Soc 6022H. Sociology of Health: Population Health

Fall 2018

Instructor: Brent Berry (brent.berry@utoronto.ca), 725 Spadina Ave (office 366)

Seminar location: Wednesdays 4:30-6:30, Room 240 of the Sociology Department

Office Hours: email to set up an appointment

Summary

This is a graduate-level course on population health. The course will begin with an introduction to demography and its relevance to the study of population health and mortality. The research studies and readings assigned deal with health-related issues and perspectives that will also familiarize you with demographic data and techniques. Topic areas include research at the intersection of population health and socioeconomic status, age/cohort, lifecourse, gender, race/ethnicity, immigration, social contexts, health behaviors, and the socio-spatial distribution of health and mortality. We will also discuss problems of causation and selection in population health.

Grades will be determined from four components -- contributing to in-class discussion (15%), submitting one-page reactions on Tuesday before each class (15%), preparing and guiding one week’s discussion (15%), and completing a research project on an approved topic (55%). We may change the above depending on enrollment.

Readings and Class Discussion

Each class has three to four required readings. Please be ready to discuss them in class. The readings can be downloaded from a website provided by the instructor. Many of the readings are also on the health/mental health comprehensive exam reading list.

Evaluation

All participants should be prepared to discuss that readings in class. Contributing to our weekly classes through discussion, submitting reaction papers, and guiding one week’s material is important to our collective learning goals. You will also have an opportunity to develop a paper on an approved topic. The goal for the project is to pose and answer a research question in population health. Part of our discussion in class will focus on your research project, seeking to relate your research interests to the course material. The instructor will discuss project options in class. Late work will not be accepted unless there are legitimate, documented reasons beyond a
student’s control.

**Academic Integrity Clause**

Copying, plagiarizing, falsifying medical certificates, or other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Any student caught engaging in such activities will be referred to the Dean’s office for adjudication. Any student abetting or otherwise assisting in such misconduct will also be subject to academic penalties. Students are expected to cite sources in all written work and presentations. See this link for tips for how to use sources well: (http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize).

According to Section B.I.1.(e) of the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters it is an offence "to submit, without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere."

By enrolling in this course, you agree to abide by the university’s rules regarding academic conduct, as outlined in the Calendar. You are expected to be familiar with the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/The-rules/code/the-code-of-behaviour-on-academic-matters) and Code of Student Conduct (http://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/publicationsandpolicies/codeofstudentconduct.htm) which spell out your rights, your duties and provide all the details on grading regulations and academic offences at the University of Toronto.

**Accessibility Services**

It is the University of Toronto's goal to create a community that is inclusive of all persons and treats all members of the community in an equitable manner. In creating such a community, the University aims to foster a climate of understanding and mutual respect for the dignity and worth of all persons. Please see the University of Toronto Governing Council “Statement of Commitment Regarding Persons with Disabilities” at http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppnov012004.pdf.

**Equity and Diversity Statement**

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Additional information and reports on Equity and Diversity at the University of
Schedule of Week by Week Topics

1. Introduction
No readings

2. Demography, Mortality and Population Health

3. Mortality, Longevity, and Lifespan

4. Social Contexts of Population Health -- Social Epidemiology
5. Social Contexts of Population Health -- Explanations and Debates

6. Causation and Selection Issues in Population Health

7. Socioeconomic Status and Health

Supplemental:


8. Gender, Sexuality, and Population Health


Supplemental Readings for Gender, Sexuality, and Population Health


9. Age and Cohort


10. The Lifecourse


11. Race, Ethnicity & Immigration


Supplemental readings – Race, Ethnicity & Immigration


12. Neighborhood and Social/Socio-spatial Contexts


13. Health behaviors


Supplemental Readings:


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