

Instructor: **Dr. Ariel Ducey**

Office hours: Thursdays 12:30-2 and by appointment, SS938, aducey@ucalgary.ca, 220-5054

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 is one book to purchase for this course, available at the UofC bookstore:

Wade, Terrance J., Ivy Lynn Bourgeault, Elena Neiterman. *The Social Dimensions of Health and Health Care in Canada*. Pearson.

- 2) Other required course readings are available for access on D2L, either as .pdfs or through UofC library links. Students are responsible for downloading and, if they wish, printing the articles.

Readings should be completed *before* the class for which they are assigned. We will be reading about 50 pages per week for this course. 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

There will be three examinations in this course: two midterms and a final. They will consist of multiple choice questions. The exams are not cumulative. 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 will use the site to post slides from lecture, deadlines, changes to the course schedule (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.

Contacting the Instructor

I am available during office hours and at other times by appointment. I am happy to meet with students, but please observe the following norms:

- 1) Except for cases in which you have been instructed to email something, **contact the instructor by email for administrative purposes only**. For instance, you may email 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 attend 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 explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. The instructor 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. 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. **Technology Use:** The use of laptops or tablets for the purposes of taking notes is permitted during lectures. Please turn off sounds and dim screens of such devices to minimize disruption to fellow classmates. The use of cellphones or other electronic devices for purposes unrelated to the course is NOT permitted. Please be sure to turn off your cell phone during class.
5. **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.
6. **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 Faculty 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.
7. **Deferrals:** When possible, please provide advance notice 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, misreading the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment 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).

8. The 2015-16 Students’ Union VP Academic is Stephan Guscott: email: 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>
9. 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>
10. 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.
11. Academic Accommodation: Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services ; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available
at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

COURSE SCHEDULE

(D2L=Desire2Learn course website; Wade et al. = course textbook)

Date	Readings	Topic	
Sept 8 T	Introduction to the course Wade et al., Chs. 1 & 2		Medical authority, medical practice and knowledge, the social construction of health & illness
Sept 10 Th	Wertz & Wertz (D2L)	Medical authority and medical knowledge	
Sept 15 T	Film: "Deadly Deception" Farmer, "New Malaise" (D2L)		
Sept 17 Th	Wade et al., Pages 56-74 Ryn & Fu 2003 (D2L)	Practice variation, medical errors, evidence-based medicine	
Sept 22 T	Timmermans (D2L)		
Sept 24 Th	Wade et al., Chapter 12 Zola (D2L)	Social construction of illness, medicalization, medical control	
Sept 29 T	Barker (D2L)		
Oct 1 Th	Ehrenreich (D2L) Frank (D2L)		
Oct 6 T	EXAM ONE		
Oct 8 Th	Banks, et al. (D2L) Hahn et al. (D2L) [skim only; not on exam]	Health inequality, political ideology and disease prevention	Social model of health, politics of health promotion, political economy of health
Oct 13 T	Tesh, "Disease, Causality, Politics" Wade et al., Chapter 6		
Oct 15 Th	Wilkinson (D2L) Wade et al., Chapter 7		
Oct 20 T	Syme (D2L)	Political economy, environment, structural violence, and health	
Oct 22 Th	Phelan, Link & Tehranifar (D2L)		
Oct 27 T	McKinlay, "A Case for..." (D2L)		
Oct 29 Th	Wade et al. Chapter 13 Film: "Frankensteer"		
Nov 3 T	Farmer, "On Suffering and Structural Violence" (D2L)		
Nov 5 Th	Tesh, "Environmentalism..." (D2L)		
Nov 10 T	EXAM TWO		
Nov 17 T	Wade et al. Ch. 3	Canada's health care system	Health care systems and organization
Nov 19 Th	Wade et al., Ch. 5		
Nov 24 T	Bodenheimer & Grumbach (D2L) Gabe (D2L)	Other health care systems (UK, U.S., Germany)	
Nov 26 Th			
Dec 1 T	Film: "Medicare Schmedicare"	Politics of health care in Canada	
Dec 3 Th	Gladwell, "Moral-Hazard Myth" (D2L) Roos et al, "Does universal ..." (D2L)		
Dec 8 T	Fraser Institute Reports (D2L) CHSRF Mythbuster, 2005 (D2L)		
	FINAL EXAM, DATE TBA		