

Soci 321, **Sociology of Health and Illness**, Fall 2011
Sociology Department Website: www.soci.ucalgary.ca

Instructor: **Dr. Ariel Ducey**

Office hours: Mondays, 3-4 p.m. and by appointment, SS938, aducey@ucalgary.ca, 220-5054

Teaching Assistant: **Patty Thille**

Office hours: Fridays 3-4 p.m. and by appointment, SS911, email: pthille@ucalgary.ca

Course Overview

This course is designed to acquaint you with the sociology of health and illness, one of the largest sub-disciplines in sociology. This course will cover a necessarily select group of topics, but those covered are challenging and provocative. The course focuses on three major areas: the social construction of illness and the practice of medicine; social determinants of health; and health care policy and comparative health care systems.

To be successful in this course, students must strive to think about health, medicine and health care sociologically and come up with questions about health and illness-related topics that a sociologist might ask. Please keep in mind that the goal of this course is to further your sociological imagination, no matter what your future goals; along the way you will also learn something about the organization of health care and medicine, but the former objective is just as important.

The goals for students in this course are:

- To learn major terms and concepts used in medical sociology
- To be able to interpret events in health, medicine, and health care from a sociological perspective
- To become familiar with the range of themes and topics that medical sociologists study
- To become familiar with some of the debates within sociology and medical sociology about what to study and how to study it
- To achieve a basic understanding of how health care and medicine is financed and organized in western, capitalist countries

Readings

- 1) There is one book to purchase for this course, available at the UofC bookstore: Sylvia Noble Tesh, *Hidden Arguments: Political Ideology and Disease Prevention Policy*, Rutgers University Press, 1988.
- 2) There is a *custom course packet* available in the bookstore, containing a number of articles.
- 3) Most of the course readings are available for access through the UofC library and links to them are posted on the course blackboard site. Students are responsible for downloading and, if they wish printing, the articles (students may have to use an on-campus computer to access and download some of the articles).

Readings must be completed *before* the class for which they are assigned. Readings will be addressed during lecture, but they will not always be covered in detail—rather they will be used as starting point for more advanced discussion. Your experience of the lecture will depend heavily on whether you have done the readings in advance. I may add, omit, or change some readings during the semester as needed. Any changes in the course schedule will be announced in class and on Blackboard, but you are responsible for attending class and checking the blackboard site regularly.

Examinations and Essays

There will be three examinations in this course: two midterms and a final. The exams are not cumulative. They will consist of multiple choice questions. The exams will be based on the assigned reading and any material presented in class. Exam study guides will be provided on Blackboard about one week prior to each exam. Additional aids are *not* allowed for the exams.

Students are required to write two short essays for the course. Details of the essay assignment can be found on the blackboard site.

Grading

Your final grade will be computed as follows:

1. Exams 25% (each)
2. Essays 12.5% (each)

You are not required to pass a particular course component in order to pass the course as a whole.

The following scale converts percentage grades to letter grades for this class.

A+ = 95-100	B = 75-79	C- = 55-59
A = 90-94	B- = 70-74	D+ = 50-54
A- = 85-89	C+ = 65-69	D = 45-49
B+ = 80-84	C = 60-64	F = below 45

The following description of letter grades comes from the U of Calgary Calendar:

- A indicates superior performance, excellent mastery of the material.
- B indicates above average performance, good mastery of the material.
- C indicates satisfactory performance, a basic understanding of the material.
- D indicates marginal performance, minimal understanding of the material.
- F indicates unsatisfactory performance.

Instructor and TA contact and roles

There is one TA for this course, Patty Thille. Patty is doctoral candidate in the sociology department with practical and research experience in health care; in addition, she has previously served as a TA for this course. She is therefore an excellent resource. Patty will attend most lectures and hold office hours to respond to student questions. Her office hours are listed on the first page and she may also be available by appointment at other times. The TA and instructor work as a team and discuss student grades, emails, and questions together when necessary.

I am available during my office hours and at other times by appointment. There is also a discussion board on blackboard (“Dr. Ducey’s Virtual Office”) where you may post non-urgent questions about administrative and scheduling matters to which we will respond.

