



# Sociology UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

## **Soc 6022H. Sociology of Health: Population Health**

Summer 2021, First Session (May 5 to June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021)

Instructor: Brent Berry (brent.berry@utoronto.ca)

Seminar time: Wednesdays and Fridays 12-2pm

\*This course will be online, with live discussions using Microsoft Teams audiovisual conferencing. Course management will be through Quercus (q.utoronto.ca)

Office Hours: email instructor to set up an appointment

### **Summary**

This is a graduate-level course on the sociology of population health. The course will begin with an introduction to population health and how the Covid-19 pandemic has shaped health/mental health and been perceived and responded to by governments, public health/medical entities, communities, and individuals. We will cover a broad range of scholarly work in the field. The research studies and readings assigned deal with health-related issues and perspectives that will also familiarize you with data, measures, and research design. 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:

- Your cumulative contribution to in-class discussion and/or sharing insights/course-related materials in other ways (15%, instructor's assessment)
- Submitting reaction papers (approx. 500-word) before each class to online discussion forum on Quercus (20%).
- Preparing and guiding part of one class's discussion with a presentation of key themes from the readings and related discussion questions (20%). This should take no more than 45 minutes.
- Completing a 15–20-page research project on a topic related to the sociology of health/mental health (45%). Because this course is only two months, there is not enough time for data collection. Most students will do a literature review paper. In a few cases, students may choose to also analyze primary or secondary data they have previously collected or been working with.

\*Based on our discussion and mutual agreement, we may change the above depending on enrollment.

## **Readings and Discussion**

Each class has three to four required readings (readings marked as “supplemental” are not required). Please be ready to discuss them during our live online discussions. The readings are available through our Quercus course website. Many of the readings are also on the health/mental health comprehensive exam reading list in Sociology.

## **Evaluation and Preparing for Class**

All participants should be prepared to discuss the readings and weekly topics. 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 be accepted at the discretion of the instructor only if the student has health/mental health, crisis, personal, or family-related reasons preventing on-time completion. The instructor strives to accommodate the ongoing challenges many of us are facing, but please get in touch as early as possible if you think you will be unable to meet a deadline.

## **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 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 Topics**

### **May 5 -- Topic 1. Introduction**

No readings. Review scope of course, introductory discussion, and decisions about course format.

### **May 7 -- Topic 2. Sociology of Pandemics**

Dingwall, R. Hoffman, K.S. 2013. Introduction: why a Sociology of Pandemics?

Pages: 167-173. *Sociology of Health & Illness* (Special Issue on Sociology of Pandemics)

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1467-9566.12019>

- Dingwall also has a commentary in Wired on Covid19--  
<https://www.wired.com/story/opinion-we-should-deescalate-the-war-on-the-coronavirus/>

Sue, Kimberly and Nick Iacobelli. 2020. "[Our COVID Museum: Notes from Physician-Archaeologist on the Frontlines of an Evolving Pandemic in Seattle and New York.](#)" April 7.

<http://somatosphere.net/2020/our-covid-museum-notes-from-physician-anthropologists-on-the-frontlines-of-an-evolving-pandemic-in-seattle-and-new-york-city.html/>

Hoffman, L.M.. (2013). The Return of the City-State: Urban Governance and the New York City H1N1 Pandemic. *Sociology of Health & Illness* Vol. 35 No. 2 2013 ISSN 0141–9889, pp. 255–267 doi: 10.1111/j.1467-9566.2012.01496.x

Supplemental Resources:

Füller, Henning. (2016). Pandemic cities: Biopolitical effects of changing infection control in post-SARS Hong Kong. *The Geographical Journal*. 10.1111/geoj.12179.

Special Issue on Sociology of Pandemics (Sociology of Health & Illness)

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14679566/2013/35/2>

Covid19 Social Science Research Tracker

<https://github.com/natematias/covid-19-social-science-research>

Contemporary Ethnography and Inequality Workshop, Harvard Univ, Covid19 Resources

<https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/cei/covid19resources>

**May 12 -- Topic 3. Social Contexts of Population Health -- Social Epidemiology**

House, James S. (2001). "Understanding social factors and inequalities in health: 20th century progress and 21st century prospects." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 43:125-142.

Karam, Elie G., Zeina N. Mneimneh, Hani Dimassi, John A. Fayyad, Aimée N. Karam, Soumana C. Nasser, Somnath Chatterji and Ronald C. Kessler. 2008. "Lifetime prevalence of mental disorders in Lebanon: first onset, treatment, and exposure to war." *PLoS Medicine* 5(4):Article e61.

Bongaarts (2006) "How Long Will We Live?" *Population and Development Review* 32(4): 605-628.

Supplemental:

Link, Bruce G. 2008. "Epidemiological Sociology and the Social Shaping of Population Health." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 49:367-384.

#### **May 14 -- Topic 4. Social Contexts of Population Health -- Explanations and Debates**

Lutfey, Karen and Jeremy Freese. (2005). "Towards Some Fundamentals of Fundamental Causality: Socioeconomic Status and Health in the Routine Clinic Visit for Diabetes." *American Journal of Sociology* 110(5):1326-1372.

