

University of Calgary
Department of Sociology
Sociology 419.03 *Sociology of Health and Illness - Social Network Perspectives*
Fall, 2009

Instructor: Dr. Jenny Godley
Office: SS922
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Class Hours: T, Th 12:30-13:45
Class Location: SS012

* Please use email for administrative concerns only. Substantive issues should be addressed in person, either in class, during office hours, or during an appointment time.

NOTE: this course outline is subject to revision. All changes will be announced in class. Last revised September 3, 2009

Emergency Evacuations:

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by the Food Court in the Professional Faculties Building

Overview:

This course starts from the core concept that health must be understood in a social context. The course focuses on the use of social network analysis to explore the social determinants of health. We will bring research on socio-economic inequalities in health together with available studies of the effects of social networks on health. Empirically, we will examine available quantitative data on the socio-economic determinants of health in Canada and globally. You will then be introduced to the methods of social network analysis through an in-class research project. You will receive instruction in UCINET, a social network analysis software program. For your

final class project, you will develop a proposal which uses social network methodology to explore gaps in the existing literature on the social determinants of health. This course is heavily quantitative, and assumes a familiarity with statistical modeling in sociology, as well as a familiarity with the statistical software package, SPSS.

Text and Readings:

Social Networks and Health. Edited by Judith A. Levy and Bernice A. Pescosolido. 2002. *Advances in Medical Sociology*, Volume 8. London: JAI, Elsevier Science.

** Available for purchase at the U of C bookstore.

Academic Articles: All articles listed on the course outline are available through the University of Calgary library website (electronic journal subscriptions). You must download and read these articles before class. It is recommended that you print the articles, and bring them to class. We will refer to the articles in class, and you will need a copy of each of the articles to review for the examinations.

Book Chapters: Copies of all book chapters listed on the course outline (except those from the textbook) will be available for you to reproduce.

NOTE: there may be additional readings throughout the course. Information on these readings will be provided in class.

Requirements:

A. Reading:

Readings are assigned for each day of class. Please come to class every day having read the materials. Bring any questions or comments you have about the readings with you to share with your classmates. Please bring your texts to class, as we will refer to them often. Readings that are required are marked with an 'R.' Supplemental / suggested readings are marked with an 'S.'

B. In-Class Participation (Oral and Written):

You are encouraged to participate as fully as possible in classroom activities. Each class period may include numerous activities such as discussions, debates, presentations, and various forms of writing. Please take classroom participation seriously; respect your peers' contributions, and provide feedback as constructively as possible.

C. Exams:

You will have two written mid-term examinations. The mid-terms will each be worth 15% of your final grade. The mid-terms will be held in class. The mid-terms will contain a mixture of short answer and essay questions. Exams are mandatory. If you fail to take any of the exams, you will automatically fail the course.

NOTE: The only acceptable reasons for missing an examination in this class, as listed in the Deferral of Final Examinations section of the University of Calgary Calendar (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>), are illness, domestic affliction, or religious conviction. If you miss a mid-term examination, and you provide me with the appropriate documentation, you will have one opportunity to take a make-up examination scheduled by the Department of Sociology. If you miss the final examination, you must contact the Registrar's Office immediately.

D. Homework Assignments:

There are three mandatory homework assignments throughout the semester. Each of these assignments will be worth 10% of your final grade, for a total of 30%. The homework assignments will be handed out in class. Each homework assignment will involve data analysis and interpretation. You will be required to use SPSS and UCINET for these homework assignments, both of which are available in the Tri-Faculty Lab.

NOTE: The only acceptable reasons for handing in a homework assignment late in this class, as listed in the Deferral of Final Examinations section of the University of Calgary Calendar (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>), are illness, domestic affliction, or religious conviction. If you miss a homework assignment deadline, you must provide me with the appropriate documentation. Without appropriate documentation, you will receive a zero for that portion of your grade. If the documentation is acceptable, you will have one week to complete a make-up homework assignment.

F. Presentation:

During the last week of class, each student will present an outline of his / her final paper to the class. These presentations will be worth 5% of your final grade. You will be required to give feedback to your fellow students on their presentations. Your feedback will be worth 5% of your final grade. Details concerning the presentations, and information on providing constructive feedback to your fellow students will be provided in class.

F. Final Paper:

Your final paper is due at NOON in SS922 on December 14, 2009. Only hard copies of the paper will be accepted. There will

be absolutely no extensions to this deadline: NO EXCEPTIONS. Your final paper is worth 30% of your final grade. Instructions regarding the format and content of the final paper will be distributed in class. The final paper is mandatory. If you do not hand in a final paper, you will automatically fail the course.

Grades:

Your final grade will be computed as follow:

- Examinations	30%
- Homework	30%
- Presentation	5%
- Feedback on Presentations	5%
- Final Paper	30%

I will use the following scale to convert 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+ = 65-69	C = 60-64	C- = 55-59
D+ = 50-54	D = 45-49	
F = below 45		

The following description of letter grades comes from the University of Calgary Calendar.

