



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

Faculty of Arts

Department of Sociology

Sociology Department Home Page: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

**SOCI 419.11 – SPECIAL TOPICS IN THE SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS**  
**GLOBAL HEALTH**

INSTRUCTOR:	Kristen Chaisson
OFFICE:	SS 911
OFFICE HOURS:	TBA
CONTACT:	<a href="mailto:Kristen.Chaisson@ucalgary.ca">Kristen.Chaisson@ucalgary.ca</a>
CLASSROOM:	SB 144
CLASS TIME:	MW 13:00 – 15:45
PRE-REQUISITES:	SOCI 321 & SOCI 313

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

What does the term 'global health' mean? How is global health governed and how does global health govern? This course will explore the concept of global health from a sociological perspective and examine how international actors, transnational issues, evidence, measurements, and health services play a role in governing global health threats. Further, in this course we will explore the concept of governance, both legally binding and non-binding instruments, and how international actors such as the World Health Organization play a role in shaping and using these instruments. Through global health threats such as HIV, Tuberculosis, and Obesity, this course will identify the complexities of these transnational issues, and the complications of fractured national health services as global health tries to manage these threats. In this course, students will also have the opportunity to review current global health policies and procedures by the WHO and develop skills in policy analysis.

**COURSE GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- An introduction to the operations of global health,
- Developing an understanding of the study of the sociology of health and illness in the global context,
- Assess current global health risks, threats, and policies, and generate recommendations,
- Engage with critical health studies on the topics of evidence, measurement, and governance, and
- Explore health systems and the global demand for health care.

## **REQUIRED READINGS**

For each class, there will be 2-3 required academic articles assigned. Students are required to read the assigned readings *before* class and are to bring a copy to class, either in hard copy or electronically.

For case study reviews, news articles will accompany academic journals and international documents to contextualize the case.

All readings will be available online for download. If a direct link is not provided in the syllabus, then students can locate the readings via the library's website.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS**

A supplementary reading list will be provided for students who do not have a background in the sociology of health literature. This supplementary reading list will not be *required*, but it is highly recommended for students who have not completed SOCI 321.

## **STUDENT EVALUATION**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>% of Final Grade</b>
Participation	20%
Case Studies	21%
Short Essay	10%
Final Assignment Outline	4%
Final Assignment	45%

In cases where feedback will be provided by email, the instructor will use the ucalgary.ca emails available from the D2L class list. Students are required to make sure their ucalgary.ca emails are in working order and are responsible for checking their ucalgary.ca emails.

### **1. Participation 20%**

As this is a seminar course, participation in lecture is required by all students. Students will be asked to participate in lecture and are therefore required to keep up with required readings each week. Further, students will work on in-class activities that will be submitted at the end of lecture with the names of group members. Students absent from lecture / lecture group activities will receive a participation grade of 0 for that day.

### **2. Case Studies 21% (7% each)**

SOCI 419.11 is divided into 3 units; at the end of each unit, students will perform a case study of a health risk / threat that illustrates the lecture and readings of the unit. The purpose of the case reviews is for students use the lectures and readings and apply it to assess a health risk / threat case, review the health problem context and policies, and generate recommendations.

The cases include HIV, tuberculosis, and obesity. On the first day of class, students will be broken into groups and will work in their groups to answer the questions provided by the instructor at the start of the allocated case study work time. Case study work will occur on the last day of the unit and are due at the end of class.

***Completing case study work:***

To submit case study work to D2L by the end of the lecture, one member of each group must have an electronic device to complete and submit their answers. Groups may be adjusted to accommodate for all groups have at least one person with access to submit a document on D2L. Because bringing a computer or electronic device to class is not required for this course, a group can elect to submit handwritten answers to the instructor by the end of the lecture. To accommodate handwritten answers, the instructor will provide hard copies of the questions for submission.

Because case study work is completed during lecture time and is due at the end of the lecture, students are required to attend the lecture on case study work days to receive full marks. Absence without following the appropriate deferral procedures (see page 6 for instructions) will result in a grade of 0 for the student that misses the lecture on case study work days, and the group's work will be marked separately from the absent student's grade.

***Case study work days and due time:***

Wednesday, May 23, 2018, at 16:00 hours.

Wednesday, June 6, 2018, at 16:00 hours.

Wednesday, June 20, 2018, at 16:00 hours.

