SOC6022H – Sociology of Health
Winter 2021

Instructor: Nicholas Spence
Email: nicholas.spence@utoronto.ca
Seminar time: Wednesdays, 4:00-6PM
Course Delivery: Online, synchronous via BB Collaborate
Website: q.utoronto.ca
Virtual Office Hours: Wednesday 6-7PM or by appointment

Course Description
This course is an overview of the sociology of health. Using a seminar format, we will critically explore key theoretical, methodological, and empirical work in the area across a variety of topics, including socioeconomic status, gender, social context/environment, stress, mental health, medicalization and illness, race/ethnicity, including Indigenous Peoples, healthy behaviors, and genetics. After successful completion of this course, you will be able to identify the central themes in the sociology of health, explain the importance of this area of focus, critically appraise a cross-section of related research, and apply knowledge to frame and understand historical and contemporaneous health issues, using a sociological lens, with an appreciation for the contributions of other related fields.

Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead seminar</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Signup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readings assessment checklist/brief questionnaire</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major paper proposal</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>February 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major paper</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>April 14</td>
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Guidelines for each component will be posted on the class website and discussed in class.
Late Policies

Late work will be penalized at a rate of 5% per day, unless you have a legitimate, documented reason beyond your 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](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](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](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.

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

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](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppnov012004.pdf).

In working toward this goal, the University will strive to provide support for, and facilitate the
accommodation of individuals with disabilities so that all may share the same level of access to opportunities, participate in the full range of activities that the University offers, and achieve their full potential as members of the University community. We take seriously our obligation to make this course as welcoming and accessible as feasible for students with diverse needs. We also understand that disabilities can change over time and will do our best to accommodate you.

Students seeking support must have an intake interview with a disability advisor to discuss their individual needs. In many instances it is easier to arrange certain accommodations with more advance notice, so we strongly encourage you to act as quickly as possible. To schedule a registration appointment with a disability advisor, please visit Accessibility Services at http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as, call at 416-978-8060, or email at: accessibility.services@utoronto.ca. The office is located at 455 Spadina Avenue, 4th Floor, Suite 400.

Additional student resources for distressed or emergency situations can be located at distressedstudent.utoronto.ca; Health & Wellness Centre, 416-978-8030, http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/hwc, or Student Crisis Response, 416-946-7111.

**Equity and Diversity**

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 will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and 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. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated.

Additional information and reports on Equity and Diversity at the University of Toronto is available at http://equity.hrandequity.utoronto.ca.

**Course Schedule and Reading List**

*The reading list tentative
**Supplementary/suggested (not required) readings will be posted online

**Week 1 (January 13): Introduction to Sociology of Health**

Introductions and overview of the course.

**Week 2 (January 20): The sociological approach to health**

Week 3 (January 27): Socioeconomic status


Week 4 (February 3): Gender


Week 5 (February 10): Neighborhoods and social contexts


February 17: No class

Week 6 (February 24): Stress


Week 7 (March 3): Mental Health


Week 8 (March 10): Race, ethnicity, immigration


Week 9 (March 17): Indigenous Health


Week 10 (March 24): Medicalization and Illness


Week 11 (March 31): Healthy behaviors


Week 12 (April 7): Sociology and genetics

