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)**
- Online articles posted as PDF files

**Method of Evaluation:**

**Assessment Overview:**
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 online by May 21. If you do not choose - you will automatically be added to option 2.

**Evaluation Breakdown: Option 1**

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<td>20 %</td>
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<td><strong>Midterm Exam</strong></td>
<td>25 %</td>
<td>June 24 (exam centre)</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
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**Evaluation Breakdown: Option 2**

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**Online Participation:** 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 Assignment** You will identify an area of interest within health and illness that has sociological significance and research the issue / topic. You will design an informative project that you will post for the class in our Forums. Your will be given the freedom to pick your topic, as well as the format of your presentation. It could be a mini-lecture, a website, a Prezi, a video scribe or any other creative / informative method you get permission for. More information will be provided in our resource folder on how this project will work.

**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: SSC 5432

**Academic Policies:**

**Policies for Assignment Deadlines:**

Students must submit all work on time. If an assignment is late, there will be a 5% late penalty per day for up to 10 days past the due date. At that point, assignment will no longer be accepted. If a student anticipates an issue with an assignment, they are recommended to speak to their Professor and / or TA as early as possible.

**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:**
All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

**Policies on Examinations**
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.

**Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class:**
Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, 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. Recording of lectures or tutorials without the explicit consent of the Professor or TA is ground for academic discipline.

**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 519 661-2111 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.