

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Sociology 403.01**

**GENDER AND HEALTH**  
**Winter 2011**  
**Tuesdays, 6:00 - 8:50 p.m.**

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**Instructor: Carol Berenson**  
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**Office Hours: Tuesdays, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. or by appointment**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course invites students to apply a sociology of gender analysis to issues in health and illness. We will consider three recurrent themes as we read research from the gender and health literature. First, we will explore what it means to operationalize 'gender' as a concept in epidemiological research concerned with health disparities and the social determinants of disease. Additionally, we will consider the premise that knowledge about disease is itself a socially constructed, contested terrain in which women and men are differently implicated. Here we will examine 'medicalization' as it has been variously applied to men and women's experiences and bodies. Finally, recognition that both diseases and definitions of them play out differently within populations of men and women will have us consider how issues of diversity have influenced the gender research on health. Utilising these themes, specific issues to be looked at include access to health services, reproduction, cancer, body image, mental / emotional health, and sexuality.

The format for this course includes both lecture and seminar participation. This means that students are expected to attend classes prepared to discuss the readings. Your involvement in class discussions will not be possible without having completed the assigned readings, so this needs to be a priority for you in attending this class.

**COURSE OUTCOMES**

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Identify, define and apply key concepts that sociologists of gender bring to bear in researching health.
- Describe and analyse similarities and differences between and within women and men's experiences in the arena of health and illness.
- Demonstrate expertise in a chosen area of interest in gender and health by researching and reporting on an issue in the literature.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

Sociology 403.01 Book of Readings (available at Bound and Copied - the Student Used Bookstore in Mac Hall)

## ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Midterm Exam	30%	February 15
Paper Presentation	10%	March 22 & 29
Term Paper Due	30%	April 5, 6 p.m.
Take-home Final Exam	30%	Handed out April 12, due April 19

**Exam:** The midterm exam will involve multiple choice, short answer and/or short essay questions which will cover material dealt with in class including readings, lectures, discussions, films, guest speakers and handouts and/or blackboard postings.

**Paper Presentation:** Each student will present a brief (approximately 5 minutes) synopsis of their term paper in class. You will be provided with a framework to utilize in preparing and delivering your presentation. Students will be invited to sign up for a date for this presentation (I will determine the final schedule and resolve any scheduling issues that arise). It is expected that you will attend all presentations, and your own mark could be implicated by a failure to do so.

**Term Paper:** Utilizing a required reading from the course as a starting point, you will choose a topic of interest in gender and health that you would like to explore further in the sociological literature. The paper will be a maximum of 10 pages and outside sources may be included. The focus of this paper will be your ability to identify and utilize important literature in the field, apply relevant course concepts, and organize your discussion around a theme or thesis. Writing skills (including grammar, spelling, coherence and clarity) will also be relevant in this assignment. More details about the paper will be provided as the term progresses.

**Take-home Final Exam:** This exam will involve short essay questions that allow you to synthesize materials from classes since the midterm exam. I am primarily interested in your ability to analyse issues raised in the course by integrating course materials into your answer.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination:** No

### Grading System:

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- (60-62); D+ (55-59); D (50-54); F (0-49)

The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

### Deferrals:

If at all possible, you must provide *advance* notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test

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 deferred exam. Deferred exams 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 “makeup” 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 Sociology Department.

*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).

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Ethics Research:**

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends or 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. Term assignments must be returned to the students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours. If a student is unable to pick up his/her assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

### **Emergency Evacuations:**

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this class/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by the Food Court in the Social Sciences Building.

### **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, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than four (4) days after the first day class. **It is the 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 at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of 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 only be available for pick-up during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.

**Reading Schedule:** will be posted on Blackboard