

Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

Fall 2021-22

Welcome to:

SOCI 3820 6.0 Sociology of Health and Health Care!

Course Format: ONLINE; week by week format with 2 classes per week

Class begins September 8 and ends December 7.

Fall Reading Week is October 9-15.

Please see: <https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/fw21> for other important dates.

NOTE: There will be no extension allowances for students who enrol in the course after September 8.

Please read the guide to 'Netiquette' provided on the course eClass page.

Make sure you keep track of Course Announcements that will be sent out throughout the course.

Required videos, etc, are found on our eClass. Make sure you follow it closely.

Course Instructor: Professor Deborah Davidson

Office hour, via course Zoom: by a mutually agreed upon appointment

My Email policy: Please contact me at myyorkcourses@gmail.com; include SOCI 3820 in the subject line. Your emails should to be clear and specific as to your questions or concerns. Generally, I will respond within 48 hours exclusive of weekends and holidays.

Expanded Course Description

In this course, we explore health, illness, and health care as social phenomena through micro (interactional), meso (institutional), macro (structural), and global lenses. To understand how socio-political forces along with identity shape our health, and the health care we receive, we examine social inequalities and sources of health disparity. After reviewing the theoretical and methodological foundations of sociology, we examine some key concepts and debates in the area of health and health care. Some key topics for include: the social construction of medicine; models of medicine; medicalization and the medical industrial complex; intersectionality as power, context, and identities; the social history of health care; health care work and professional settings; inequality and globalization; and health promotion and public health. Particularly timely, by the end of the course, we will have come to a better understanding of how global pandemics spread, how health status and availability of health care prior to and during pandemics is governed by socio-political forces far beyond the individual level.

Please read this carefully.¹

Organization of this course is via online delivery

Students are expected log in to our eClass site to access course materials. As a 6-credit fall term course, there will be two sets of course materials each week. Assignment completion dates are firm.

Course Objectives

Brief statement of the purpose:

The purpose of this course is to engage students in developing their sociological knowledge health and health care through micro, meso, macro, and global lenses.

¹ Please note that this syllabus is subject to minor changes.

Specific learning outcomes of the course, are to:

1. develop an understanding of the key concepts, research directions, and contributions of the field of sociology of health and health care;
2. think sociologically about health, illness, and health care;
3. understand the central social processes that organize broad health disparities;
4. understand and critically reflect on key features of how the Canadian health care system is organized;
5. become a critical reader of sociological research on health issues;
6. follow academic conventions when researching, writing, presenting, and sharing knowledge

Course Texts

The course text is *free* and available online at our EClass site, as will any required supplementary readings.

Additional readings may be assigned or recommended during the course.

There are also required videos and or Zoom presentations which will be found on eClass.

Course Evaluation		
Assessment	Date Due	Value (% of final grade)
2 Writing Assignments	Oct. 22, by 3:00 pm Nov. 19, by 3:00 pm	20% 20% = 40%
6 Discussions posted via Turnitin, by 3:00 pm; Optional post, by 3:00 pm <i>NO</i> late submissions will be accepted.	Sept. 17, 24; Oct. 8, 29; Nov. 5, 12 Optional make-up: Nov. 20 Posts close by 3:00 on their due date. <i>NO</i> late submissions will be accepted.	5% each = 30%
Final Exam during Fall Examination Week; done via eClass	Date TBA Dec. 9-23	= 30%
		= 100%

Writing Assignments

The first writing assignment of between 900 and 1000 words, exclusive of APA referencing, will assess your comprehension of the course approach and foundational ideas. The second assignment of between 1200 and 1500 words, exclusive of APA referencing, will assess your critical thinking and reflexive skills related to course content. Details of each assignment will be provided in advance of their due date.

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offences I will be vigilant about scrutinizing your work for academic dishonesty and will pursue appropriate penalties for all cases of plagiarism.

NOTE: text chapter and section numbers are required for all citations.

Citation: (Whatley & Davidson, 2020, 1.1) for Chapter 1, section 1

Reference: Whatley, J. & Davidson, D. (2020). *Sociology of Health and Health Care*. Toronto: Pressbooks, York University.

They will be uploaded through Turnitin. Please review assignment submission through Turnitin very carefully.

<https://uit.yorku.ca/student-services/technology-used-in-courses/assignment-submission-turn-it-in/>

Discussion Posts: Discussion posts will close to submissions by 3:00 pm on their due date. No late submissions will be accepted. Instructions for each post will be given in advance of each.

