

Sociology of Health and Illness
SOC 382 (Section B1), Winter 2018
University of Alberta

Lecture Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 2:00 – 2:50 pm
CAB 265

Instructor Andrew C. Patterson
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Tory 6-15
Office hours: Mondays 3:00 – 5:00 pm

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Course Description and Objectives

This course discusses a selection of sociological perspectives of health and illness. A key theme is that human health is not simply a matter of personal responsibility, but is at least as much a consequence of the power dynamics, institutional arrangements, and contesting forces that characterize whole societies. This includes questions of how health outcomes form patterns across social groups, but also questions of the very meaning of ‘health’ and who has a stake in that meaning. Students should finish the course with an understanding of how group behaviour impinges upon the experience of health and illness.

Evaluation

Participation	10%	
Midterm 1	15%	February 7
Term paper abstract	5%	Due: February 16
Midterm 2	15%	March 16
Term paper	25%	Due: March 26
Final exam	30%	Date and time: TBA

Prerequisites

SOC 100

Required readings

Davidson, A. (2014). *Social determinants of health: A comparative approach*. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

Additional readings will be posted to eClass.

Course requirements

Exams (60%). The midterm exams will occur during the regular class session on the date specified in this syllabus. The date, time, and location for the final exam will be determined by the University. All exams will consist of a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. The final exam will be cumulative.

Term paper (25%) and term paper abstract (5%). These assignments ask you to present an evidence-based argument that interprets health and/or illness through a sociological lens. The paper will be in the style of a (brief) review of the empirical literature, not unlike many of the readings discussed in the lectures. Prior to the term paper, you are asked to pitch your proposal for the argument(s) you would like to make and the literature that you would like to cover. This will be in the style of an abstract as typically presented at the start of peer-reviewed journal articles. Further detail will be provided early in the course.

Participation (10%). Your participation mark will be based primarily on attendance of the lectures and/or in-class group activities. However, it is also an expectation that you give your respectful attention to these. Points may be deducted if you fail to show common courtesies and decorum, pose distractions to your fellow classmates, show up late to class or leave early, or otherwise violate collegial etiquette. Students seeking exception to these rules must follow proper university procedure for missed term work. For more detail, see the section on ‘rules and procedures’ below.

Grades

For each assignment and exam a numeric score, expressed as a percentage up to 100%, will be given to assess performance. The final score for the course will be a weighted sum based on the relative worth of each as specified in this syllabus. Letter grades will be attached to the scores as follows:

Descriptor	Percentage	Grade	Value
Excellent	95-100	A+	4.0
	90-94	A	4.0
	85-89	A-	3.7
Good	80-84	B+	3.3
	75-79	B	3.0
	70-74	B-	2.7
Satisfactory	66-69	C+	2.3
	62-65	C	2.0
	58-61	C-	1.7
Poor	54-57	D+	1.3
Minimal Pass	50-53	D	1.0
Fail	0-49	F	0.0

Rules and Procedures

Policy about course outlines can be found in Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading of the University Calendar.

Etiquette and Decorum. In every way students must use a professional and respectful demeanour during class discussions, verbal exchanges, and written communications. This includes any and all communication with the instructor, teacher assistants, and fellow students before, after, and during class sessions. Students are also expected to give their respectful attention during lectures and to eliminate any disruption of the attention of their classmates. The use of cell phones and internet during class is distracting to your fellow students and—importantly—yourselves! Students who choose to use their laptops for personal reasons during the lectures may do so provided that they sit at the back of the classroom. Please otherwise restrict laptop use to the lecture material and stow away your cell phones after turning them off or to ‘silent’ mode before class starts.

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.

Students commit **plagiarism** when they include phrasing, ideas, findings, images, or any other content in their own submissions for graded coursework that someone else has created, or that they previously submitted for another course, while representing it as their own original contribution. An example is when students fail to note the details of the source (author, year of publication) where they had discovered information they are using to support an argument in their term papers. Plagiarism also occurs when using the word-for-word text of another author, but without identifying it as a quote *and* then citing both the page number and source where it was found. A related problem, **cheating** is students find out what answers their fellow students are giving on exams or other assignments and then write the same for their own submissions. Similar may be said about any other kind of attempt to misrepresent your performance or that of another student, such as acknowledging attendance for someone on a day she or he was in fact absent. These are serious offenses that could result in a grade of zero for the respective component of the course, an ‘F’ in the course overall, and/or expulsion from the university.

To avoid allegations of plagiarism, make sure your term paper follows proper protocols for citations, i.e., by citing the authors whose ideas you borrow, as well as the page number for text that you copy over verbatim. Far from detracting from a positive impression of your work, citing other authors shows diligence and even supports the credibility of your work, which can only strengthen your work. So there is no good reason not to cite content you are using in your assignments! Additional guidelines pertain to your own prior term work. Do not use material, in part or in whole, that you submitted as term work for another course. If you choose to cite material that you discovered from

another course, please declare yourself as doing so by adding an in-text citation as “personal communication” as per ASA or APA formatting guidelines. If this occurs on more than a couple occasions, or constitutes a major part of your argument for the term paper, please use this material only with the permission of the instructor.

Intellectual property. 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).

