



**The University of Western Ontario**  
**SOCIOLOGY 2247A - 650**  
**Sociology of Health Care**  
**Summer 2018**  
**online**

**Instructor: Lauren Barr**

Office Hours: on campus or on Facebook Messenger by appointment  
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"No social study that does not come back to the problems of biography, of history and of their intersections within a society has completed its intellectual journey."

*C. Wright Mills*

**Course Description**

This course examines how health care in Canada is related to social processes and social structure of the time. We will develop theoretical models for understanding health care sociologically, with a view to examine the current ideological and systematic limitations that influence our decision making and ultimately how health may be better promoted in Canada.

*Our course will be dividing into three main areas of exploration:*

1. Recognizing the Sociology in Health Care
2. Major Forces Shaping the Health Care System
3. The Challenges of Making Decisions and Influencing the Future of Health Care

Overall our focus will be on the interconnected nature of the challenges of delivering health care in Canada's uniquely publically funded health care system.

***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

Unless you have the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This 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** *At the end of this course, the student will be able to:*

- Use their 'sociological imagination' and demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between society, health and health care delivery
- Analyze and identify possibilities for improving patient experience, preventative health and working relationships within health care in Canada
- Write a focused, critical and poignant reflection on a selected sociological topic
- Read, analyze and discuss academic journals assigned in class
- Demonstrate clear critical reading, thinking and analytical skill through online discussions, examinations and written papers

**Required Text(s)**

- Nancarrow-Clarke, J. (2016). *Health, Illness and Medicine in Canada*. 7<sup>th</sup> 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 online by May 21. Instructions in our first announcement on OWL. If you do not choose - you will automatically be added to option 2.*

**Evaluation Breakdown: Option 1**

Online Participation	20 %	Ongoing
Midterm Exam	25 %	June 23 (exam centre)
Assignment	25 %	July 15
Final Exam	30 %	July exam period
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	

### ***Evaluation Breakdown: Option 2***

Online Participation	20 %	Ongoing
Midterm Exam	40 %	June 23 (exam centre)
Final Exam	40 %	July exam period
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	

### ***Assessment Overview:***

**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. 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.

**Written Assignment** (total 8-10 pages) You will be asked to select a topic related to our course and conduct research using journals. You will then find (at least) five articles that will be used to create a small literature review. Once you have created a summary of existing research you will find a gap in the research and identify how you might conduct research in the future on this topic.

Instructions with more information will be provided online in the RESOURCES section.

**Midterm Examination 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.

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