We (the instructor and TA) are happy to meet with students, but please observe the following so that we may respond to students in a way that is fair and attentive:

- 1) Except for cases in which we have instructed you to email something, we prefer that you **contact us by email for administrative purposes only**. For instance, you may email us to schedule an appointment outside of office hours.
- 2) Students with substantive questions should come to office hours or schedule an appointment. Students with questions related to grading, readings, or who simply wish to discuss the course in greater depth, should see us during office hours or make an appointment.

Emergency evacuations:

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by the ICT Food Court.

Deferrals:

If at all possible you must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or pass in an assignment or essay on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University

Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a “make up” test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a “make up” test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Department of Sociology.

Deferred Final Exam Form:

Please note that requests to defer a Registrar-scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar’s Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at:

http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM_0.pdf

Deferred Term Work Form:

Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It’s available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

Ethics Research: Students are advised that any research with human subjects--including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Academic Misconduct: Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offences. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor’s office or the Department main office. Written assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor’s office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Safewalk: The University of Calgary provides a “safe walk” service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk

call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the “Help” phones located around Campus.

Academic Accommodation: Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, phone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. It is a student’s responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.

Handing in papers outside of class, return of final papers, and release of final grades:

1. When students are unable to submit papers in class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant. Papers will not be accepted in the main Sociology Department office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the main Sociology Department office. The Freedom of Information and Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place (i.e. outside an instructor’s office, the department office etc.) Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will be available for pick-up only during the instructor’s office hours at the end of this term or at the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are available only online.

(CP=course packet; BB=blackboard; all other readings from Conrad reader)

Date	Readings	Topic
Sept 12 M	Introduction to the course	Medical authority, medical practice and discourse, the social construction of illness, the illness experience
Sept 14 W	McKinlay & McKinlay (BB)	
Sept 16 F	Wertz & Wertz (CP)	
Sept 19 M	Lecture continued Film (finish Sept 21): "Deadly Deception"	
Sept 21 W	Farmer, Ch. 8, "New Malaise" (CP)	
Sept 23 F	Anspach (BB)	
Sept 26 M	Zola (BB)	
Sept 28 W	Kaw (CP) Barker (BB)	
Sept 30 F	Catch-up	
Oct 3 M	Ehrenreich (BB) Frank (BB)	
Oct 5 W	Gifford (BB) Fosket (BB)	
Oct 7 F	Catch-up, exam prep	
Oct 10 M	NO CLASS	
Oct 12 W	EXAM ONE	
Oct 14 F	Banks, et al. (BB)	Social determinants of health; Inequality and health; political economy, food, and health; structural violence and health
Oct 17 M	Tesh, chs. 1&2 Hahn et al. (skim)	
Oct 19 W	Wilkinson (BB)	
Oct 21 F	Syme (BB) Tesh, ch. 5	
Oct 24 M	Phelan, Link & Tehranifar (BB) Tesh, ch. 3	
Oct 26 W	McKinlay (CP) Pollan (BB)	
Oct 28 F	Film: "Frankensteer"	
Oct 31 M	Film discussion, catch up	
Nov 2 W	Tesh, ch. 6	
Nov 4 F	Farmer, Ch. 1, "On Suffering and Structural Violence" (CP)	
Nov 7 M	Catch-up, exam prep	
Nov 9 W	EXAM TWO	
Nov 11 F	NO CLASS (reading break)	
Nov 14 M	(No new reading)	
Nov 16 W	Deber (BB) Bodenheimer & Grumbach (CP)	Health care and markets; comparative health care systems

Nov 18 F	Evans, "Canada" (BB) Film: TBA	
Nov 21 M	[Canada continued—reading TBA]	
Nov 23 W	[U.S.—reading TBA]	
Nov 25 F	[U.S.—reading TBA]	
Nov 28 M	[NHS—reading TBA]	
Nov 30 W	Light (CP)	
Dec 2 F	Gladwell, "Moral-Hazard Myth" (BB) Roos et al, "Does universal comprehensive..." (BB)	The politics of health care in Canada
Dec 5 M	Sepehri & Chernomas (CP)	
Dec 7 W	Fraser Institute Report (BB)	
Dec 9 F	Pilot results of AB Hip & Knee Replacement project (BB) CHSRF Mythbuster, 2005 (BB)	
	FINAL EXAM, DATE TBA	