 73.9	B-	2.7
Satisfactory	66 – 69.9	C+	2.3
	62 – 65.9	C	2.0
	58 – 61.9	C-	1.7
Poor	54 – 57.9	D+	1.3
Minimal Pass	50 – 53.9	D	1.0
Fail	0 – 49.9	F	0.0

Classroom Policies:

- Students are expected to arrive to class on time and to remain until the end of the lecture.
- While students are encouraged to ask questions and contribute to class discussion, they are not permitted to engage in casual conversations with their fellow students during the lecture.
- While laptops are permitted in class, they are to be used solely for the purpose of taking notes. The use of other electronic devices (e.g., cell phones) is not permitted.
- **The Instructor will not provide lecture notes or videos to students who miss class. Neither will links to videos be provided. Students who miss class are responsible for obtaining the notes from another student and for accessing any missed videos.**

NOTE: “Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the Instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the Instructor.”

Academic Integrity:

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are also advised to consult the Office of Student Judicial Affairs webpage (www.osja.ualberta.ca/en/Students.aspx) regarding the definitions of plagiarism and its consequences when detected. An Instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. Before unpleasantness occurs, students should consult the OSJA webpage and discuss this matter with any tutor(s) and with their Instructor.