A indicates superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

B indicates clearly above average performance, with knowledge of the subject matter generally complete.

C indicates satisfactory performance, with a basic understanding of the subject matter.

D indicates marginal performance and generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.

F indicates unsatisfactory performance, or failure to meet course requirements.

Policies:

- A. You are responsible for all the material covered in the books, in supplemental readings, during lectures, and during lab sessions.
- B. In the event that you have to miss class, you are responsible for getting the lecture notes from another student in the class.
- C. I will not distribute my personal notes to students under any circumstances.
- D. You may work with other students in the class on the homework assignments. However, all submitted work must be YOUR OWN INDIVIDUAL WORK. It is your responsibility to make sure you understand the definition of plagiarism, and that you avoid submitting any work that could be considered plagiarized. Students are advised to consult the University of Calgary Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with plagiarism, cheating, and other academic misconduct. (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>)
- E. Cell phones, pagers, blackberries, surfing the internet, checking email, and listening to music are disruptive to other students. **No electronic devices** are allowed during class or during lab sessions, with the exception of using a computer to take notes, conduct statistical analysis, or complete lab assignments. If you are caught using electronic devices for any other reason during class or lab, you will be asked to leave the classroom.
- F. There are no re-writes on any assignments or examinations in this class, and no extra credit work will be given. **I do not grant extensions, unless there is an emergency, as defined in the Deferral of Final Examinations section of the University of Calgary Calendar (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>).**
- G. If you expect to have trouble meeting *any* of the class deadlines, please make sure to discuss your concerns with me *before* the deadline.
- H. If you wish to discuss any grades in the class (on examinations, homework assignments, or labs) you must meet with me IN PERSON, either during office hours or during an appointment time. We will not discuss grades over email.

- I. The U of C Statement on Principles of Conduct, reproduced in the University of Calgary Calendar , applies to all work in this class. Please familiarize yourself with this statement.

Additional Information:

A. FOIP:

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 instructor's office, the department office, etc. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class or during the instructor's 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.

B. 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 the student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.

C. Plagiarism:

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as serious academic offenses. Students are advised to consult the University of Calgary Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with plagiarism, cheating, and other academic misconduct

D. Safewalk:

The University of Calgary provides a safewalk 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.

E. Sociology Web Page:

<http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

- F. USRI: At the completion of this course each student will be asked to complete an online Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) form.

- G. Research Ethics:
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.

Weekly Schedule: (Note, ‘R’ indicates required readings. ‘S’ indicates supplemental / suggested readings.)

Week One: Introduction and Review

T, 8 Sept. Introduction to Course, each other

Th, 10 Sept. Review: health as a social process

Reading:

R: Frohlich, K.L., N. Ross and C. Richmond. “Health disparities in Canada today: Some evidence and a theoretical framework.” *Health Policy*, 2006;79:132-143.

S: House, J.S. “Understanding social factors and inequalities in health: 20th century progress and 21st century prospects.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 2001;43:125-142.

Week Two: Theorizing the Social Determinants of Health

T, 15 Sept.

Reading:

R: Link, B.G. and J. Phelan. “Social conditions as fundamental causes of disease.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 1995;Extra Issue:80-94.

R: Rose, G. “Sick individuals and sick populations.” *International Journal of Epidemiology*, 2001;30:427-32.

Th, 17 Sept.

Reading:

R: Lynam, M.J. “Health as a socially mediated process: Theoretical and practice imperatives emerging from research on health inequalities.” *Advances in Nursing Science*, 2005;28:25-37.

R: Osler, M. “The life course perspective: a challenge for public health research and prevention.” *European Journal of Public Health*, 2006;16:230.

Week Three: Researching the Social Determinants of Health

T, 22 Sept.

LANDRU introduction

Reading:

R: Adler, N.E. and J. M. Ostrove. “Socioeconomic status and health: what we know and what we don’t.” *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 1999;896:3-15.

R: Krieger, N., D.R. Williams, N.E. Moss. “Measuring social class in US public health research: concepts, methodologies, and guidelines.” *Annual Review of Public Health*, 1997;18:341-78.

S: Feinstein, J.S. “The relationship between socioeconomic status and health: a review of the literature.” *Milbank Quarterly*, 1993;71:279-322.

Th, 24 Sept.

Reading:

R: Mulatu, M.S. and C. Schooler. “Causal connections between socio-economic status and health: Reciprocal effects and mediating mechanisms.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 2002;43:22-41.

S: Prus, S.G. “Age, SES, and health: a population level analysis of health inequalities over the lifecourse.” *Sociology of Health and Illness*, 2007;29:275-296.

Week Four: Researching the Social Determinants of Health, contd.

T, 29 Sept.

Reading:

R: Raphael, D., R. Labonte, R. Colman, K. Hayward, R. Torgerson and J. Macdonald. “Income and health in Canada: Research gaps and future opportunities.” *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, 2006;97,S3:S16-23.

