

**SOCIOLOGY 382 (A1)**  
**SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS**  
**Fall, 2016**  
**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**

**Phone: 492-3545**

**Email: [dunwoody@ualberta.ca](mailto:dunwoody@ualberta.ca)**

**NOTE:** 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.

**NOTE:** 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

**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, 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:**

Term Exam 1 – 25% - scheduled for October 7 (covers Chs 1-7)

Term Exam 2 – 25% - scheduled for November 18 (covers Chs 8-14)

Critical Commentaries – 20% - due on October 3 and November 14

Group Presentation – 20% - scheduled for November 21 to December 7

Evaluation of Group Presentations – 10% - scheduled for November 21 to December 7

### **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.

### **Term Exams:**

The term exams 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 a term exam, 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 first term exam, and who have an excused absence, will write an alternate exam on Friday October 14 at 8:00 am. Students who have missed the second term exam, and who have an excused absence, will write an alternate exam on Wednesday November 23 at 8:00 am.

**NOTE:** 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.

### **Critical Commentaries:**

Students must submit two critical commentaries. Each commentary is worth 10%. Commentaries should be 800-1000 words in length (not including any title page information or references) and must be presented in APA style. The first commentary focuses on the social determinants of health and illness and is due on October 3. The second commentary focuses on the issue of medical dominance and is due on November 14.

**Commentaries MUST be submitted at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Email submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances.** Late commentaries will have 10% deducted per day beyond the due date (including weekends) and commentaries more than one week late will not be accepted. In such instances, a grade of zero will be given.

Social Determinants of Health and Illness Options (choose one of the following):

- Do you think that the elimination of poverty in Canada would result in better health for Canadians? Why or why not?
- In an effort to help Canadians become healthier, do you think it is more important to address food insecurity or access to safe housing? Why?

Medical Dominance Options (choose one of the following):

- To what extent is the dominance of allopathic physicians justifiable?
- Why is it difficult for most people to resist medical dominance?

**NOTE:** Please be sure to clearly indicate which question each commentary addresses.

### **Group Presentation:**

Students must organize themselves into groups of either two-three or three-four (depending on the total number of registered students) and prepare a 15-20 minute presentation on a topic that has not been addressed in either the text or in lectures. Students will be provided with a general list of topics from which they will choose/develop a more specific focus. This list will be available on eClass. Each group will need to obtain pre-approval of their topic. To that end, each group will submit a list of its top three choices by September 23 and the Instructor will assign topics based on group preferences and availability. After topics have been finalized, groups will be assigned to one of the class sessions, beginning on November 21 and continuing until the end of the term. Students will be assessed on both the content and the delivery of their seminar. Further details regarding this course requirement will be discussed in class. While grades for the group presentations will be assigned by the Instructor, each student will submit feedback and assign a grade to each group's presentation. Each student in a group will receive the same grade.

### **Evaluation of Group Presentations:**

Students are expected to attend all group presentations and to provide constructive written feedback for each group. Students will be evaluated on the quality of the feedback they provide and their engagement with the material presented. Further details regarding this course requirement will be discussed in class.

### **Tentative Lecture Schedule and Assigned Readings:**

Date	Topic	Reading
Sept 2	Introduction to the Course	
Sept 7	The Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care	Ch 1
Sept 9-12	The Social Sources of Disease and Death	Ch 2
Sept 14-16	The Social Determinants of Health and Illness: Age, Sex and Gender, And Race/Ethnicity	Ch 3
Sept 19-21	Socioeconomic Inequalities in Health	Ch 4
Sept 23-26	Work and Family Life: The Influence of Social Roles on Health and Illness	Ch 5
Sept 28-Oct 3	Illness and Death in the Developing World	Ch 6
Oct 5	The Social Meanings of Illness	Ch 7
Oct 7	Term Exam 1 (covers Chs 1-7)	
Oct 12-14	The Experience of Disability, Chronic Pain, and Chronic Illness	Ch 8
Oct 17-21	The Body and the Pursuit of Health	Ch 9
Oct 24	A History of Health Care in Canada	Ch 10
Oct 26	Health Care in Other Countries	Ch 11
Oct 28-31	Health Care Professions	Ch 12
Nov 2-4	Health Care Settings and Technologies	Ch 13
Nov 14-16	Issues in Bioethics	Ch 14
Nov 18	Term Exam 2 (covers Chs 8-14)	
Nov 21-Dec 7	Group Presentations	

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. 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	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](http://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.

For further information about Academic Integrity and to access the Academic Integrity Handbook for students, visit the Student Conduct and Accountability website at <http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en/Students.aspx>.