

SOCIOLOGY 382 (A1) – SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS

Spring, 2018

M W 9:00 – 11:50

HC 1-7

Instructor: Dr. Alison Dunwoody

Office: T 6-12/T 5-28

Office Hours: By appointment

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Generally, students can expect a response to email within 24 hours, except on weekends and holidays. However, emails sent from accounts other than the U of A will not be opened or responded to. Please indicate SOC 382 in the subject line of all emails.

Policy about course outlines can be found in Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading 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

Attendance:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in this course and students who fail to attend class must assume whatever risks are involved.

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.
- Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, 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. Student or Instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course 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 content author(s).

Required Course Text:

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

Course Requirements:

Mid-Term: 30% - scheduled for May 23 (covers Chs 1-6)

Assignment: 30% - due May 30

Final Exam: 40% - **tentatively** scheduled for June 14 at 11:30 am (covers Chs 7-14)

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. Grades will not be rounded up. For example, students who obtain a final course grade of 74.9% will be assigned a grade of B-, not B.

Mid-Term and Final Exam:

The mid-term and final exam will be comprised of multiple choice, as well as, 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, or as soon as the student is able, having regard to the circumstances underlying the absence. 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. Students who have missed the midterm, and who have an excused absence, will write an alternate midterm on Monday May 28 at 8:00 am. Students who fail to write the alternate exam on this date will receive a grade of zero.

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, or as soon as the student is able, having regard to the circumstances underlying the absence, 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 Attendance of the University 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 Monday July 9 at 8:00 am.

Students are required to have their University of Alberta Student ID card for ALL exams. Students may not enter the exam area after the first 30 minutes has elapsed. Students may not leave the exam area until the first 30 minutes has elapsed.

Assignment:

A description of the assignment and the criteria by which it will be evaluated have been posted on eClass. All assignments are due IN CLASS by 9:00 on May 30. Email submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances. 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. In such instances, a grade of zero will be given.

Lecture Schedule and Assigned Readings:

Date	Topic	Reading
May 7	Part I – Sociological Approaches to Health and Illness	Chs 1-2
May 9-16	Part II – Social Factors and Illness	Chs 3-6
May 21	Victoria Day – No Class	
May 23	Mid-Term (covers Chs 1-6) and Discussion of Assignment	
May 28-30	Part III – The Meaning and Experience of Illness	Chs 7-9
June 4-11	Part IV – Health Care Systems, Professions, Settings, and Technologies	Chs 10-13
June 13	Part V – Issues in Bioethics	Ch 14

Grading:

Description	Percentage	Grade	Value
Excellent	95 – 100	A+	4.0
	90 – 94.9	A	4.0
	85 – 89.9	A-	3.7
Good	80 – 84.9	B+	3.3
	75 – 79.9	B	3.0
	70 – 74.9	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

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 regarding academic honesty 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 (online at 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.