



Western University
SOCIOLOGY 3308G

Work and Health Across the Life Course
Winter 2017

Instructor:	Daisy-Mae Hamelinck OCT, MA, B.A (Hons), B.Ed., SSWD
Office:	SSC 5319
Office Hours:	Mondays after class (by appointment)
Classes Held:	Thursdays 1:30-4:30pm
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Course Description

Work, whether paid employment or unpaid domestic labour, impacts all facets of life, including socioeconomic status, family, and well-being. This course examines the relationship between social structures related to work and health, both physical and mental health, throughout the life course from a sociological perspective.

Connections between work and health may differ from young to old age, and experiences at younger ages may set us on trajectories of advantage or disadvantage. Throughout the course we will pay particular attention to the ways social inequalities related to work (by class, race, and gender) produce differences in health outcomes.

This course will incorporate opportunities for experiential learning through cooperative learning techniques, in-class demonstrations, and in-class/online discussions.

Antirequisite(s): None

Prerequisite(s):

Third or fourth year standing in a module in Sociology, Criminology, BMOS. BMOS students must have completed 1.0 from: [Sociology 1020](#), [1021E](#), [1025A/B](#), [1026F/G](#), [1027A/B](#). Please note: Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- analyze and explain the relationship between work and health across the life course from a sociological perspective
- identify how sexual orientation, disability, race, social class, age and gender are intertwined with current understandings of work and health
- demonstrate an understanding of the key critical debates regarding work and health
- assess how meanings are constructed, reconstructed, and attached to the experience of work and health
- demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which social change affects work and health inequality
- apply key sociological theories to current news events and everyday life
- engage in reflective practice regarding individual experiences and decisions
- prepare an effective oral presentation that conveys key information in a narrow time frame
- write a paper that clearly utilizes class concepts and makes an evidence-based, sociological argument to discuss the intersection of work and health across the life of an individual

Required Textbook

No textbook will be used. See below for a list of readings. Options for accessing readings will be made available to you and discussed in class.

*Additional readings will also be available in hard copy or online.

Method of Evaluation

Grades for this course will be based on the following assessments:

1. Current events assignment/presentation (TBA)	10%
2. Mid-term exam (February 16th)	30%
3. Essay (April 6)	30%
4. Final exam- (April TBA)	30%

Evaluation Breakdown

Assignment guidelines with detailed instructions and marking schemes will be available in class and/or online. See below for a brief overview.

Exams

Exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and case scenario questions covering lectures, films, and reading assignments. You are responsible for all the material in the assigned readings even if this material is not covered in class. The final exam covers the material covered after the midterm and is NOT

cumulative. You will not be allowed to use any electronic devices during exams. Please write legibly. Answers that the instructor cannot read cannot be graded.

Essay Assignment

This assignment involves applying the sociological tools and knowledge that you gain in this course to understand the intersection of work and health in an individual's life. Papers must be at least 10 pages in length. I will provide detailed instructions in class and online. Unexcused late papers will be penalized 5% per day.

Current Events Assignment

Early on in the course, students will sign up for a date and topic for their current events assignment. If you are not present in class on that day you are responsible for contacting me to schedule your assignment. The assignment involves two parts **1) A two-page critical analysis** of a current events item of your choosing (obtained from newspapers, magazines, or internet news sources) related to the topic covered on the day the assignment is due (further instructions will be available). **2) A brief presentation** of the news item to the class on the day your assignment is due. A portion of your grade for this assignment will come from your in-class presentation. The written current events assignment is due in class on the due date. Unexcused late assignments will be penalized 5% per day and points will be lost for missing the presentation.

Expectations:

1. Students are expected to attend all classes as per the schedule and are responsible for all material presented in lectures and from course readings. Class sessions will include lectures, discussion, and in-class exercises designed to help you understand assigned readings. Lectures will often cover material not discussed in the course readings, but for which you are responsible. You also are responsible for the material covered in the readings, even if the material is not reviewed in class.
2. You are strongly encouraged to participate in class discussions and raise questions throughout class.
3. You should do the assigned readings in preparation for class on the date indicated on the course outline.
4. I use OWL regularly and will post there a few times a week, but if you miss a class, it will be difficult to capture the full lesson/experience based on only OWL postings. It is important that you have a study buddy who can assist you with information you may have missed, such as class notes/and handouts etc.

Note:

All written work (including exams) is expected to meet the standards of university work. Grades will be based on mechanics, style, clarity and diction, in addition to ideas. This is a sociology class, so the major focus will be on learning and applying sociological ideas.

Laptops and Other Electronics/Phones in Class:

Laptops and phones are to be closed during in-class films and student presentations. Laptops are otherwise permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or are being disruptive to other students, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class. No electronic devices are permitted during in-class graded exercises and examinations.

