

Instructor: **Kate Hickey**

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Office hours: Wednesdays 10:15am-11:15am & by appointment (Office: SS903)

Course Overview

This course is designed to acquaint you with the sociology of health, illness, and medicine, one of the largest sub-disciplines in sociology. The lectures for this course will cover only a portion of this widely productive sub-discipline, but the topics covered are drawn from the most popular or the most challenging and provocative trends found in this area. Lectures for this course focuses on three major areas: (1) the social understanding, manufacturing, construction and experience and determinants of health and illness; (2) the medical profession; and, (3) health care politics and systems. A text book has been assigned to provide a thorough overview of the sociology of health, illness, and medicine.

A key goal of this course is for you to further develop and apply your sociological imagination. Knowing and understanding medicine, health and illness from perspectives outside of sociology will not be enough to do well in this course. Successful students will use critical thinking skills and engage sociologically with questions and materials related to health, illness and medicine.

The learning outcome goals for students in this course are:

- To become familiar with major themes, debates, topics, concepts, and terms common in medical sociology.
- To be able to interpret events in health, medicine, and health care from a sociological perspective.
- To understand how health, illness, and medicine are socially influenced.
- To achieve a basic understanding of how health care and medicine is financed and organized in western, capitalist countries.
- To use and develop critical thinking skills when reading academic work.
- To develop skills for collecting, evaluating, organizing and summarizing scholarly material.

Classroom & Online Conduct and Behaviour

Expectations for Classroom and Online behaviour are outlined in the *Conduct & Behaviour* link on D2L. It is your responsibility to review and adhere to these rules.

Two notes about readings

1. **We do not have a book for this course.** Readings will be posted on D2L and these, combined with class lectures, will stand in for a book. However, if you wish to examine a book, I recommend:

Germov & Hornsby (2009) *Second Opinion (Canadian Ed.)*, Oxford University Press: Don Mills, Ontario University Press.

2. For your written assignment you will need to read 3 articles (total) of your choosing *in addition to course materials* that correspond with the instructions for the assignment. It is your responsibility to find 3 appropriate sources for the assignment.
- 3.

Important information regarding materials for which you are responsible

The materials from lecture and the assigned readings will **both** be tested on. The assigned readings and the class lectures are separate but complementary components of this course. Choosing to come to lectures and to skip the readings *or* choosing to only read the course material and to skip coming to lectures is not sufficient to earn an A in this course. The lectures will often introduce materials *not contained in your readings*, just as your readings will provide you with information *not contained in lectures*. Thus, it is **strongly** suggested that you complete your readings *and* come to class. Readings may be addressed during lecture, but they will not always be covered in detail. You will likely obtain the best use of the readings if you complete them *before* the class for which they are assigned. 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, but you are responsible for attending class and checking the D2L site regularly.

Methods of Evaluation

This course contains: two midterm exams, one final exam and one written assignment.

The two **midterm exams** will take place during class time on **October 12th & November 7th**. The first midterm exam will test your knowledge of material from *September 12th up to and including October 7th*. The second midterm exam will test on materials from *October 14th up to and including November 4th*. The midterm exams may consist of multiple choice questions, true or false questions, fill-in questions, definitions, and short answer. The **final exam** is scheduled by the registrar and the location will be provided once scheduled. While the midterm and final exams are not cumulative, knowledge of materials covered earlier in the course may be required for successful performance on the second exam (for example, it will be assumed that you understand social constructionist theory regarding health and illness and the work surrounding the manufacturing of illness when we discuss health care politics and policy).

The exams will be based on the assigned reading and any material presented in class. Your notes, the readings, textbooks and other aids are *not* allowed for the exams.

You have the option of completing a **written assignment** for this course, valued at 10% of your total grade. If you choose not to complete the written assignment then this 10% will be added to your second midterm. Thus, you may choose to write an assignment for 10% and have the 2nd midterm count as 25% or you may choose not to write the assignment and have the 2nd midterm count as the full 35%. You will not be able to see your midterm grade prior to submitting in the assignment. Once your assignment has been graded you cannot gance your mind about the weight of the midterm.

The *Optional* written assignment for this course is a research based critical analysis of the problematization of fatness in the film "Fed Up" shown during class time. The written assignment is to be completed during your own time. When you submit your assignments you are expected to do so **in paper format in class** AND in an **electronic version** before midnight of the deadline. Your written assignment ***will not be graded until you submit an electronic copy to me***. You may find more information concerning the assignment in the link titled *Assignment* on the D2L site for this class. If there is time, we will review the expectations for the written assignments in class.

D2L

You should plan to log on to D2L about every other day. D2L contains information needed for preparation for exams, assignment, slides from lecture, deadlines, changes to the course outline (which will also be announced in class), optional readings, helpful links, etc. To make this course more interactive than is usually possible in a

lecture course you will find a discussion page on D2L where you can answer or post questions and raise topics that you find interesting and wish to discuss with the class. You are encouraged to engage in discussions with your peers on D2L. *This is voluntary and is not a graded component of this course.* The online discussion courtesy and behavior expectations as well as the classroom etiquette rules are located in D2L under the link *Conduct & Behaviour*.

