

Instructor: **Kate Hickey**

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Office hours: Mondays 11am-12pm & by appointment (Office: SS944)

Teaching Assistant: Koyel Ranu Office hours: By Appointment  
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### **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 Blackboard. It is your responsibility to review and adhere to these rules.

### **Two notes about readings**

1. There is 1 book for this course that is available at the U of C bookstore:

J. Nancarrow Clarke (2012) *Health, Illness, and Medicine in Canada (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.)*, Oxford University Press: Don Mills, Ontario University Press.

2. For your written assignment you will need to read 5 articles (total) of your choosing that correspond with the instructions for the assignment. It is your responsibility to find 5 appropriate sources for the assignment.

**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 reading the text *or* choosing to only read the text 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 text*, just as your text 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 Blackboard, but you are responsible for attending class and checking the Blackboard site regularly.

**Methods of Evaluation**

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

The **midterm exam** will take place during class time on **March 1<sup>st</sup>**. The midterm exam will test your knowledge of material from *January 9<sup>th</sup> up to and including February 27<sup>th</sup>*. The midterm exam may consist of multiple choice questions, true or false questions, fill-in questions, definitions, and short answer.

The **final exam** will be held on **April 15<sup>th</sup>**, during regular class time. The final exam will cover materials from *March 4<sup>th</sup> up to and including April 12<sup>th</sup>*. 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.* Exam study guides will be provided on Blackboard about one week prior to each exam. The exam study guide is intended to give you an idea of the types of questions you might expect on the exam; it is not exhaustive of the materials covered in the exams. Your notes, the textbook and other aids are *not* allowed for the exams.

The written assignment for this course is comprised of 5 miniature assignments. You are encouraged to submit your assignment parts on the flexible due dates (prior to the firm due dates). If you choose to submit on the firm deadlines then Assignment #1 and Assignment #2 are due on February 25<sup>th</sup> in class (this is the firm deadline). The firm deadline for Assignment #'s 3-5 is the last day of class (April 12<sup>th</sup>) in class.

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 detailed information concerning class assignments in the link titled *Assignment* on the Blackboard site for this class. If there is time, we will review the expectations for the written assignments in class.

### **Blackboard**

*You should plan to log on to Blackboard about every other day.* Blackboard contains information needed for preparation for exams, assignments, 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 usually possible in a lecture course you will find a discussion page on Blackboard 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 Blackboard. *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 Blackboard under the link *Conduct & Behaviour*.

### **Grading**

Your final grade will be computed as follows:

1. Exams: 60%
  - a. Midterm 1: 30%
  - b. Midterm 2: 30%
2. Written Assignment 40%
  - a. Each of the 5 miniature assignments are worth 8%.

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 & TA 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. Except for cases in which I have instructed you to email something, I prefer that you **contact either Koyel Ranu or me by email for administrative purposes only**. For instance, you may email us to schedule an appointment outside of office hours. Emails sent for substantive issues best discussed in person will receive a response directing the sender to come see me (or Koyel Ranu, if appropriate)
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.
3. 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.
4. Koyel Ranu is a great resource aide for your assignment and your main point of contact for related questions.
5. A few times and dates will be arranged for you to view your graded midterm exam with Koyel Ranu's supervision. Viewing your exam outside of these times will have to be arranged during my office hours.

### ***Emergency evacuations:***

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at the Professional Faculties - Food Court. If our primary assembly point is unavailable then please gather at the alternative assembly point at the Education Block - Food Court. Please check these assembly point locations for your other classes at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

***Student Representation:*** The 2012-13 Students' Union VP Academic is Kenya-Jade Pinto; email: [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca). The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca), [arts2@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@ucalgary.ca), [arts3@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@ucalgary.ca), and [arts4@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@ucalgary.ca). You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/quality-education/academic-services/student-rights>

### ***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.

### **Make up Tests**

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.

Makeup exams will be held on the following *Tuesday* nights **from 5pm until 7pm**, in **SB 146**.

**Students will have to provide the invigilator with a University of Calgary Student I.D. Card prior to writing.**

**Dates:** (Tuesday Nights): **March:** 5, 12, 19, 26, **April:** 2, 9, 16

*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](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 grading assistant. Papers will not be accepted in the main Sociology Department office. While you are required to pass in an electronic version of your paper this does not replace your required hard paper copy.
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.