R: Tugwell, P. and B. Kristjansson. “Moving from description to action: Challenges in researching socio-economic inequalities in health.” *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, 2004; 95:85-87.

Th, 1 Oct.

Mid term examination I

Week Five: Introduction to Social Network Analysis – Theory

T, 6 Oct.

Reading:

R: Wellman, B. “Chapter 2: Structural analysis: from method and metaphor to theory and substance.” Pp. 19-61 in Wellman, B. and S.D. Berkowitz (eds.) *Social Structure: A network approach*, 1997. London: JAI Press.

S: Wellman, B. “Network analysis: Some basic principles.” *Sociological Theory*, 1983:1;155-200.

Th, 8 Oct.

Homework 1 Due. (Conceptualizing and Measuring DV's and IV's)

Reading:

R: Scott, Chapters 1-2 in *Social Network Analysis: A Handbook*, 2000: Sage Publications.

Week Six: Social Network Analysis - Data

T, 13 Oct.

Reading:

R: Morris, Martina. “Overview of network survey designs.” Pp. 8-21 in *Network Epidemiology: A handbook for survey design and data collection*, 2004. New York: Oxford University Press.

S: Marsden, P.V. “Network data and measurement.” *Annual Review of Sociology*, 1990:16;435-463

Th, 15 Oct.

Lab

Reading:

R: Scott, Chapters 3-4 in *Social Network Analysis: A Handbook*, 2000: Sage Publications.

S: Scott, Chapter 5 in *Social Network Analysis: A Handbook*, 2000: Sage Publications.

Week Seven: Social Network Analysis – Data and Analysis

T, 20 Oct.

Reading:

R: Campbell, K.E. and A.L. Barrett. “Name generators in surveys of personal networks.” *Social Networks*, 1991:13;203-221.

S: Bernard, H.R., E.C. Johnsen, P.D. Killworth, C. MacCarty, G.A. Shelley, and S. Robinson. “Comparing four different measures for measuring personal social networks.” *Social Networks*, 1990:12;179-215.

Th, 22 Oct.

Lab

Reading:

R: Breiger, R.L. “The duality of persons and groups.” *Social Forces*, 1974:53;181-190.

S: Granovetter, M.S. “The strength of weak ties: A network theory revisited.” *Sociological Theory*, 1983;1:201-233.

Week Eight: Networks and Health

T, 27 Oct.

Mid-term Examination II

Th, 29 Oct.

Lab

Reading:

R: Part I: Social Networks and Health: An Overview (pp. 3-25)

in Levy, J.A. and B.A. Pescosolido (Eds.). *Social Networks and Health*, 2002.

Week Nine: Networks and Health

T, 3 Nov.

Reading:

R: Part II: Linking Social Network Theory to Disease Prevention (pp. 29-110)

in Levy, J.A. and B.A. Pescosolido (Eds.). *Social Networks and Health*, 2002.

Th, 5 Nov

Lab

Reading:

R: Part II: Linking Social Network Theory to Disease Prevention (pp. 29-110)
in Levy, J.A. and B.A. Pescosolido (Eds.). *Social Networks and Health*, 2002.

Week Ten:

Networks and Health

T, 10 Nov.

Homework 2 due (SNA I)

Reading:

R: Part IV: Risk Exposure and Social Ties (pp. 167-197) and
R: Part V: Network Ties and Disease Prevention (pp. 201-266)
in Levy, J.A. and B.A. Pescosolido (Eds.). *Social Networks and Health*, 2002.

Th, 12 Nov.

No class (reading days)

Week Eleven:

Networks and Health

T, 17 Nov.

Reading:

R: Part VI: Social Support and Health (pp. 269-358)
in Levy, J.A. and B.A. Pescosolido (Eds.). *Social Networks and Health*, 2002.

Th, 19 Nov.

Reading:

R: Part VI: Social Support and Health (pp. 269-358)
in Levy, J.A. and B.A. Pescosolido (Eds.). *Social Networks and Health*, 2002.

Week Twelve: Networks and Health

T, 24 Nov. *Reading:*
R: Part III: Methodological Issues in Network Recall and Agreement (pp. 113-164)
In Levy, J.A. and B.A. Pescosolido (Eds.). *Social Networks and Health*, 2002.

Th, 26 Nov. Homework 3 due (SNA II)
Reading:
R: Part III: Methodological Issues in Network Recall and Agreement (pp. 113-164)
In Levy, J.A. and B.A. Pescosolido (Eds.). *Social Networks and Health*, 2002.

Week Thirteen: Research Proposal Presentations

T, 1 Dec. *Student presentations; class feedback*

Th, 3 Dec. *Student presentations; class feedback*

Week Fourteen: Research Proposal Presentations

T, 8 Dec. *Student presentations; class feedback*

M, 14 Dec. **FINAL PAPER DUE, HARD COPIES ONLY, NOON, SS922 **NO EXCEPTIONS****
