

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Department of Sociology

Sociology 409: Social Determinants of Health
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 5:00-7:50pm, SA 145
Course Outline, Spring 2010

Instructor: Charlemagne Victorino
Office: Social Sciences 903
Office Hours: Thursday, 12:00-1:00pm
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Course Description

This is an advanced course exploring health in a social context. Broadly, the “social determinants of health” are the social and economic conditions that have the potential to shape the health of individuals and communities. Various items have been proposed and have been supported by the research literature in playing a role in health. Some of these determinants include income, education, housing, social exclusion, employment conditions, just to name a few. This course will showcase the relevance of social factors as determinants of health and disease, which factors in particular help explain health inequalities, and what social forces influence the creation of health promoting policies.

Required Texts

There is one textbook for this course:

Raphael, Dennis (2009). *Social Determinants of Health: Canadian Perspectives* (2nd edition). Toronto, Ontario: Canadian Scholars' Press.

The course textbook is available at the U of C Bookstore. There is also a copy available on reserve at the library.

In addition to the required text, several articles will also be required – all of which are available online and can be accessed through the U of C library website. Students are responsible for retrieving these articles – they will not be provided by the instructor.

You are expected to complete the assigned readings in advance of the lecture for which they are assigned. Doing so will increase your comprehension of the lectures and will facilitate learning the material.

Evaluation

Your final grade will be based on the following:

Assignment 1	15%
Assignment 2	15%
Midterm Exam	30%
Outline for final paper	5%
Final Paper	35%

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

A+ = 95-100	B+ = 80-84	C+ = 67-71	D+ = 54-58
A = 90-94	B = 76-79	C = 63-66	D = 50-53
A- = 85-89	B- = 72-75	C- = 59-62	F = 0-49

Course Standards

Deferrals:

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.

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 Sociology Department.

Please note that requests to defer term work past the end of a term go through the Undergraduate Programs Office (UPO) and must be processed by the deadlines that are established in the U of C Calendar. You can find the form you need at:

Deferred Term Work Form:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

You must submit this deferral form to the Social Sciences Associate Dean (Students) through the UPO office: Undergraduate Programs Office, 4th Floor, MacEwan Student Centre.

To make an appointment with the Associate Dean, phone (403) 220-8155.

Only the Associate Dean approves requests for deferrals which extend beyond the end of a term. Instructors are not involved in such decisions.

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: cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. 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, telephone 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 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

(This schedule is subject to revisions and will be updated in class if necessary.)

Week 1 - Introduction to the Social Determinants of Health

Monday, May 17

Course overview

Wednesday, May 19

- Raphael, D. (2009). Chapter 1
- Syme, S. L. (2005). "Historical Perspective: The social determinants of disease - some roots of the movement." *Epidemiologic Perspectives & Innovations* 2(1): 2.

Friday, May 21

- Raphael, D. (2009). Chapter 2
- Williams, G. H. (2003). "The determinants of health: structure, context and agency." *Sociology of Health & Illness* 25: 131-154.

Week 2 – Income and Health

Monday, May 24 – Victoria Day – No lecture

Wednesday, May 26

- Assignment 1 due at the start of class. (15%)
- Raphael, D. (2009). Chapters 3 and 4
- Mechanic, D. (2000). "Rediscovering the social determinants of health." *Health Affairs* 19(3): 269-276.

Friday, May 28

- Assignment 1 returned.
- Raphael, D. (2009). Chapters 6 and 8

Week 3 – Child Health

Monday, May 31

- Midterm exam (30%)
- Introduction to child health.

Wednesday, June 2

- Raphael, D. (2009). Chapters 10 and 11

Friday, June 4

- Special topics in child health.

Week 4 – Food and Housing

Monday, June 7

- Assignment 2 due at the start of class. (15%)
- Raphael, D. (2009). Chapter 13

Wednesday, June 9

- Assignment 2 returned.
- Raphael, D. (2009). Chapter 14

Friday, June 11

- Raphael, D. (2009). Chapters 15 and 16

Week 5 – Social Exclusion

Monday, June 14

- Outline of final paper due at the start of class. (5%)
- Raphael, D. (2009). Chapter 17

Wednesday, June 16

- Raphael, D. (2009). Chapter 18

Friday, June 18

- Raphael, D. (2009). Chapter 19

Week 6 – Public Policy

Monday, June 21

- Raphael, D. (2009). Chapters 20 and 21

Wednesday, June 23

- Raphael, D. (2009). Chapters 22 and 23

Friday, June 25 – Last day of lectures

- Raphael, D. (2009). Chapter 24

Monday, June 28

- Term paper due by 4:00pm. (35%)

June 28-30 Final Examinations