Note:

Due to the interactive and experiential nature of this course, there will be opportunities for students to use their phones and laptops to search relevant news items or take part in 'live' activities such as online course content polls or surveys etc. It is the responsibility of the student to respect these learning opportunities accordingly.

Missed Exams and Late Assignments

Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation only.

If you have a conflict with one of the exam dates, it is your responsibility to discuss it with the Academic Counseling office at least one week before the regularly scheduled exam and provide documentation of the conflict. If approved, you will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam. If you miss an exam date or the due date for an assignment due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, you must provide notification and documentation to your Academic Counselor within 48 hours. If your problem is medical in nature, you should be seen by your doctor on the date of the exam or on the date the assignment is due. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor's documentation, you will be allowed to write a makeup exam or hand in your assignment at a later date.

Unexcused late assignments will be penalized 5% per day (including weekend days). Late assignments are to be placed in the Sociology drop box (5th floor SSC) upon completion.

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 assignments to www.turnitin.com on the class website after they are completed. These papers will be subject to submission for textual originality.

Computer-marked multiple choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

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

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

Mental Health

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Compassionate Grounds

Serious Illness of a Family Member: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate from the family member's physician to your home faculty's Academic Counseling office.

In Case of a Death: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty's Academic Counseling office.

See Next Page for Course Schedule

SOC3308G Course Schedule and Readings

Jan 2017-April 2017:

Topic & Chapter Schedule

Week 1: Jan 5

Topic: An Introduction to Work and Health Across the Life Course: Through Experiential Learning, Cooperative Learning, and The Multiple Intelligences

Readings: Course Outline and OWL Information

Week 2: Jan 12

Topic: Introduction to the Key Concepts: What Do We Mean by Life Course, Work, and Health?

Readings: Raphael, Dennis (2004)“The Social Determinants”

Jackson, Andrew. (2005) “Why Jobs Are Important”

Week 3: Jan 19

Topic: Inequality in Health Outcomes Over the Life Course

Readings: Link, Bruce G. and Jo Phelan (1995) “Social Conditions as Fundamental Causes of Disease.”

Ferraro and Shippee (2009) “Aging and Cumulative Inequality: How Does Inequality Get Under the Skin?”

Week 4: Jan 26

Topic: Paid Work and Health (Part 1-Structure of Work, Job Stress)

Readings: Tausig, Mark, Janet Michello, and Sree Subedi (2004) “Social Roles: Worker”

Dobson, M and P.Schnall (2011) “From Stress to Distress: The Impact of Work on Mental Health”

Week 5: Feb 2

Topic: Paid Work and Health (Part 2-Emotional Labour, Work Intensification)

- Readings:** Smith (2009) “Emotional Labor and the Pursuit”
- Boyd (2002) “Customer Violence and Employee Health and Safety”
- Shuey and Spiegel (2010) “The Structure of IT Work and its Effect on Worker Health: Job Stress and Burnout across the Life Course.”

Week 6: Feb 9

Topic: Paid Work and Health (Part 3-Gender Differences)

Readings: Roxburgh, Susan (1996). “Gender Differences in Work and Well-Being: Effects of Exposure and Vulnerability.”

Week 7: Feb 16 **Midterm Exam**

Week 8: Feb 23 **Reading Week**No Class**

Week 9: March 2

Topic: Social Policy and Workplace Policy

Readings: Levenstein, De Laurier, and Dunn. “By Any Other Name: Brown Lung and the Social Recognition of Disease.”

Allender, Steven, Derek Colquhoun, and Peter Kelley (2006). “Competing Discourses of Workplace Health.”

Week 10: March 9

Topic: Retirement and Health

Readings: Marshall and Taylor (2005). “Restructuring the Life Course: Work and Retirement

McDonald, Lynn and Peter Donahue (2000). “Poor Health and Retirement Income: The Canadian Case.”

Week 11: March 16 **Work Period**

Week 12: March 23

Topic: International and Migrant Workers

Readings: Ahonen et al. (2007) “Immigrant Populations, Work and Health – A Systematic Literature Review.”

Hansen and Donohue (2001) “Health Issues of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers”

Week 13: March 30

Topic: Unpaid Work and the Intersection of Work and Family

Readings: Quadagno, Jill. (1999) “Caring for the Frail”
Gerson, Kathleen, and Jerry A. Jacobs (2004)
“The Work-Home Crunch.”

Presser, (2004) “Employment in a 24/7 Economy: Challenges for the Family.”

Week 14: April 6

Last Class Wrap Up, Essay Due, and Exam Prep

Week 15: Exam Week **Final Examination (TBA)**

Please Note:

Topic and chapter schedule subject to change. Please read the Agendas and Announcements on OWL for updates or changes.