***Submitting case study work:***

Groups are required to submit the answers to their case study review on D2L in the appropriate dropbox by the end of the lecture. As stated, if a group elects, or has limited access to an electronic device, then a hard copy can be submitted at the end of the lecture. **Please ensure that all group members' full names are on the document submitted.**

***Marking case study work:***

Marking rubrics will be available on D2L.

**3. Short Essay 10%**

Students are required to complete a short essay following the first 2 units of the course. Students will be provided with a short list of questions and students will need to answer one of the questions. The list of questions will be available on D2L on May 23, and the short essay is due to the D2L appropriate dropbox on June 11. To give this much working time on the short essay, there may be question options that students cannot answer in full until the end of the second unit on June 6.

***Short essay due date:***

Monday, June 11, 2018, at 13:00 hours.

***Submitting short essay:***

Short essay answers are to be submitted to the course dropbox on D2L. Students are required to write their own and independent answers to the essay questions and are not allowed to discuss the questions with fellow students in the class. Similarities in answers are easily detectable, and any student misconduct will be recorded. While students are not required to have a computer in class for the case study work days, students will need to have access to a computer to write and submit the short essay. Handwritten copies will not be accepted.

***Marking short essay:***

Marking rubrics will be available on D2L. Comments and feedback will be available on Dropbox in the comment feedback section. If additional comments and feedback are required, then students will receive an email to their ucalgary.ca email available on the D2L class list.

**4. Final Assignment Outline 4%**

By June 18, students are required to submit an outline for their final assignment option. Students are invited to submit their outline sooner if you are available to do so. Instructions for submitting your outline are as follows:

- Students must identify which option they have selected.
- Option 1: students will need to identify their topic and narrowed focus, why they have selected this topic, the literature from the course they will use to contextualize and assess their topic, and preliminary arguments.
- Option 2: students will need to identify which policy / policies selected from the option 2 list, why they have selected this policy / policies, the literature from the course they will use to contextualize and assess their topic, and preliminary recommendations / arguments.
- Your outline should be approximately 500 words, and where appropriate you can write your outline in point form.
- ***Students will be graded on a pass (4/4) or fail (0/4) basis.*** You are strongly encouraged to complete this outline, so you do not receive a grade of 0, and the instructor can review and make suggestions for your assignment.

***Final assignment outline due date:***

Wednesday, June 20, 2018, at 13:00 hours.

***Submitting outline:***

Students are required to submit their outline to the appropriate D2L dropbox. Comments and feedback will be included in the dropbox feedback section. If additional comments and feedback are required, or if the outline appears incomplete, then students will receive an email to their ucalgary.ca email available on the D2L class list. Please ensure that your ucalgary.ca email is active and you have access. Students are recommended to review the instructor's comments and make appropriate changes or adjustments. The instructor will also recommend additional literature to help develop your final assignment paper.

## 5. Final Assignment Options 45%

### *Option 1: Topic Essay*

For option one, students are required to pick a topic covered in class to write their final paper. This option is a traditional topic paper that includes focusing on a topic, evaluating the topic, developing your argument, and attempting to convince your reader of your view. Mandatory sections for completing this paper include:

- Focus on a topic covered in class, such as evidence-based medic, health measurement, etc.,
- Narrow your topic to one concept or argument discussed in lecture, class discussions, and case study work,
- Outline this concept / argument and evaluate its relation to global health issues, and
- Develop your argument for your paper and remember to relate it back to global health issues.
- Papers have a strict word limit between 4000-5000 words. Marks may be lost if papers are below or above this word limit.

### *Option 2: Policy Analysis of WHO Policies*

For option 2, students are invited to further develop their policy analysis skills by focusing on *one* or a *set of policy recommendations* from the WHO. Mandatory sections for completing this policy paper include:

- **Students are required to pick either *one* or *one set of policies* from the list of WHO policy recommendations provided by the instructor. This will, therefore, include reviewing the WHO document / appropriate sections of the document to assess, contextualize, and develop recommendations.**
- Students must outline the strengths and weaknesses of the policy / policies selected, and identify if and why (or why not) changes are / are not needed.
- Students must identify the social context in which the policy / policies are relevant. For example, does the policy address socioeconomic issues concerning obesogenic environments? Does the policy address issues of tobacco use by youth in certain minority groups? The purpose of this section is to demonstrate the need for the policy / policies to address a specific health concern while identifying the social context in which this health concern exists.
- Students are required to identify the strengths and weaknesses of this policy / policies in the global health context. Meaning, is this recommendation helpful *globally*? Your interpretation of this depends on the policy / policies selected. It is recommended that you discuss this point in your assignment outline to receive feedback from the instructor.
- Papers have a strict word limit between 4000-5000 words. Marks may be lost if papers are below or above this word limit.

