Medicine & Health in Modern Society

Sociology 225, Fall 2016
Wednesday, Friday: 4:05 - 5:25pm
McGill University – Currie 408/9

Instructor: Sarah Berry
sarah.berry@mail.mcgill.ca

Instructor Office: Social Studies of Medicine building, 3647 Peel

Teaching Assistant: Kimberly Seida
kimberly.seida@mail.mcgill.ca

Instructor Office Hours: by appointment
TA Office Hours: TBA
TA Office: Leacock Room 822A

Course Description
This course provides an introduction to the sociology of health, illness, and medicine in Canada. Students will explore theoretical and methodological approaches to these intersecting areas, and examine the social contexts within which individuals experience and interpret health, illness and medical care. Topics will include HIV/AIDS, breast cancer, mental health, and health care systems. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to consider the diverse processes though which socio-cultural understandings of sex, gender, racialization, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status – among other factors - affect experiences of health, illness, and medical care.

Course Requirements:

1) Exams: There will be two exams: one midterm during the semester, and one final exam that will be scheduled during the final exam period in December. **Students will be expected to attend the exams on the scheduled dates and times.**

The midterm exam will take place during the regular lecture period on **Wednesday, October 19th**. The midterm exam will consist of multiple choice questions only, and **will be worth 30% of your final course grade.** The final exam (date to be set by the University) will primarily cover course content after the midterm, but may also include any theories covered during the semester, and will be worth **30% of the final course grade.** The final exam will consist of a blend of multiple choice and short essay questions. (30% Midterm + 30% Final Exam = 60% of final course grade).

2) Paper: Each student is required to write one **8-page paper** on a topic covered in lectures or presented in the readings. You will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the course materials, and to use one of the theoretical approaches discussed in the introductory lectures to explore your topic. Detailed guidelines for the paper will be posted on the *myCourses* website. A **paper proposal worth 10%** is due **no later than Wednesday, November 2nd**, via *myCourses*. More details about the paper will be discussed during the semester, and guidelines will be posted on *myCourses*. The final paper is due **no later than Monday, December 5th**. The final paper is worth **30%**. (10% Proposal + 30% paper = 40% of final course grade). No late paper proposals or papers will be accepted.

3) Participation and Attendance: Regular attendance at lectures, and participation during class discussions is strongly encouraged. Lectures will not be recorded. If you miss a class, you should contact a classmate to obtain lecture notes **before** meeting with the instructor or TA to ask questions about missed content.
4) Conferences: Exam reviews will be held during conference sections and films may be shown during these times (see schedule for film dates and exam review sessions). There will be no formal conferences held during the semester, and you do not need to register for the conference sections. If you are unable to attend the scheduled film screenings, you may borrow the films from the library to view them. If you miss the exam review sessions, notes from the sessions will be posted on myCourses. Conference time slots will be discussed in class.

Summary of SOCI 225 important dates & deadlines for exams & assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Date/Deadline</th>
<th>% final course grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam (M/C only)</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 19th</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Proposal</td>
<td>Wednesday, November 2nd</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>Monday, December 5th</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (M/C &amp; S answer)</td>
<td>TBA (Dec. 7 – 20th, Set by University)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Required Readings:

There is no required textbook for this course. All required readings will be available via myCourses.

MyCourses/WEBCT: The SOCI 225 myCourses website will be updated regularly with important announcements and information about the course. It is very important that you know how to access the site, and that you do so regularly.

***Please Note: While it is unlikely that this syllabus will change substantially, it is possible that minor revisions may be made. While changes will be announced in class, it is your responsibility to keep up to date with the syllabus and the course materials. ***

Accommodations for Religious Holy Days or Sickness

No late assignments will be accepted for this course, and no make-up exams will be offered. Exceptions to these rules will only be granted in cases where sickness or religious holy days pose conflicts, and such exceptions will abide by McGill policies on these matters. In the case of religious holy days, students must inform the instructor at least two weeks prior to each conflict. Students unable to write a class exam or submit an assignment due to medical/personal reasons must notify the instructor as soon as possible, and submit appropriate documentation no later than one week after the date of the exam or deadline of the assignment.

