



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 2246A-001
Sociology of Health and Illness
Fall 2016

Instructor: Lauren Barr

Location: M 10:30-11:30; SSC2032 W 10:30-12:30; AHB 1B02

Office Hours: TBD Email: lbarr2@uwo.ca

Without health life is not life; it is only a state of languor and suffering - an image of death.

Buddha

Course Description

This course uses a sociological perspective to explore health and illness and their relationship with social structure and social processes. Throughout the course we will address the conceptual and theoretical issues involved in defining, measuring, and analyzing health and illness from a sociological perspective. We will examine inequality in health and illness. We will look at the relationship between social institutions, such as work, and health. And finally we will discuss the process of medicalization and examine the social experience of illness, as well as the buffering effect of social relations.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Use their 'sociological imagination' and demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between society, health and the experience of illness
- Recognize and understand the impact of demographics in Canada and the experience of the social determinants of health
- Read, analyze and discuss academic journals assigned in class (online)
- Demonstrate clear critical reading, thinking and analytical skill through online discussions, examinations and written papers

Requisite(s)

Anti-requisite(s): Sociology 2245 or former Health Sciences 245.

Pre-requisite(s): 1.0 from: Sociology 1020, 1021E, 1025A/B, 1026F/G, 1027A/B

Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any antirequisite course(s) that they have taken. If the student does not have the requisites for a course, and does not have written special permission from his or her Dean to enroll in the course, the University reserves the right to cancel the student's registration in the course. This decision may not be appealed. Financial and academic penalties will apply to a student who is dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Required Text(s)

- Nancarrow-Clarke, J. (2016). *Health, Illness and Medicine in Canada*. 7th ed. Oxford University Press.
- Online articles posted as PDF files

Method of Evaluation:

In this course you will be given the option of choosing your evaluation process. You will have two options. If you opt to participation in the group project, you are actively agreeing to engage and contribute. If you do not like group work, chose the alternative option. More will be discussed in class.

You will be asked to pick your option by September 25th online. If you do not choose - you will automatically be added to option 2.

Evaluation Breakdown: Option 1

Online Participation	15 %	Ongoing
Midterm Exam	30 %	October 24 in class
Group Assignment	25 %	November 28
Final Exam	30 %	December exam period – TBD
Total	100	

Evaluation Breakdown: Option 2

Online Participation	20 %	Ongoing
Midterm Exam	40 %	October 24 in class
Final Exam	40 %	Dec exam period – TBD
Total	100	

Assessment Overview:

Online Participation: an early warning mark will be provided half way through, the final mark will be returned before the final exam.

This course is intended to be interactive, thus its success will depend on an active and informed discussion by everyone in the class. Your ongoing support of the course material and involvement in the discussions online are required to create an environment of critical academic reflection. There will be postings available each week related to the reading topics. There will also be open ended discussions available at all times. You are expected to be online both posting and responding to others each week. Your final mark will reflect your consistent participation, as well as the quality of each contribution.

Optional Group Assignment 25 %: Your group project will be to identify an area of interest within health and illness that has sociological significance and research as a group the issue / topic. As a group you will design an informative project. Your group will be given the freedom to pick your topic, as well as the format of your presentation. It could be a mini-lecture, an in-class presentation, a website, or any other creative / informative method you get permission for. More information will be provided in class on how this project will work online as well as in-class.

Midterm and Final Examination Each exam will be scheduled **in person**. They may consist of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions in order to test the students understanding of the fundamental health concepts.

How to Contact Me:

Email: lbarr2@uwo.ca (ensure you add the class course number in the Subject line). I will return a response within 48 business hours (Mon - Fri 9-5).

Facebook Messenger: ProfLauren Barr (can be used for virtual office hours as well) - same availability as above

OWL messages - same as above

Office: TBD

Important Policies

A Note on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking:

Students may be required to submit their assignments to turnitin.com on the class WebCT website after they are completed. These papers will be subject to submission for textual originality.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation:
http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western

(http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Course Schedule and Readings: will be posted on OWL at the beginning of class