



Course Syllabus

SOC309Y1Y

HIV/AIDS: Social Policies and Programs

Fall 2012

Professor

Dr. Robert Travers

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Teaching Assistant

Alexandra Rodney (PhD Candidate/Department of Sociology)

Office Hours - By appointment – use the course email account to arrange directly with TA

Course Time and Location

Fridays, 9:00 – 11:00 am

September 14, 2012 – April 5, 2012

Room SS2117 (Sid Smith 2117)

Course Email: soc309fall2012@gmail.com

Use **ONLY** this email address for communication with the TA or Professor – emails to any other email address will **NOT** be answered.

Course Description

As bio-medical phenomena, HIV is but a mere virus and AIDS a constellation of illnesses. Their social meanings, however, have been shaped by the contexts in which HIV/AIDS emerged - the highly moralized and conservative, neo-liberal milieu of the 1980s. HIV has become a 'disease of blame' – the heightened moralized meanings associated with it are evident in the social exclusion experienced by those deemed 'at-risk' as well as people already infected. Noted Canadian Sociologist, Dr. Barry Adam, stated that 'HIV disturbs everyday life...indeed the burdens associated with the social aspects of AIDS and HIV may outweigh physical problems for many people coping with immunodeficiency syndrome.' The social responses to HIV/AIDS offer rich ground for the study of sociological concepts – including power, neoliberalism and individualism, stigma, health and morality, blame, and forms of social exclusion. HIV/AIDS: Social Policies and Programs will critically examine the social meanings attached to HIV/AIDS, early and contemporary responses to the disease; early public hysteria toward the disease; institutional responses (including government, public health and the law) to the epidemic; the social processes by which some groups become more vulnerable to infection than others; and the 'lived experience' of people and communities living with and combating HIV/AIDS. Through a combination of lectures, guest speakers, and film, this course will cover political, social, cultural, and personal aspects of HIV. The course encourages reflective and critical learning. Due to the nature of this course (i.e. the inclusion of guest speakers), this syllabus may be subject to occasional revisions. Notice will be given in the event that this occurs.

Course Prerequisite

The prerequisite to take this course is completion of a 200 level course in Sociology. Without exception, students who do not have this prerequisite will be removed at any time without notice.

Required Readings

Travers, R. (2012). *HIV/AIDS: Social Policies and Programs Reading Package*.
available for pick-up at the University of Toronto Bookstore

****** Other readings will be assigned from time to time ******

Effective learning typically requires having read the materials prior to class discussion. Your readings have been collated into a complete reader available for purchase from the University of Toronto Bookstore. Please pace your reading in relation to the time schedule so that you are available to participate in class discussions. Unless otherwise specified, you will be responsible for knowing all of the listed readings, as well as any announced during class, or posted to the course Blackboard page.

Lectures

Lectures include a significant amount of material from outside of the readings. While PowerPoint slides are posted to the course web page under 'course documents,' lecture notes are **NOT**.

Attendance

Although there is no formal attendance policy (other than for exams), participation is strongly encouraged. Consistently, students who attend all classes, tend to do the best in university courses (in my classes, up to 15% higher than those who miss classes). If you miss materials handed out in class or any announced modifications to the syllabus, it is **your** responsibility to get this information from other students or from the course web page. Your Professor and course TA will **NOT** provide you with materials that you miss – please **do not ask** for materials to be e-mailed to you. Any relevant course materials will always be made available through Blackboard.

Promptness

Class will begin at 9:10 a.m. **SHARP** and will end at 10:50 a.m. Coming late is disruptive to your fellow students and disrespectful to the professor and/or guest speakers - so **PLEASE** do not be late for this class. **If there is a pattern with late arrival to class, it will be addressed with you individually.** If you arrive late for some reason, please enter the class quietly through the back doors. If you are late for an exam, the relevant time will be deducted from your time available to write.

E-mail Messages

Given the large size of the class, please limit e-mail correspondence **ONLY** to items of significant importance. Do not email questions that are more appropriate for class or that are already addressed in the syllabus – these will not be answered. All other emails will be answered within 24 hours **with the exception** of those received on Fridays (these will be answered on Mondays or the next business day if the Monday is a holiday).

Course Assignments

1. **Tests (85%)** There will be **three** tests in this course – two each worth 30% and one 25% of your final grade. Tests are **NOT** cumulative and they include content from course readings, lecture material, films, and guest speakers. Tests **will be** comprised of multiple choice and/or true/false questions. All tests will be taken during class time. If you miss a test, you must inform **through the course email account** the Professor and/or Teaching Assistants **THE DAY OF THE TEST** (not later) and you must provide the appropriate medical documentation (within one week) and you must follow-up with the TA (within two days) to receive a re-write date.
2. **Small Group Presentations/Annotated Bibliography (15%)** For this assignment, you will work in **pre-assigned** groups of up to 7 (no less than 6) students. You will be assigned a topic and you will draw upon core course concepts, readings and lectures to prepare your presentation (in addition to the resources in the Annotated Bibliography discussed below). Your group will provide a brief presentation (12 - 14 minutes) to the class.
 - **Annotated Bibliography:** The annotated bibliography should include brief critical summaries of 2 academic documents (per group member). These should include scholarly articles, book chapters, documentaries, books, etc., **OUTSIDE OF THE COURSE MATERIAL** that are relevant to your group's presentation topic. Each summary should include the title of the document, properly referenced, and up to a full page of discussion (1 – 1.5 spacing). In the first half of the annotation you should critically outline the key points made in the document and in the second half you should comment on the relevance of the document to your presentation. Your discussion of the documents must be situated in the larger context of/linked back to the course material/concepts (in other words, avoid simply describing the contents of the piece). Please include the title of your presentation (and the group members' names) on the cover page of the annotations. Hand in a hard copy of the presentation and annotated bibliography the day of your presentation.