Academic Integrity and Grading Policy:

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information). (approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/).
In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.” (approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 - see also the section in this document on Assignments and evaluation.)

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l’étudiant de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l’un des objets est la maîtrise d’une langue).

**Week 1: Introduction**

**Sept 7: Course Overview & Introductory Lecture: What is Health?**
**Sept 9: Introduction to Theorizing about Health: a case study & discussion (Kimberly Seida)**

**Required Reading:**
- Chapter 1: “Imagining Health Problems as Social Issues” in *Second Opinion*

**Week 2: Thinking Sociologically about Health, Illness, and Medicine**

**Sept 14: Historical Perspectives on Medicine, Health, and Illness: Miasma Theory**
**Sept 16: Biomedical Model & Germ Theory vs. Social Determinants of Health & Illness**

**Required Reading:**

**Week 3: Sociological & Social Theoretical Perspectives on Health, Illness, and Medicine**

**Sept 21: Classical Sociological Theorizing about Health, Illness, and Medicine**
**Sept 23: Contemporary Social Theory & Health: Identity & Embodiment (Part 1 of 4)**

**Required Reading:**
- Chapter 2: “Theorizing Health: Major Theoretical Perspectives in Health Sociology” in *Second Opinion* (pp. 23 – 43)
**Week 4: Social Theoretical Perspectives on Health, Illness, and Medicine**

**Sept 28:** Contemporary Social Theory & Health: Identity & Embodiment (Part 2 of 4)
**Sept 30:** Contemporary Social Theory & Health: Identity & Embodiment (Part 3 of 4)

**Conference: And The Band Played On (film)**

Required Reading:

**Week 5: Social Theoretical Perspectives on Health, Illness, and Medicine**

**October 5:** Contemporary Social Theory & Health: Identity & Embodiment (Part 4 of 4)
**October 7:** Contemporary Social Theory & Health: Power Relations & Complex Systems (Part 1 of 3)

Required Reading:

**Week 6: Social Theoretical Perspectives on Health, Illness, and Medicine**

**October 12:** Contemporary Social Theory & Health: Power Relations & Complex Systems (Part 2 of 3)
**October 14:** Contemporary Social Theory & Health: Power Relations & Complex Systems (Part 3 of 3)

Required Reading:

**Week 7: Socioeconomic Status, Income Inequality & Health**

**Oct 19:** Midterm Exam: (in-class; covers all content from Sept 7 – Oct. 14)
**Oct 21:** Socioeconomic Status, Income Inequality & Health

Required Reading:
Week 8: Environment(s) & Health

Oct 26: Environments & Health

Oct 28: Occupations, Work, and Health

Required reading:


Week 9: Homelessness, Poverty, Substance Use & Marginality

Nov 2: Homelessness, Poverty, Substance Use & Marginality (**Paper Proposal due today**)

Nov 4: Homelessness in Montréal, Québec: A Case Study

Required Reading:


Week 10: Mental Health & Illness

Nov 9: Mental Health & Illness: Theories of Causation & Treatment (Part 1 of 2)

Nov 11: Mental Health & Illness: Stigma (Part 2 of 2)

Required Reading:


Week 11: Media and Health; Food & Health

Nov. 16: Media & Health

Nov. 18: Food & Health

Required Reading:

Week 12: Health Care Systems; Division of Labour in Health Care & Medicine

Nov. 23: Health Care Systems: Global & Canadian Perspectives
Nov 25: Health Care Systems: Division of Labour (Medicine & Nursing)

Conference: The Business of Being Born (film)

Required Reading:

Week 13: Division of Labour in Health & Medicine (Midwifery); Aging & End of Life

Nov 30: Midwifery, Childbirth, and Postpartum Care (Part 1)
Dec 2: Midwifery, Childbirth, and Postpartum Care (Part 2)

Conference: Final Exam Review

Required Reading:

Monday, December 5th: Final Papers Due today via myCourses (no later than 11:59 pm)