

Instructor: **Dr. Ariel Ducey**

Office hours: 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 to recognize issues and questions that are central to sociology as a discipline. The readings for this course are original research articles, therefore students must regard them not primarily as statements of facts (though they contain much useful information and important facts), but as *arguments*. The authors of the articles are engaged in debate, and using facts and information to persuade readers to think about an issue differently or, often, to think in a way that is not the natural, dominant way of thought. In this course, students will learn important facts about the organization of health care and illness, but the course requires students to show an understanding of the arguments presented in the class and readings, and of sociological perspectives.

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

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 and possibly one or two short answer 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 | 35% |
| 3. Exam 3 | 35% |

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 by appointment and will hold office hours before and after the exams (announced on D2L). I am happy to meet with students, but please observe the following: 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.

Technology use in class

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, and other electronic devices for purposes unrelated to the course, is NOT permitted*. Please be sure to turn off your cell phone during class. Student found to be using devices in ways that are distracting to others and/or not related to the class will be asked to leave the classroom.

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. **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. **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.
6. **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).

7. 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>
8. Emergency Evacuation: In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at The Professional Faculties Food Court. 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. 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

Readings are available on the course D2L site

Date	Reading	Topic		
Jan 12 T	Introduction to the course		Medical authority, medical practice and knowledge, the social construction of health & illness	
Jan 14 Th	Wertz & Wertz	Medical authority and medical knowledge		
Jan 19 T	Film: "Deadly Deception" Farmer & Campos, "New Malaise"			
Jan 21 Th	Berg Ryn & Fu	Practice variation, medical errors, evidence-based medicine		
Jan 26 T	Timmermans			
Jan 28 Th	Zola	Social construction of illness, medicalization, medical control		
Feb 2 T	Barker			
Feb 4 Th	Ehrenreich Frank			
Feb 9 T	EXAM ONE			
Feb 11 Th	Banks, et al.	Health inequality, political ideology and disease prevention	Social model of health, politics of health promotion, political economy of health	
Feb 23 T	Tesh, "Disease, Causality, Politics" Hahn et al. [skim only; not on exam]			
Feb 25 Th	Phelan, Link & Tehranifar			
Mar 1 T	Wilkinson Syme			
Mar 3 Th	McKinlay Film: "Frankensteer"	Political economy, environment, structural violence, and health		
Mar 8 T	Farmer, "On Suffering and Structural Violence"			
Mar 10 Th	Reading TBD			
Mar 15 T	EXAM TWO			
Mar 17 Th	Reading TBD	Canada's health care system	Health care systems and organization	
Mar 22 T				
Mar 24 Th	Bodenheimer & Grumbach Hacker	Other health care systems (UK, U.S., Germany)		
Mar 29 T	Gabe			
Mar 31 Th	Film: "Medicare Schmedicare"	Politics of health care in Canada		
April 5 T	Gladwell, "Moral-Hazard Myth" Roos et al, "Does universal ..."			
Apr 7 Th	Fraser Institute Reports CHSRF Mythbuster, 2005			
Apr 12 T	<i>Catch-up</i>			
	FINAL EXAM, DATE TBA			