Grading

Your final grade will be computed as follows:

1. Exams: 90%
 - a. Midterm 1: 32.5%
 - b. Midterm 2: 25%
 - c. Final Exam: 32.5%
2. Written Assignment 10%

If you fail to complete any component (i.e. the written assignment) then you will receive an incomplete in the course until you have completed it. You are not required to earn a passing grade in every course component in order to pass the course as a whole. However, *you must complete all aspects of the course in order to pass the course.*

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

A+ = 95-100	A = 90-94	A- = 85-89
B+ = 80-84	B = 75-79	B- = 70-74
C+ = 67-69	C = 63-66	C- = 59-62
D+ = 54-58	D = 50-53	F = below 49

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 contact and roles

I am available during office hours and at other times by appointment. I am happy to meet with students, but please observe the following so that I may respond to students in a way that is fair and attentive:

1. I prefer that you **contact me by email so that I have a record of our conversation**. For instance, you may email me to schedule an appointment outside of office hours. You may also email me to confirm an arrangement we've made regarding your referral of an exam. Emails sent for substantive issues best discussed in person will receive a response directing the sender to come see me, however I do still appreciate the email.
2. Students with questions related to lectures, readings, or who simply wish to discuss the course in greater depth, should see me during office hours or make an appointment.

- Urgent matters of concern should be discussed in person after class or during office hours. I will regularly check and respond to email; however, my response may take a day or two.

Handing in Papers, Assignments

- The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
- 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.
- Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

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.

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>

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: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-forms>

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 https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15_0.pdf

Soci 321, **Sociology of Health and Illness**, Fall 2016

Sociology Department Website: www.soci.ucalgary.ca

Classroom Location: EDC179

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).

Student Representation

The 2016-17 Students' Union VP Academic is Alicia Lunz (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>

Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at Professional Faculties Food Court. Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints> 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 needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services (MC 293, phone 403-220-8237) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

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.

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.

Soci 321, **Sociology of Health and Illness**, Fall 2016
 Sociology Department Website: www.soci.ualgary.ca
 Classroom Location: EDC179

Week	Date	Readings	Topic
1	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	
	Sept 16 F	Wertz & Wertz	
2	Sept 19 M	Film: “Deadly Deception”	
	Sept 21 W	Farmer, Ch. 8, “New Malaise”	
	Sept 23 F	Anspach	
3	Sept 26 M	Zola	
	Sept 28 W	Kaw Barker	
	Sept 30 F	Catch-up	
4	Oct 3 M	Ehrenreich; Frank	
	Oct 5 W	Lupton ; Clarke	
	Oct 7 F	Gifford	
5	Oct 10 M	Thanksgiving Holiday (No lecture)	
	Oct 12 W	EXAM ONE	
	Oct 14 F	Banks, et al.	
6	Oct 17 M	Hahn et al. (skim); Wilkinson	Social determinants of health; Inequality and health; political economy, food, and health; structural violence and health; biological citizenship
	Oct 19 W	Syme; Phelan, Link & Tehranifar	
	Oct 21 F	McKinlay; Pollan	
7	Oct 24 M	Farmer, Ch. 1,	
	Oct 26 W	Film: “Fed Up”	
	Oct 28 F	Film “Fed Up”	
8	Oct 31 M	Problematizing Fatness/Obesity articles TBA	
	Nov 2 W	Critical Discussion of Film	
	Nov 4 F	Catch-up, exam prep	
9	Nov 7 M	EXAM TWO	
	Nov 9 W	Deber; Bodenheimer & Grumbach Optional Assignment Due in Class	
	Nov 11 F	Remembrance Day (no lecture)	
10	Nov 14 M	Evans, “Canada”	Health care and markets; comparative health care systems
	Nov 16 W	Hacker	
	Nov 18 F	(no new reading)	
11	Nov 21 M	[NHS—reading TBA]	
	Nov 23 W	Light	
	Nov 25 F	Catch-up	
12	Nov 28 M	1. Gladwell 2. Roos et al,	The politics of health care in Canada
	Nov 30 W	Film: “Medicare Schmedicare”	
	Dec 2 F	NO CLASS	
Dec 5 M	Sepehri & Chernomas		

13	Dec 7 W	Fraser Institute Report	
	Dec 9 F	Pilot results of AB Hip & Knee Replacement project CHSRF Mythbuster, 2005	

Evaluations

(At a Glance)

Exercise	Date	Total % of Grade
<p>Midterm Exam 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple Choice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Readings: September 12 – October 12 ○ Class lectures & films: September 12 – October 12 	October 12th, 2016	32.5%
<p>Midterm Exam 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple Choice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Readings: October 14 – November 7 ○ Class lectures & films: October 14 – November 7 ○ 	November 7th, 2016	35% OR 25% with Assignment
<p>Optional Critical Analysis of “Fed Up”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple Choice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 pages double spaced <i>plus reference page</i>. ○ Due at beginning of lecture period, in class on Nov. 14th. ○ Instructions provided in class & on D2L. 	November 14th, 2016	10%
<p>Final Exam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple Choice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Readings: November 9 – December 12 ○ Class lectures & films: November 9 – December 12 	December, 2016 (Registrar Scheduled)	32.5%