

Instructor: **Dr. Ariel Ducey**

Office hours: Mondays 11:00-12:00, Thursdays 1:00-2:00 and by appointment, SS938,
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Teaching Assistant: **Kate Hickey**

Office hours: by appointment, SS1005, kjhickey@ucalgary.ca , 220-6503

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 the sociology of health and illness
- 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 the sociology of health and illness 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 are two books to purchase for this course, available at the UofC bookstore:
 - a) Sylvia Noble Tesh, *Hidden Arguments: Political Ideology and Disease Prevention Policy*, Rutgers University Press, 1988.
 - b) John Germov & Jennie Hornosty, *Second Opinion: An Introduction to Health Sociology*, Oxford, 2012.
- 2) There is a *custom course packet* available in the bookstore, containing a number of articles.
- 3) Other required course readings are available for access through the UofC library and links to them are posted on the course D2L site. Students are responsible for downloading and, if they wish, printing the articles.

Readings should 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 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 D2L. Students are responsible for attending class and checking the D2L site regularly.

Examinations and Essays

There will be three examinations in this course: two midterms and a final. They will consist mostly of multiple choice questions and some short answer questions. The multiple choice portion of the exams will not be cumulative, but the short answer questions on the final exam will draw upon materials from the entire course. The exams will be based on the assigned reading and any material presented in class. Exam study guides will be provided on D2L about one week prior to each exam. Additional aids are *not* allowed for the exams.

Course website on D2L

You should plan to log on to the course site about every other day. The course instructor and TA will use the site to post slides from lecture, deadlines, changes to the course outline (which will also be announced in class), optional readings, helpful links, and anything else that you might find interesting.

Grading

Your final grade will be computed as follows:

1. Exam 1 30%
2. Exam 2 30%
3. Exam 3 40%

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+ = 80-84	C+ = 65-69	D+ = 50-54
A = 90-94	B = 75-79	C = 60-64	D = 45-49
A- = 85-89	B- = 70-74	C- = 55-59	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, Kate Hickey. Kate is a PhD student in sociology with research experience related to health and illness; she has previously served as a TA for this course and taught this course at Mt. Royal. Kate will be available to meet with students by appointment. She will be primarily responsible for grading the short answer sections of the exams and will hold special office hours after the exams. The TA and instructor work as a team and discuss student grades, emails, and questions together when necessary.

Dr. Ducey is available during office hours and at other times by appointment.

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.

Additional Course Notes:

1. Grade Reappraisal: Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor and TA explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. The instructor and TA will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that a reconsidered mark may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.
2. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
3. Academic Misconduct: Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>
4. Protection of Privacy: The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. "If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment."
5. Ethical 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.

6. Deferrals: If possible, please provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to write an exam or complete/turn-in assignments 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 health issue 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://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp_Su_DFE_App.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).
7. Student Representation: The 2014-15 Students’ Union VP Academic’s email is: Hana Kadri suvpaca@ucalgary.ca. The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: arts1@ucalgary.ca, arts2@ucalgary.ca, arts3@ucalgary.ca, and arts4@ucalgary.ca. You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/role>
8. Emergency Evacuation: In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at [*location*]. Please check these assembly point locations for your other classes at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>
9. 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.
10. register with Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Disability Resource Centre) at MC 452 (or phone 403-220-8237). Please provide academic accommodation letters to the instructor as early in the semester as possible and no later than two weeks after the course begins.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(CP=course packet; D2L=Desire2Learn course website; G&H=Germov & Hornosty textbook)

Date	Readings	Topic	
Sept 9 T	Introduction to the course Germov & Hornosty, G&H ch. 1 & pp. 230-9		Medical authority, medical practice and knowledge, the social construction of health & illness
Sept 11 Th	Wertz & Wertz (CP) Armstrong, G&H ch. 5 [optional]	Medical authority and medical knowledge	
Sept 16 T	Film: "Deadly Deception" Farmer, Ch. 8, "New Malaise" (CP)		
Sept 18 Th	Ryn & Fu 2003 (D2L) Berg (D2L)	Practice variation, medical errors, evidence-based medicine	
Sept 23 T	Timmermans (D2L)		
Sept 25 Th	Roach & Hornosty, G&H ch. 9 Zola (D2L)	Social construction of illness, medicalization, medical control	
Sept 30 T	Barker (D2L)		
Oct 2 Th	Ehrenreich (D2L) Frank (D2L)		
Oct 7 T	EXAM ONE		
Oct 9 Th	Banks, et al. (D2L) Hornosty & Germov, G&H ch. 4	Health inequality, political ideology and disease prevention	Social model of health, politics of health promotion, political economy of health
Oct 14 T	Tesh, chs. 1 & 2 Hornosty, G&H ch. 6 [optional]		
Oct 16 Th	Wilkinson (D2L) Syme (D2L)		
Oct 21 T	Phelan, Link & Tehranifar (D2L) Tesh, ch. 3		
Oct 23 Th	McKinlay (CP) Abramson, G&H ch. 8		
Oct 28 T	Film: "Frankensteer"	Political economy, environment, structural violence, and health	
Oct 30 Th	Farmer, Ch. 1, "On Suffering and Structural Violence" (CP) Hornosty, Gray & Sagers, G&H, Ch. 7 [optional]		
Nov 4 T	Tesh, chs. 6 & 7		
Nov 6 Th	EXAM TWO		
Nov 13 Th	Hornosty, G&H, ch. 13, & pp. 239-253	Canada's health care system	Health care systems and organization
Nov 18 T	Lexchin, G&H, ch. 14	Other health care systems (UK, U.S., Germany)	
Nov 20 Th	Gabe (D2L)		
Nov 25 T	Hacker (D2L)	Politics of health care in Canada	
Nov 27 Th	Film: "Medicare Schmedicare"		
Dec 2 T	Gladwell, "Moral-Hazard Myth" (D2L) Roos et al, "Does universal ..." (D2L)		
Dec 4 Th	Fraser Institute Reports (D2L) CHSRF Mythbuster, 2005 (D2L)		
	FINAL EXAM, DATE TBA		