Discussion posts, APA cited and referenced, and submitted to Turnitin, are expected to demonstrate:

- Direct engagement with the weekly readings and eClass postings.
- An analytic and thoughtful approach to the topic under discussion.
- Clarity in expressing ideas and questions, and the ability to stay on topic.
- Avoidance of unsubstantiated personal opinion; that is, you must use course content to substantiate.

NOTE: text chapter and section numbers are required for all citations.

Citation: (Whatley & Davidson, 2020, 1.1) example for Chapter 1, section 1

Reference: Whatley, J. & Davidson, D. (2020). *Sociology of Health and Health Care*. Toronto: Pressbooks, York University.

Final Exam: The final exam will be held during the fall final exam period Dec. 9-23. The final exam will be done through our eClass site. You will be given 60 minutes to answer 60 multiple-choice, true or false, and one word answer questions which will be electronically graded. The content will cover the entire course material. To help you prepare, you will be provided with some study questions as we move through the course.

Absent, Late, Unhappy?

University level testing must be regarded with the seriousness that is their due, and every effort must be made to attend a test/exam at the scheduled time. Please be aware that students do *not* have an automatic right to sit a make-up test/exam. The provision of a make-up will be decided at the discretion of the CD, and only under exceptional circumstances. This decision is dependent on the circumstances that resulted in the missed test/exam. *Vacations, minor illnesses such as coughs or colds, your paid work schedule, scheduling conflicts with other courses, or having more than one exam on the same day are examples of rationales which will not be considered. The requests of chronically absent students will also not be considered.*

Unless you find yourself in an emergency situation (e.g. sudden unanticipated family emergency, automobile accident) it is your responsibility to notify your CD **prior** to the scheduled beginning of the test/exam. **Later requests will be automatically denied** and a grade of 0 allocated for the work.

As soon as possible, you are required to provide appropriate documentation. Depending on circumstances, this will include:

1. Medical Circumstances: An Attending Physician's Statement or Counsellor's Statement (downloadable forms) are available from the York University Registrar's website. Professors can require the physician or counsellor to support a student's medical claims. <https://currentstudents.yorku.ca/student-forms>. The statement must include the contact information for the physician, and (while respecting students' privacy rights) an indication that the illness has seriously impeded the student's ability to prepare for and sit the test/exam.

2. Non-medical circumstances: Appropriate documentation includes death certificates, obituary notices, automobile accident reports, receipts for emergency travel (with date of purchase and travel dates clearly indicated).

The Course Director will examine the documentation and make the final decision to approve or deny the make-up work.

Unhappy with a grade?

First, give your careful consideration to my evaluation/comments. Be aware that 'working really hard' at something is not sufficient grounds for a good grade. Be honest with yourself. Did you follow all instructions carefully? Did you give yourself sufficient time to study or to complete a project? Did you complete readings and attend and review lectures consistently? Do you have good comprehension of the course content? Are you able to convey your ideas in writing, clearly and effectively?

If you wish to challenge a grade, or simply want clarification, put your detailed rationale *in writing*. Be sure to have your written assignment and study/preparation notes with you and be prepared to submit it. Should the outcome of our meeting be unsatisfactory to you, you have the right to request a reappraisal of your final course grade. Please note that only written work can be re-evaluated. Oral presentations and attendance and participation grades can be evaluated by your CD. See: <https://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/grade-reappraisal-policy>.

York's Grading Scheme

The overall grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - <http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2010-2011/academic/index.htm>)

Students may take a limited number of courses for degree credit on an ungraded (pass/fail) basis. For full information on this option see Alternative Grading Option in the (LAPS) section of the Undergraduate Calendar - <https://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/pass-fail-option>

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents) - <https://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/CourseInformationForStudentsAugust2012-.pdf>

- Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Academic Integrity Website
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation

Criteria for All Work: For your success!

The use of grading criteria means that consistent assessment variables will be used to mark your assignments. After you have completed an assignment, check it against this list.

- Have you followed assignment instructions and requisites?

- Is there sufficient attention to grammar, sentence structure, paragraphing, spelling, vocabulary, and style? Proper grammar and spelling are fundamental to clear communication and to a good grade.
- Is your work well organized? See notes for writing essay style assignments. Is there a proper introduction? Is there a game plan that is followed? Is there effective use of relevant material/evidence from course content?
- Is there a good balance of description and analysis using course materials and concepts?
- Evidence of a critical/thoughtful/reflective perspective is required.
- Originality and creativity in ideas and/or content and/or presentation are considered.
- Direct relevance of the content to the assignment is necessary.
- You are required to use relevant course concepts and terms where appropriate.
- If appropriate to the assignment, what is the quality of the relevant literature used?
- Citation and referencing (APA as instructed), need to be accurate and complete.

