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 discuss 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 publicly 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)

  - I have had the publisher create a custom e-text for this text. It will be available to ‘rent’ early next week. This is significantly less $ than buying or renting the full text. When the link is ready, I will post it online.
- All additional material will be posted as PDF, audio or video files or as weblinks

Method of Evaluation

In this course you will be given the option of choice throughout your evaluation process. For most assessments I will provide you with a few options or flexibility. This will allow you to go through the course in a way that fits your schedule, your interests and your talents. **This will require some balancing on your part, several assessments are ongoing, so manage your time carefully!**

Take time to choose and think through options carefully so that you are able to be successful and make this course meaningful to you.

I will send out announcements long the way (at least weekly) to let you know what is coming up. I will also include all assignments in our calendar, so you should see them coming ahead of time.
### Evaluation Breakdown: Option 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation element</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Timing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Participation</td>
<td>20 %</td>
<td>10% each half</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Early warning mark posted last week of May</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Reflections</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Ongoing (total of 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 due June 14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 due July 26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>5% each * 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>25 %</td>
<td>July 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20 %</td>
<td>Online – available Monday July 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Due Thursday July 30</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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### Evaluation Breakdown: Option 2

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<th>Timing</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Online Participation</td>
<td>20 %</td>
<td>10% each half</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td><em>An early warning mark will be posted the last week of May</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Reflections</td>
<td>20 %</td>
<td>Ongoing (total of 6)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3 due June 14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3 due July 26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>5% each * 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment or Final Exam</td>
<td>40 %</td>
<td>You choose either assessment and focus your attention on it.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assignment due July 19 or Online Final Exam due Aug 6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
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Assessment Overview:

For each assessment, there is an outline and a rubric found online. If anything is unclear, please message me and ask! I do my best to be as clear as possible with expectations, but if you are unsure, please reach out.

Online Participation _ BEING PART OF OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY: This course is intended to be interactive, even though it is online. 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. The purpose of these online forums is to generate conversation, so keep that in mind as you engage.

You are expected to be online both posting and responding to others a minimum of 2-3x each week. These can be done at your own time, but you should try to spread your activity out each week (ie don’t post everything at the same time).

Your final mark will reflect your consistent participation, as well as the quality of each contribution.

Reflections: You will submit a 1-2 page reflection for 6 different weeks (3 first half / 3 second half). Critical reflection is an essential component of learning, meta cognition helps us develop awareness and higher-order thinking. This reflection will be a way for you to connect with material and share your thoughts about health care with me. General topics or questions will be given each week to consider. You are encouraged to be as creative and critical as you can be. You will submit these journals in batches, with half due June and the other half due in July. An assessment outline will be provided on OWL.

Assignment (total 8-12 pages) You will select a topic related to health care and conduct research over the time of the course. You will find (at least) six articles that will be used to create a small literature review. Once you have created a summary of existing research you will identify a gap in the research and propose how you might conduct research in the future on this topic.

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

Examinations:

Quizzes: Every few weeks a quiz will be available for you to test the information you have been asked to review. The exact dates will be listed in the weekly outline. Each quiz will be short, 20-25 marks and cover specific content (not cumulative). They will be timed, so once you begin, you will be required to complete them. However, they will be run asynchronously to allow for different schedule. Each quiz may include m/c, t/f or short answer questions.

Final Exam: The final exam will be released Aug 2nd and due Aug 6th. This exam will allow you to show what you know, why it matters and how to use this knowledge. It will be focused on application and higher order thinking rather than memorization, so when reviewing material, focus more on what is being said and why it matters rather than memorizing terms and facts.
Teaching the "Whole Student"

I am **always** available to discuss life with you. I do my best to create and maintain an inclusive environment. If you ever want to chat, schedule an appointment and let me know if there are external factors that are influencing your success in our course or just things on your mind that you would like to talk about.

*Also, the university offers support as well ...*

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

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 about how to obtain help.

**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 **Accessible Education** 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

**How to Contact Me:**

Email: [lbarr2@uwo.ca](mailto:lbarr2@uwo.ca) (ensure you add the class course number in the Subject line). I will try to 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:**

**Policy on Course Content, Online Behaviour and Technical Issues:**

- **All students are expected to be respectful online:** all students are expected to engage online in a professional and respectful manner. This includes all interactions with peers, as well as communication between TA’s or your Professor. Failure to do so will result in Academic discipline.

- **Recording of lectures or tutorials without the explicit consent** of the Professor or TA is ground for academic discipline.
Course content created by a faculty member is considered the faculty member’s intellectual property; it should not be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold by a student or other third party without prior written consent of the faculty member.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is 48 hours or less and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy are met. Two important exceptions to this rule: SRAs will not be allowed for final examinations or assessments worth more than 30% of a given course.

Students whose absences are expected to last longer than 48 hours, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 1 self-reported absence, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds).

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/Self_Reported_Absence.html

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

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 to discuss options.
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

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

Policies on Assessments Completed Online

- **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.

- **All assessment or examinations done online are expected to be done by the student registered in this course, following the instructions outlined by the Assignment.**