### **Course Reading Schedule**

*(This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change if necessary)*

**Week 1** Chapter 1: Ways of Thinking Sociologically about Health, Illness, and Medicine  
**Classes:** January 9<sup>th</sup> & January 11<sup>th</sup>

**Week 2** Chapter 1: Ways of Thinking Sociologically about Health, Illness, and Medicine  
**Classes:** January 14<sup>th</sup>, January 16<sup>th</sup> & January 18<sup>th</sup>

**Week 3** Chapter 2: Disease and Death: Canada in International and Historical Context  
**Classes:** January 21<sup>st</sup>, January 23<sup>rd</sup> & January 25<sup>th</sup>

**Week 4** Chapter 3: Environmental and Occupational Health and Illness  
**Classes:** January 28<sup>th</sup>, January 30<sup>th</sup> & February 1<sup>st</sup>

*Possible Video: Frankenstein*

**Week 5** Chapter 4: Social Inequity, Disease, and Death: The Social Determinants of Health  
Chapter 5: Social Inequity, Disease, and Death: Age, Gender, Racialization, & Ethnicity  
**Classes:** February 4<sup>th</sup>, February 6<sup>th</sup> & February 8<sup>th</sup>

**Week 6** Chapter 7: The Experience of Being Ill  
**Classes:** February 11<sup>th</sup>, February 13<sup>th</sup> & February 15<sup>th</sup>

**Week 7** **Study for Midterm & Prepare Assignments 1, 2, & 3.**  
**No Classes: Reading Week**

**Week 8** Chapter 6: Some Social-Psychological Explanations for Illness  
**Classes:** February 25<sup>th</sup>, February 27<sup>th</sup> & (March 1<sup>st</sup>: Midterm Exam)  
**February 25<sup>th</sup>: Assignments #'s 1 and 2 must be submitted by this date.**

### **Week 8**

**Friday, March 1st** **Midterm Exam** *(Chapters 1-7, inclusive)*

**Week 9** Chapter 8: The Social Construction of Scientific and Medical Knowledge and Practice  
**Classes:** March 4<sup>th</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup> & March 8<sup>th</sup>

**Week 10** Chapter 9: Medicalization  
Chapter 10: The History and Current State of Medicare in Canada

Soci 321, **Sociology of Health and Illness**, Winter 2013

Sociology Department Website: [www.soci.ucalgary.ca](http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca)

Classroom Location: ST135

**Classes:** March 11<sup>th</sup>, March 13<sup>th</sup> & March 15<sup>th</sup>

**Week 11** Chapter 11: The Medical Profession

**Classes:** March 18<sup>th</sup>, March 20<sup>th</sup> & March 22<sup>nd</sup>

*Possible Video: The Healthcare Movie*

**Week 12** Chapter 12: Nurses and Midwives in the Changing Health-Care System

**Classes:** March 25<sup>th</sup>, March 27<sup>th</sup>

*No Class on March 29<sup>th</sup> (University is closed for "Good Friday").*

*Possible Video: The Business of Being Born*

**Week 13** Chapter 14: The Pharmaceutical Industry and Medical-Industrial Complex

**Classes:** April 1<sup>th</sup>, April 3<sup>th</sup> & April 5<sup>th</sup>

*Possible Video: Generation Rx*

**Week 14** Chapter 15: Health-Care Systems in International Context

**Classes:** April 8<sup>th</sup>, April 10<sup>th</sup> & April 12<sup>th</sup>

**April 12<sup>th</sup>: Assignments #'s 3, 4, and 5 must be submitted by this date.**

**Week 15**

**Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> Final Exam (Chapters 8-7, inclusive)**

## Evaluations

(At a Glance)

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Exercise	Date	Total % of Grade
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013</b>	<b>30%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multiple Choice, Fill in the blank, Definitions and Short Answer<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <i>Health, Illness, and Medicine in Canada (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.)</i>, chapters 1-7.</li><li>○ Class lectures January 9<sup>th</sup> – February 27<sup>th</sup>.</li></ul></li></ul>		
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013</b>	<b>30%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multiple Choice<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <i>Health, Illness, and Medicine in Canada (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.)</i>, chapters 8-12 and 14, &amp; 15.</li><li>○ Class lectures March 4<sup>th</sup> – April 12<sup>th</sup></li></ul></li></ul>		
<b>Written Assignment</b>	<b>Various flexible Due Dates (See Blackboard)</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Firm Deadline: Assignment #1 and Assignment #2</b> are due on <b>February 25<sup>th</sup></b> in class.		
<b>Firm Deadline: Assignment #'s 3-5</b> are due the last day of lectures ( <b>April 12<sup>th</sup></b> ) in class		