



The University of Western Ontario

SOCIOLOGY 2247A - 001

Sociology of Health Care

Fall 2022

Thursday, 2:30-5:30 PM, SSC-2032

In-Person

Instructor: Dr. Rachelle Miele (she/her)

Office Hours: Zoom, by appointment

Department of Sociology, Office: SSC TBA

Email: rmiele@uwo.ca

Western University is on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton Nations. In our class, we are working towards reconciliation by learning about the history, experiences, and cultures of Indigenous peoples.

Course Description: This course examines how health care in Canada is related to social processes and social structure. We will investigate how the health care system in Canada is organized to respond to health and illness. Various occupations within the health care division of labour will be studied. This will be followed by an examination of key institutions involved in the provision of health care, both public and private. Finally, the role of the state in the health care system and various strategies of health reform will be examined.

Prerequisite(s): None

Anti-requisite(s): Sociology 2245

November 12, 2022: Last day to drop a first-term half course or a first-term full course on campus and Distance Studies without academic penalty.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

Upon the completion of this course, you will:

- Have a strong understanding of the main issues and debates related to health care and sociology.
- Be able to critically examine and discuss how health, health care, and society are connected and intertwined.
- Make connections between health care and social locations.
- Refine your communication skills through class participation.
- Incorporate course material into class discussions, assignments, and exams.
- Make connections between readings and pose effective questions.
- Improve your communication, writing, and analytic skills through course work.
- Reflect on your own experiences and understand them in relation to course materials.

Course Materials:

- Nancarrow-Clarke, J. (2021). Health, Illness and Medicine in Canada. 8th ed. Oxford University Press
- Articles and other materials posted on OWL

Communication:

- Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.
- Please refrain from using OWL to contact the instructor as your email may be missed
- While I will do our best to answer in a timely manner, emails will be answered within 2 business days (not including weekends). Please be sure to use your UWO email only (other emails may be quarantined) and include the course code in the subject line.

Method of Evaluation:

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

Online forum posts (2 total)	20% (10% each)	Ongoing
Midterm Exam	25%	October 20
Research Project	25%	December 1
Final Exam	30%	TBA – December Exam Period

Online Forum Posts – 20% (2 total, 10% each), Ongoing

For each of the topics we cover, you will have the opportunity to respond to a prompt (a question, statement, video, podcast, news article etc.) posted on our OWL forum. In a paragraph of at least 400 words, you will be graded on how well you make connections to sociological theory, other course materials, and applying the knowledge you have gained from the course. You will need to complete 2 forum posts and these posts can be completed between week 2 – week 6 and week 8 – week 13. Forum posts are due before class the week of the topic you have chosen. Your post maybe a respectful response to another student. If you choose to, you may post as many times as you'd like, and your two highest grades will be counted. More details will be posted on OWL. A late penalty of 5% will be applied each day including weekends.

Research Project – 25%, December 1

On a topic of your choice related to the sociology of health care, you will have the option to complete your assignment one of two ways: (1) a written paper, 6-8 pages or; (2) a creative medium with a 2-3 page written component (e.g. a podcast, a series of TikTok videos, a mini-lecture; see professor to receive approval). For both options, you will research the issue or topic of your choosing and you will find (at least) four academic sources to help you complete your assignment. If you choose the second option, along with your creative medium, you will be asked to include a 2–3-page written component that connects your project to course topics/materials and your academic sources. Assignments are due before class on OWL on December 1st 2022. More details will be posted on OWL. A late penalty of 5% will be applied each day including weekends.

Midterm Exam (25%, October 20) and Final Exam (30%, December Exam Period)

Each exam will be scheduled in person (unless restrictions apply). They may consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Final exams will not be cumulative. Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam. Course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

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.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam. Course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

Student Absences:

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:

For work totaling 10% or more of the final course grade, students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible.

Absences from Final Examinations:

Students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible. Academic Counselling will determine eligibility to write a Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

Note: missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning:

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their

convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

All assignments must be submitted on OWL by the due date and time. Late submissions will be penalized 5% per day including weekends. If you need support or believe you will not be able to make the deadline, please contact your professor.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work:

Students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation in order to receive accommodation for missed work worth 10% or more of the final grade in the course. **All required documentation for absences must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.** Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons.

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. The student medical certificate is available at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Religious Accommodation: When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at <https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

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.

Accessibility Options:

Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). 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:

https://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.

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 (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

Mental Health:

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

Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: [Academic Counselling - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](http://www.uwo.ca/academic_counselling/).

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Date		Topic & Readings
1	Sept. 8	Introduction to the Course Medicine and Health Care: How do Sociologists Study Health, Illness, and Health Care? -Textbook, Chapter 1
2	Sept. 15	Experiencing Illness: Social Determinants of Health -Textbook, Chapter 4 & 5
3	Sept. 22	Medical Authority and Knowledge -Textbook, Chapter 8
4	Sept. 29	Medicalization and Biomedicalization -Textbook, Chapter 9
5	Oct. 6	Medical Education and Physician Training -Textbook, Chapter 11
6	Oct. 13	Nurses, Midwifery, and Allied Health: Separate but Equal? -Textbook, Chapter 12
7	Oct. 20	MIDTERM – IN CLASS
8	Oct. 27	Constructing Medical Objects and Subjects: Medical Testing and Patient Experience -Library: Shim, J. K. (2010). Cultural Health Capital: A Theoretical Approach to Understanding Health Care Interactions and the Dynamics of Unequal Treatment. <i>Journal of Health and Social Behavior</i> , 51(1), 1–15.
	Oct. 31- Nov. 6	Reading Week – Rest!
9	Nov. 10	The Pharmaceutical Industry and the Medical Industrial Complex -Textbook, Chapter 14
10	Nov. 17	Privatization and Medicare -Textbook, Chapter 13
11	Nov. 24	Complementary and Alternative Medicine -Textbook, Chapter 10
12	Dec. 1	RESEARCH PROJECT DUE Indigenous Health Care in Canada -Library: Struthers, R., & Eschiti, V. S. (2005). Being healed by an indigenous traditional healer: sacred healing stories of Native Americans. Part II. <i>Complementary Therapies in Clinical Practice</i> , 11(2), 78–86.
13	Dec. 8	Activism and Reform: What’s next? -Library: BELL, J. (2020). Between Private and Public: AIDS, Health Care Capitalism, and the Politics of Respectability in 1980s America. <i>Journal of American Studies</i> , 54(1), 159–183.
	Exam Period Dec.10-22	FINAL EXAM – DECEMBER EXAM PERIOD TBA