Grading

Term Test I (25%)	October 26, 2012
Term Test II (30%).....	January 11, 2013
Term Test III (30%).....	March 8, 2013
Small Groups Presentations (15%).....	March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 2013

Late Penalty - Only under exceptional circumstances will assignments will be accepted after the due dates. Exceptional circumstances include serious illness or death in the family; appropriate outside documentation includes, U of T Medical Certificate, GP's note, or a letter from your Registrar (these are the **ONLY** forms of documentation accepted). In order for an extension to be considered, **you must contact the Professor at least 24 hours prior to the due date.**

The following are **NOT** considered reasonable excuses for an extension on an assignment:

- 'Other assignments (or exams) are due on the same day' – it is advisable to monitor your time and course commitments closely. Effective planning will go a long way in balancing the demands that you face as senior undergraduate students.
- 'Computer glitches' – it is advisable to back up all assignments on a USB stick and to print out two copies – **keep one for yourself and hand the other in (it is also good to email yourself a copy of your assignment in the event you lose it).**

N.B. You are responsible for retaining copies of your assignments until you have received the marked assignments back. This is strictly enforced. **If we can't find your assignment, it is your responsibility to hand in another copy or you will receive a zero.**

Accessibility

Accessibility Needs The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism - From the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters: It shall be an offence for a student knowingly: *(d) to represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism.* We have had a growing number of cases of plagiarism in the past few years and the consequences for some students have been very serious. To avoid this unpleasant situation be sure to review the document "How Not to Plagiarize," available on-line at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

Turnitin.com

To deter and detect plagiarism, this course may make use of the turnitin.com system. In addition to submitting a hard copy of the annotated bibliography in class on the due date, each student must upload the assignment to Turnitin.com. Students agree that by taking this course all required written materials may be subject to textual similarity review to detect plagiarism. All submitted materials will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Grading

The Faculty of Arts and Science has outlined the following criteria for letter grades:

<p>A (Excellent): Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.</p> <p>B (Good): Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.</p> <p>C (Adequate): Student who is profiting from his/her university experience; understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.</p> <p>D (Marginal): Some evidence of familiarity with subject matter and some evidence that critical and analytic skills have been developed.</p> <p>E (Inadequate): Evidence of familiarity with only some subject matter; presence of some critical and analytic skills.</p> <p>F (Wholly Inadequate): Little evidence of even superficial understanding of subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; with limited or irrelevant use of literature.</p>
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SOC309Y1 – HIV/AIDS: Social Policies and Programs - Fall/Winter 2012/2013 Lecture Schedule		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Lecturer</u>
September 14	Course Introduction	Dr. Travers
September 21	AIDS 101: The 'Basics'	Jess Abraham, Sexual Health Promoter,
September 28	Early Crisis, Moral Panic: The 1980s	Dr. Travers
October 5	Early Crisis, Moral Panic II: The 1980s	Dr. Travers Documentary Part 1 – The A
October 12	AIDS & Neoliberalism: A New Moral Panic	Dr. Travers
October 19	Social Determinants of Health: Risk vs. Vulnerability	Dr. Travers
October 26	Term Test I	25%
November 2	Power, Empowerment and AIDS Activism	Tim McCaskell, AAN!
November 9	Power, Stigma and HIV	Dr. Travers
November 16	Science vs. Ideology: Harm Reduction & HIV/AIDS	Dr. Carol Strike, Dalla Lana School of P
November 23	The 'Criminalization' of HIV Infection in Canada	Alison Symington, LLB, HIV/AIDS Leg
November 30	Harm Reduction Policy: Prisoners and HIV	Mooky Cherian, PASAN
Holiday Break	Holiday Break	Holiday Break
January 11	Term Test II	30%
January 18	Power: A Gendered View of HIV	Louise Binder, LLB
January 25	Social Exclusion: Race, Ethnicity and HIV	Wangari Tharao, Women's Health in Wo
February 1	Canada's Immigration Policies and HIV/AIDS	Maureen Owino, Committee for Accessi
February 8	Social Exclusion: Aboriginal Peoples and HIV	Doris O'Brien-Teengs, Ontario Aborigin
February 15	Stigma & Resiliency	Dr. Travers Documentary: Leading Toge
February 22	Reading Week	Reading Week
March 1	Stigma and Power	Dr Travers Documentary: Positive Wom
March 8	Test III	30%
March 15	Small Group Presentations	15%
March 22	Small Group Presentations	
March 29	Small Group Presentations	
April 5	Small Group Presentations	