

Sociology 601/701: Seminar in Aboriginal Health
University of Calgary
Winter 2010

Instructor: Dr. Cora J. Voyageur
Office: SST 906
Office Hours: Thursday
Phone: 220-6507
Email: voyageur@ucalgary.ca
Sociology Website: www.soci@ucalgary.ca

Course Description:

This seminar will focus on the understanding and application of Aboriginal Health in Canada. In this seminar-based course students will critically examine key determinants of Indigenous health, including basic concepts, theories, methods and ethical issues outlined in the contemporary Indigenous health literature. This course is based on an overview of historical and contemporary literature. The student will examine gaps in the health and social status of Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, and identify processes leading to these gaps.

Course Format: Individual reading course.

Course Objectives:

Students will be challenged to:

1. To provide a factual basis on which to assess issues and situations regarding the handling of Aboriginal health issues in Canada.
2. To identify and analyze the key components of Aboriginal health in Canada.
3. Identify theoretical frameworks for understanding how health and social inequalities are created.
4. Describe the key methods used to measure health and social phenomena among Indigenous peoples.
5. Think critically about how theoretical and/ or methodological approaches can be used to improve the health and social conditions of Indigenous people.
6. To become aware of the historical and contemporary policies, programs, problems, practices, issues and ironies inherent in the service of health to Canada's indigenous peoples.

Evaluation:

The assignments will be worth 100 points. Feel free to consult me if you have any questions or concerns regarding grades. Final grades will be assigned according to the University of Calgary's 4-point grading system based on the following percentage distributions:

Percentage	Grade	Meaning
90 +	A	
87 - 89	A-	
83 - 86	B+	
80 - 82	B	
77 - 79	B-	Minimal Pass
76 or less	F	Fail

The A+ grade became an official grade at the University of Calgary in fall 2002. The A+ grade is described as an honorific grade having the same grade point value as an A grade (4.0). It will be used to indicate outstanding performance in a subject area but not have a higher grade point average.

There are two components to your evaluation. They are:

i) *Proposal* 20%

Students must jointly submit a one-page research proposal that details the topic you plan to research and how you plan to complete the project. The proposal is due March 1.

ii) *Paper* 80%

You can make minor revisions to your class presentation and develop it into a research paper (25 page, fully-cited, typewritten, and double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, numbered, with 1-inch margins, and stapled). Your paper is due on April 16.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP):

“The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having student's 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 a student is unable to pick up their assignment from the instructor, they may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment”.

Research Ethics: Students are advised that any research with human subjects must have the approval of the Department of Sociology's Ethics Committee. Students **MUST NOT** undertake research projects with human subjects without discussing the topic with me and getting my approval to proceed.

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.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Using any words or ideas of another person without clearly documenting them is a serious academic offense. The University of Calgary is very intolerant of this malpractice. Students are advised to consult the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar> and familiarize themselves with the definitions and penalties of these malpractices.

Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades:

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. 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. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.

Required Materials: Students will tailor their reading list from a master reading list. Additions and deletions from the master reading list are required. A final reading list will be negotiated between me and the student.