Citation and Referencing Requirement for This Course

You are required to use the American Psychological Association (APA) citation and referencing.

You will need to see and review this site very carefully:

[https://www.library.yorku.ca/spark/creating_bibliographies/APA%20Style%20Overview%20\(Oct2,2013\)final.pdf](https://www.library.yorku.ca/spark/creating_bibliographies/APA%20Style%20Overview%20(Oct2,2013)final.pdf)

NOTE: text chapter and section numbers are required for all citations.

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You might think citation and referencing using is tedious! It may be; however, it is a necessary and useful skill to avoid the risk of plagiarism, another topic we will take up in the course. Think of it as the very careful following of a detailed recipe or chemical formula! Once you have the hang of it, it gets easier and it is part of your path to success at university!

Course Schedule

Refer to eClass for further details, including lecture slides and videos.

Sept. 8 Class 1:

Familiarize yourself with our eClass site and the course syllabus, and access your free course text.

Contact me with any or questions or concerns. myyorkcourses@gmail.com

Sept. 13-17 Classes 2 & 3:

Class 2 Chapter 1. Approaches to Sociology and Health

Class 3 Chapter 2. Research Approaches and Research Ethics

Discussion post #1 due to Turnitin by 3:00 pm, Sept. 17

Sept. 20-24 Classes 4 & 5:

Class 4 Chapter 3. Social Construction and Cultural Meaning in Health and Health Care

Class 5 Chapter 4. Models of Medicine

Discussion post #2 due to Turnitin by 3:00 pm, Sept. 24

Sept. 27 – Oct. 1 Classes 6 & 7:

Class 6 Chapter 5. Health Care Work I to the end of 5.13

Class 7 Chapter 5. Health Care Work II from the beginning of 5.14 to the end

Oct. 4-8 Classes 8 & 9

Class 8 Chapter 6. Health Care Policy and Systems A: Principles

Class 9 Chapter 7. Health Care Policy and Systems B: Applications

Discussion post #3 due to Turnitin by 3:00 pm, Oct. 8

Oct. 9 - 15 Reading Week

I will hold an eClass Zoom session for questions about the writing assignment during Reading Week. Students will be advised of the date and time.

Consider how you have done in the course thus far. Have you read each chapter and did you take notes? How did you do on your discussions and your written assignment? Have you carefully read my feedback and considered it? How can you improve your engagement with the course material? How honest are you being with yourself?

Oct. 18-22 Classes 10 & 11:

Writing Assignment #1 is due Oct. 22 to Turnitin, no later than 3:00 pm

Oct. 25-29 Classes 12 & 13:

Class 12 Chapter 8. Global Health Context

Class 13 Chapter 9 Natural and Human Environments and Health

Discussion post #4 due to Turnitin by 3:00 pm, Oct. 29

Nov. 1-5 Classes 14 & 15:

Class 14 Chapter 10 Disability and Health; Davidson & Khanlou article

Class 15 Chapter 11 Life Course Health Development

Discussion post #5 due to Turnitin by 3:00 pm, Nov. 5

Nov. 8-12 Classes 16 & 17:

Class 16 Chapter 14 Sex and Gender Health

Class 17 Chapter 15 Reproductive, HIV/AIDS, and LGBTQ2+ Health

Discussion post #6 due to Turnitin by 3:00 pm, Nov. 12

Nov. 15-19 Classes 18 & 19:

Class 18 Chapter 16 Health Disparities, Race, Ethnicity, Culture, and Socioeconomic Position

Class 19 *Writing Assignment #2 is due Nov. 19 to Turnitin, no later than 3:00 pm*

Nov. 22-26 Classes 20 & 21

Class 20 Chapter 12 Aging and Health

Class 21 Chapter 13 Death, Dying, and Health

Optional discussion post due to Turnitin by 3:00 pm, Nov. 20

Nov. 29 – Dec. 3 Classes 22 & 23

Classes 22 & 23 Chapter 17 Hot Topics:

Sociology of Mental Health and Sociology of COVID-19

Dec. 5-7 Class 24

Class 24 Course Review for Final Exam

Final Exam, during Exam Week, date and time TBA, Dec. 9-23