

**University of Calgary
Department of Sociology
Sociology 601.82 – Sociology of Mental Health
Winter, 2010**

Instructor A: Dr. Alex Bierman Office SS 902

Instructor B: Dr. Jenny Godley Office SS 922

Office Hours: T, Th 12:30-13:30, **Office Hours:** M, W 12:30-13:30, or by appointment
or by appointment

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Telephone: 403-220-7566

E-mail: aebierma@ucalgary.ca
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Email:

Class Time: Th, 15:30-16:30

Class Location: SS902 (14 Jan. – 25 Feb.); SS922 (4 March – 15 April)

* 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 through email.
Last revised 15 January, 2010

Overview:

This course provides an introduction to the sociology of mental health, with an emphasis on research concerning body image, dieting, and eating disorders. Dr. Bierman will conduct the first half of the course, focusing on the history of the field, theoretical traditions, and current research. Dr. Godley will conduct the second half of the course, which will examine research in psychology, sociology and public health on body image, dieting and eating disorders.

Throughout the semester, students will work on their MA thesis proposals.

Requirements:

- A. **Reading:**
Readings will be assigned for each day of class. You will receive the list of readings for each class at least one week prior. 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 copies of the texts to class, as we will refer to them often.

- B. **In-Class Participation:**
You are encouraged to participate as fully as possible in classroom discussion. Please take classroom participation seriously; respect your peers' contributions, and provide feedback as constructively as possible. You will be graded on your ability to engage the readings and participate in classroom discussion.

- C. **Writing:**
For some classes, you will be required to prepare written answers to questions provided by the instructor one week prior. These question responses are due 24 hours before we meet. You may email your responses to the instructors.

- D. **Final Paper:**
The final paper, which will be a draft of your MA thesis proposal, will be due 28 April, at noon in SS922 or SS902. A full description of what is expected for the final paper will be provided in class.

Grades:

Your final grade will be computed as follow:

- Class participation / Engagement 25%
- Final Paper 75%

We 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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 are regarded as serious academic offenses. Students are advised to consult the 2009-2010 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.

H. Handing in Papers:

You must hand your final paper in to one of the instructors. The Sociology Department Office does not accept papers from students.

Schedule:

SECTION ONE – Sociology of Mental Health (Dr. Bierman)

Week One – 14 January

Week Two – 21 January

Week Three – 28 January

Week Four – 4 February

Week Five – 11 February

Reading week – no class 18 February

Week Six – 25 February

SECTION TWO – Body Image, Dieting, and Eating disorders (Dr. Godley)

Week Seven – 4 March

Week Eight – 11 March

Week Nine – 18 March

Week Ten – 25 March

Week Eleven – 1 April

Week Twelve – 8 April

Week Thirteen – 15 April

Final papers due: 28 April, noon, SS922 or SS902.