Protocols for Written Assignments. For all assignments, you may not use work submitted to another course or work created in part or in whole by anyone other than yourself. On all written submissions please identify your name, student number, the course and section number, name of the instructor, and the date. This should be in the upper-right corner of the page for the abstract. You may include a cover page with this information in the centre, or you may again place it in the upper-right corner of the first page to save paper. Soft copies (unprinted documents sent via email) are not acceptable. In addition, the following guidelines are required:

- Times New Roman font.
- 12-point font
- Double-space text
- Margins no larger than 1.25 inches
- Page numbers at the top right of each page
- Any additional guidelines specified in the assignment packet

Exams and Other Term Work. Exam times begin for everyone at the dates and times specified in this syllabus and will not be extended for those arriving late. As stipulated in the Academic Calendar, students who claim religious reasons for missing any scheduled exam must seek accommodation within two weeks of the start of a fall or winter term and within three days of the start of a spring or summer term. Instructors and Faculties are not required to excuse absences for unacceptable reasons that include, but are not limited to personal events such as vacations, weddings, or travel.

Missed Final Exams. Accommodations for absences from final exams are granted only at the discretion of the responsible Faculty. Please note that instructors do not have this authority. Students who do not take the final exam at the scheduled time and date can only seek accommodation by submitting an application to their home Faculty for a deferred exam. Students absent during a final exam must contact their Faculty office within two working days of the scheduled exam date or as soon as they are able as regards the circumstances of their absence. The department-set date for Fall 2017 deferred exams is 9:00 AM, Saturday, May 5^h in BUS 1-10. Deferred exams will not be approved for students who have not attended class regularly where attendance and/or participation is required, or who have completed less than half of the antecedent term work.

Missed term work. Unexcused absences from midterm exams will result in a mark of zero thereof and can seriously compromise a student’s chances of passing the course. In cases of missed midterm exams, wherever possible students are asked to contact the Instructor in advance.

Accommodations for missed midterm exams are granted only at the discretion of the Instructor. If you miss a midterm exam because of an incapacitating illness, you must contact me within two business days or as soon as you are physically able to do so. Students in the Faculty of Arts must also complete a Medical Declaration Form, whereas those from other faculties must submit a Statutory Declaration completed by their own Faculty office or by the Registrar. Supporting medical documentation, such as a University of Alberta Medical Statement signed by a doctor, may be submitted in lieu of or in addition to these. Accommodation for absences due to other reasons may require other kinds of documentation that apply to the situation, such as a police report, an accident report, or juror summons. The same rules apply with respect to regular attendance in class. Regarding your score for class participation, accommodations for absence from class, lateness, or early departures are granted only at the discretion of the Instructor upon submitting the documentation discussed above.

Late assignments. Written assignments are due on the deadlines specified in this syllabus. A penalty of 10 points will be accorded for each day late, with Saturdays and Sundays together counting as a single day along with contiguous statutory holidays. To request exceptions to this policy, students must adhere to all of the same rules that apply to missed midterm exams including the provision of appropriate documentation. Make sure to notify me within two business days of a missed deadline and provide the appropriate documentation.

Lecture Schedule

Week 1: Introduction

Jan 8: Orientation

Jan 10: Background
Davidson, Introduction

Jan 12: (Continued)

Week 2: Approaching the Sociology of Health & Illness

Jan 15: Individual versus population health
Davidson, Chapter 1

Jan 17: Health behaviour
Davidson, Chapter 11

Jan 19: (Continued)

Week 3: Social Determinism

Jan 22: The social determination of health
Davidson, Chapter 2

Jan 24: The 'fundamental cause' perspective
Link & Phelan, 201 [Readings provided through eClass]

Jan 26: (Continued)

Week 4: Social Constructionism

Jan 29: The social construction of health and illness
Conrad & Barker, 2010 [Readings provided through eClass]

Jan 31: Medicalization
Clarke et al., 2003 [Readings provided through eClass]

Feb 2: (Continued)

Week 5: Wrapping up Part I

[Andrew to post an abstract for an original paper.]

Feb 5: Review

Feb 7: **Midterm exam**

Feb 9: Term paper logistics

Week 6: Inequality I

Feb 12: Income and income inequality
Davidson, Chapter 3

Feb 14: Gender
Davidson, Chapter 7

Feb 16: (Continued)
Due: Term paper abstract

Week 7

Feb 19: Family Day. University buildings closed.

Feb 20-23: Reading week.

Week 8: Inequality II

Feb 26: Aboriginal health
Davidson, Chapter 6

Feb 28: The African diaspora
Xanthos et al., 2010 [Readings provided through eClass]

Mar 2: (Continued)

Week 9: Approaching the Meso-Social

Mar 5: Social 'cohesion' and related concepts
Davidson, Chapter 5

Mar 7: Work and employment
Davidson, Chapter 8

Mar 9: Housing and neighbourhood
Davidson, Chapter 9

Week 10: Wrapping up Part II

[*Andrew to post an original paper.*]

Mar 12: (Continued)

Mar 14: Review

Mar 16: **Midterm 2**

Week 11: Health Implications of the Free Market

Mar 19: Corporate actors
Galea, 2008 [Reading to be provided on eClass.]

Mar 21: Agribusiness
Shannon et al., 2015 [Reading to be provided on eClass.]

Mar 23: (Continued)

Week 12: The Political Determination of Health

Mar 26: Approaching the political arena

Davidson, Chapter 12

Due: Term paper

Mar 28: TBD

Mar 30: Good Friday. University buildings closed.

Week 13: The Medical Industry

Apr 2: Easter Monday. University buildings closed.

Apr 4: Health care professions

Strohschein & Weitz, 2014 [Reading to be provided on eClass.]

Apr 6: The medical-industrial complex

Clarke, 2016 [Reading to be provided on eClass.]

Week 14: Wrapping Up Part III

Apr 9: Globalization and health

Labonté and colleagues, 2011 [Reading to be provided on eClass.]

Apr 11: Concluding thoughts

Apr 13: Review

Final exam: Date, time, and location TBA. The final exam will be scheduled to occur sometime between the 16th and the 28th of April.