Western University

SOCIOLGY 3308F-200

WORK AND HEALTH ACROSS
THE LIFE COURSE
Fall 2021

Tuesdays 9:30AM-12:30PM, SSC-3024

Instructor: Vesna Pajović
PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology

Office hours: Tuesdays 12:30-1:30PM; Mondays 12:30-1:30PM (over Zoom)
Office: Social Science Centre (SSC) 5323
Email: vpajovic@uwo.ca
Zoom link: TBD

Course Description:
Work, whether paid employment or unpaid domestic labor, impacts all facets of life, including socioeconomic status, family, and well-being. This course examines the relationship between social structures related to work and physical and mental health across 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/ethnicity, and gender) produce differences in health outcomes.

Prerequisite(s):
Third or fourth year standing in a module in the Department of Sociology, BMOS. BMOS students must have completed 1.0 from: Sociology 1020, Sociology 1021E, Sociology 1025A/B, Sociology 1026F/G, Sociology 1027A/B. 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 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:
By the end of this course the successful student will be able to:

- Identify and explain the relationship between work and health across the life course from a sociological perspective.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which social change affects work and health inequality.
- Utilize class concepts to make an evidence-based, sociological argument regarding the intersection of work and health as well as variations by occupational and social location.
Expectations:
1) Students are expected to attend all lectures and are responsible for all material presented in lectures and from course readings. Class sessions include lectures, discussion, and exercises designed to help you understand assigned readings. Lectures may 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 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.

Required Text(s):
No textbook will be used. Articles are assigned weekly. A list of readings and options for accessing them will be discussed in class.

Method of Evaluation:
Midterm test (during class time, in regular classroom) Due: Oct. 26 30%
Essay Due: Dec. 7 40%
Final exam Dec. exam period, TBA 30%

Evaluation Breakdown: (detailed information provided in class)

Exams
Exams will consist of multiple-choice and short essay questions covering the lectures 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 the test. 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 minimum 12 pages in length excluding references. You may submit the assignment in one of two ways: 1) in class, as a hard copy, or b) by email, as a Microsoft Word or PDF document, due before the end of the day. I will provide more detailed instructions in class. Unexcused late papers will be penalized 5% per day.

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.
How to Contact Me:

Email is the best way to contact me. During weekdays, allow for 24 hours until response. During weekends, allow for 48 hours until response.

How to get important information:

Make sure to check the course OWL site regularly for course updates, cancellations, and other course-related postings.

Important Policies

Policy on Missed Exams:

Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation only. If you have a conflict with an exam date, it is your responsibility to discuss it with the Academic Counseling office as soon as possible, but no later than 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 (this includes make-up exams) due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, please notify me by email within 24 hours of the missed exam because I need to know that you missed the exam. You then 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. 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 make-up exam. Make-up exams and extensions for assignment deadlines 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 as soon as possible, but no later than 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.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work:

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a Self-Reported Absence (SRA) 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 2 self-reported absences, 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) to your Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

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.

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf
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: counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html.

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 submit to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).

Policies on Examinations:

You may not use any electronic devices during 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 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 Twitter, 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.

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

Instructor generated course materials (e.g., lecture videos, handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, share, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent.

Mental Health

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Western Campus Resources

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<tr>
<th>Psychological Services</th>
<th>Wellness Education Centre</th>
<th>Peer Support Centre</th>
<th>Student Health Services (SHS)</th>
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<tr>
<td>WSSB Room 4100</td>
<td>UCC Room 76</td>
<td>UCC Room 256</td>
<td>UCC Room 11</td>
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<td>519-661-3031</td>
<td>519-661-2111 x.87127</td>
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Course Schedule:

Details on the readings are provided in OWL. The following outline is subject to change.

WEEK 1: Sept. 14

INTRODUCTION to the course: content, assignments, expectations

WEEK 2: Sept. 21

INTRODUCTION TO THE KEY CONCEPTS: WHAT DO WE MEAN BY LIFE COURSE, WORK, AND HEALTH?


WEEK 3: Sept. 28

INEQUALITY IN HEALTH OUTCOMES OVER THE LIFE COURSE

Reading 1. Link, Bruce G. Jo Phelan, and P. Tehranifar. 2010. “Social Conditions as Fundamental Causes of Health Inequalities” Journal of Health and Social Behavior 51:-94. (available online through Western library) http://hsb.sagepub.com/content/51/1_suppl/S28


WEEK 4: Oct. 5

PAID WORK AND HEALTH part 1: The structure of work, job stress


WEEK 5: Oct. 12

PAID WORK AND HEALTH part 2: Emotional labour, work intensification


WEEK 6: Oct. 19

PAID WORK AND HEALTH part 3: Gender and work


WEEK 7: Oct. 26

**MIDTERM EXAM**

WEEK 8: Nov. 2

**Reading Week, No Class**
WEEK 9: Nov. 9

SOCIAL POLICY AND WORKPLACE POLICY


Reading 2. Allender, Steven, Derek Colquhoun and Peter Kelley. 2006. “Competing Discourses of Workplace Health.” Health: An Interdisciplinary Journal for the Study of Health, Illness and Medicine, 10(1) 75-93. (available online through Western library) https://doi.org/10.1177/1363459306058989


WEEK 10: Nov. 16

RETIREMENT AND HEALTH


WEEK 11: Nov. 23

INTERNATIONAL AND MIGRANT WORKERS


WEEK 12: Nov. 30

UNPAID WORK AND THE INTERSECTION OF WORK AND FAMILY


WEEK 13: Dec. 7

**ESSAY DUE**

EXAM PERIOD: Dec. 10-15