

**SOC 382: SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS**  
**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**  
WINTER TERM 2017

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. L. Strohschein  
**OFFICE:** 6-13 Tory and 5-28 Tory  
e-mail: l.strohschein@ualberta.ca  
**LOCATION:** NRE 1-003  
MWF 2:00 - 2:50 pm

**TEACHING ASSISTANT:** Nicole Hill (nsh@ualberta.ca)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course examines how health, illness, disease and healing are related to social structure and social processes. We will investigate how the social organization of Canadian society influences, not only the type and distribution of disease and illness, but also how the health care system responds to these contingencies. The course is divided into five sections where we discuss in turn, sociological perspectives on health and illness, the social patterning of health and illness, social meanings and the lived experience of illness, the social organization of health care and bioethical issues.

**PREREQUISITES:**

SOC 100 or consent of instructor.

**COURSE TEXT:**

Strohschein, L. & Weitz, R. (2014). *The sociology of health, illness and health care in Canada: A critical approach*. Toronto: Nelson.

There is also an eBook option available for students who want digital access to an online version of the textbook and want to save a little bit of money:

<https://www.nelsonbrain.com/shop/isbn/9780176514174>

**EVALUATION:**

Your grade for the course will be based on:

Mid-term exam	30%	February 8, 2017
Mid-term exam	30%	March 15, 2017
Final Exam	40%	tba

## **EXAMS:**

Mid-term exams will consist of multiple choice questions. The final exam will cover material from the entire course and will consist of multiple choice questions as well as one essay question.

Students with an excused absence must write the missed exam rather than shift the weight of that exam to other course requirements. Students are required to contact the instructor within two working days following the missed exam (or as soon as the student is able, with regard to the circumstances) to apply for an excused absence. Excused absences are not automatic and are at the discretion of the instructor.

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 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."

## **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 <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) 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.

## **ACCESS TO REPRESENTATIVE EVALUATIVE COURSE MATERIAL:**

The University of Alberta requires that students be provided with access to past or representative evaluative course material for any final examination paper and any mid-term examination paper worth 30% or more. Students will be provided with representative questions during class.

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

## **RECORDING LECTURES:**

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 content author(s).

## **GRADING:**

Final letter grades will be assigned as follows:

<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Value</b>
Excellent	94-100	A+	4.0
	89-93	A	4.0
	84-88	A-	3.7
Good	79-83	B+	3.3
	74-78	B	3.0
	70-73	B-	2.7
Satisfactory	65-69	C+	2.3
	61-64	C	2.0
	57-60	C-	1.7
Poor	54-56	D+	1.3
Minimal Pass	50-53	D	1.0
Fail	0-49	F	0.0

## **SCHEDULE FOR THE TERM:**

### **Part 1 Health: Medical and Sociological Perspectives**

- January 9 - 13 Introduction  
The medical model  
Required reading: Strohschein and Weitz, Chapter 1
- January 16 - 18 Sociological approaches to health and illness  
Required reading: Strohschein and Weitz, Chapter 2

### **Part 2 The Social Production of Health and Illness**

- January 20 - 25 Social determinants of health: Age, sex and gender and race/ethnicity

	Required reading: Strohschein and Weitz, Chapter 3
Jan. 27 - Feb. 1	Socioeconomic inequalities in health
	Required reading: Strohschein and Weitz, Chapter 4
February 3 - 6	Families and health
	Required reading: Strohschein and Weitz, Chapter 5 (p. 111-123)
February 8	Mid-term Exam
February 10 - 13	Illness and death in low and middle income countries
	Required reading: Strohschein and Weitz, Chapter 6

### **Part 3 The Social Construction of Illness and Health**

February 15 - 17	Introducing the social construction of health and illness The social meanings of illness
	Required reading: Strohschein and Weitz, Chapter 7 (p. 154-163)
February 20 - 24	Reading Week (no classes)
Feb. 27 - Mar. 1	Medicalization
	Required reading: Strohschein and Weitz, Chapter 7 (p. 164-175)
March 3 - 6	The experience of chronic illness and disability
	Required reading: Strohschein and Weitz, Chapter 8
March 8 - 13	The body and the pursuit of health
	Required reading: Strohschein and Weitz, Chapter 9
March 15	Mid-term Exam

### **Part 4 Health Care Systems and Settings**

March 17 - 24	A history of health care in Canada Health care in crisis?
	Required reading: Strohschein and Weitz, Chapter 10

- March 27 - 29      Health care systems: A comparative perspective  
Required reading:      Strohschein and Weitz, Chapter 11
- Mar. 31 – Apr. 3      Medical dominance in decline?  
The cloak of competence: Becoming a physician  
Required reading:      Weitz, Chapter 12
- April 5 - 7      Hospitals: A complex bureaucracy  
The social construction of technology  
Required reading:      Weitz, Chapter 13
- Part 5      Bioethics**
- April 10 - 12      Issues in bioethics  
Required reading:      Weitz, Chapter 14