### **For Options 1 and 2:**

#### ***Final Assignment due date:***

Friday, June 29, 2018, at 16:00 hours.

***Submitting Final Assignment:***

Students are required to submit their final assignment to the appropriate D2L dropbox folder.

***Marking of Final Assignments***

Options 1 and 2 will be marked on the same point scale out of 100. However, the requirements will be adjusted based on each option. Complete instructions for the final assignment including requirements for sourced literature, etc., will be available on D2L by June 11.

**LETTER GRADE ASSIGNMENT**

A+ = 95 and over	B+ = 80 – 84.9999	C+ = 67 – 71.9999	D+ = 54 – 58.9999
A = 90 – 94.9999	B = 76 – 79.9999	C = 63 – 66.9999	D = 50 – 53.9999
A- = 85 – 89.9999	B- = 72 – 75.9999	C- = 59 – 62.9999	F > 49.9999

1. The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.
2. The quality of a student's writing is a factor in the evaluation of a student's work in this course.

**Late Penalty**

Failure to submit case study work, short essays, assignment outlines, and final assignments on time will result in students receiving a penalty of 20% off the assigned mark per day (prorated for part days).

**Completion of Assignments is Mandatory**

Except in the cases of documented illness, or extenuating circumstances brought to the instructor's attention at the earliest possible date, a student who fails to hand in a case study, short essay, or final assignment within one week of the due date, will not only receive a mark of "0" on that assignment because of the late penalty (see above) but will receive a letter grade of "F" for the entire course.

**Due to the case study work being completed during lecture time, each student's attendance is required for full marks.** Except in the cases of documented illness, or extenuating circumstances brought to the instructor's attention at the earliest possible date, then an absent student will receive a grade of 0, while the remaining group members' work will be marked separately. If a student provides appropriate documentation for missing lecture during the case study work day, then that student will be assigned new case study questions and receive a new due date for submission. *Scheduling conflicts such as other coursework or employment will not be accommodated.*

Absence from lecture will affect a student's participation grade in cases where documented illness or extenuating circumstances is not brought to the instructor's attention at the earliest possible date.

**How to arrange for deferred work at the end of a term**

**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 [https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred\\_termwork15\\_0.pdf](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15_0.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).

**IMPORTANT CONVENTIONS****Grade Reappraisal**

Within two weeks of the date of an assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal may submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of the mark. The instructor will reconsider the assigned grade and book a time to meet with the student. A reassessed grade may be increased, decreased, or remain the same.

**Technology Use**

Electronic devices are common in Canadian classrooms. While they can be very effective in assisting students in the learning process, they can also be very distracting if not used properly. Students are encouraged to reflect on how their use of electronic devices affects their learning and how it affects others around them.

**Email**

Before sending an email, please read the course outline as the majority of student questions can be answered in the course outline. Please email to inform me of something important, such as if you are sick and need to miss class, but outside of questions that can be answered with a Yes or No, students will be asked to speak to me in person. Specifically, questions regarding course content, student challenges, grades, or other personal issues should be dealt with in person during my office hours or an appointment.

Please follow formal email etiquette. Please write your emails from your ucalgary.ca account, include the course number in the subject line, write your email by starting with Hi or Hello, and sign off your email with your full name and student ID number. If your email does not follow email etiquette, then you will be asked to send your email again.

**Emergency Evacuations**

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at the ICT - Food Court. Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

### **Handing in Papers, Assignments**

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **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.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

### **Academic Accommodation**

Students who require academic accommodation because of a disability or health condition need to register with Student Accessibility Services (MSC 452, telephone 403-220-8237) in accordance with the Student Accommodation Policy found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy)

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 Student Accessibility Services and to request academic accommodation, if required.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than disability or health condition should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy)

### **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-5.html>

### **Student Representation**

The 2017-18 Students' Union VP Academic is Tina Miller ([suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)).

For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student's Union, please visit this link: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/>

You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact>



### **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.

### **Student Resources**

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>