Phelan, Jo C; Bruce G Link & Parisa Tehranifar. (2010). "Social Conditions as Fundamental Causes of Health Inequalities: Theory, Evidence, and Policy Implications". *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. Vol. 51 Pp 28-43

Colgrove, J. (2002). "The McKeown thesis: a historical controversy and its enduring influence." *American Journal of Public Health* 92(5): 725-729. (5)

#### **May 19 -- Topic 5. Causation and Selection Issues in Population Health**

Aneshensel, Carol S. (2005). "Research in Mental Health: Social Etiology versus Social Consequences." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 46(3):221-228.

Freese, Jeremy and Brian Powell. (2003). "Tilting at Windmills: Rethinking Sociological Responses to Behavioral Genetics." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 44(2):130-135.

Elstad, Jon I. (2010). "Indirect Health-Related Selection or Social Causation? Interpreting the Educational Differences in Adolescent Health Behaviours." *Social Theory and Health* 8:134-150.

Warren, John R. (2009). "Socioeconomic Status and Health across the Life Course: A Test of the Social Causation and Health Selection Hypotheses." *Social Forces* 87:2125- 2153.

#### **May 21 (Friday, No Class – Holiday)**

#### **May 26 -- Topic 6. Socioeconomic Status and Health**

Link, Bruce, Richard M. Carpiano, and Margaret M. Weden. 2013. "Can Honorific Awards Give Us Clues about the Connection between Socioeconomic Status and Mortality?" *American Sociological Review* 78:192-212.

Herd, Pamela, Brian Goesling, and James S. House. 2007. "Socioeconomic Position and Health: The Differential Effects of Education versus Income on the Onset versus Progression of Health Problems." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 48(3):223-238.

Schnittker, Jason. 2004. "Education and the Changing Shape of the Income Gradient in Health." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 45:286-305.

#### **Supplemental:**

Phelan, J. C., Link, B. G., Diez-Roux, A., Kawachi, I., & Levin, B. 2004. "Fundamental causes'

of social inequalities in mortality: A test of the theory.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 45:265-285.

Sapolksy, Robert M. 2005. “The Influence of Social Hierarchy on Primate Health.” *Science* 308:648-652.

### **May 28 -- Topic 7. Gender, Sexuality, and Population Health**

Rosenfield, Sarah and David Mouzon. 2013. “Gender and Mental Health.” Pp. 277-296 in *The Handbook of the Sociology of Mental Health*, 2nd Edition, edited by C. S. Aneshensel, J. C. Phelan, and Alex Bierman. New York: Springer.

Hopcroft, Rosemary and Julie McLaughlin. 2012. “Why is the gender gap in depression wider in high gender equity countries?” *Social Science Research* 41: 501-513.

Ueno, Koji. (2010). “Mental Health Differences between Young Adults with and without Same-Sex Contact: A Simultaneous Examination of Underlying Mechanisms.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. 51(4). 391-406.

Wiedemann, A., C. Wegner-Siegmundt, P. Di Giulio, M. Luy. 2014. Towards a better understanding of the "male-female health-mortality paradox". First results of the Health Survey of the German-Austrian Cloister Study. European Population Conference, Budapest, Hungary, 27.06.2014. 7 pages.

### Supplemental Readings for Gender, Sexuality, and Population Health

Rieker, P. P., & Bird, C. E. (2005). Rethinking gender differences in health: Why we need to integrate social and biological perspectives. *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*. 60B. 40-47.

Simon, Robin 2002. "Revisiting the Relationships among Gender, Marital Status, and Mental Health." *The American Journal of Sociology* 107(4):1065.

Mirowsky, John. (1996). “Age and the Gender Gap in Depression.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 37:362–380.

Mirowsky, John, and Catherine E. Ross. (1995). "Sex differences in distress: real or artifact?" *American Sociological Review* 60: 449-468.

### **June 2 -- Topic 8. Age and Cohort**

Ferraro, Kenneth F. and Lindsay R. Wilkinson. 2013. “Age, Aging, and Mental Health.” Pp. 183 – 204 in *The Handbook of the Sociology of Mental Health*, 2nd Edition, edited by C. S. Aneshensel, J. C. Phelan, and Alex Bierman. New York: Springer.

Yang, Y. (2007). Is Old Age Depressing? Growth Trajectories and Cohort Variations in Late-

Life Depression. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 48(1), 16-32.

Mirowsky, J. (2013). "Depression and the Sense of Control: Aging Vectors, Trajectories, and Trends." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 54(4), 407–425.

Kessler, Ronald C., et al., 2007. "Lifetime prevalence and age-of-onset distributions of mental disorders in the World Health Organization's World Mental Health Survey Initiative" *World Psychiatry*: 168-176.

#### **June 4 -- Topic 9. The Lifecourse**

House, J. S., Lantz, P. M., & Herd, P. (2005). Continuity and change in the social stratification of aging and health over the life course: Evidence from a nationally representative longitudinal study from 1986 to 2001/2002 (Americans' Changing Lives Study). *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 60B:15–26.

Lynch, Scott M. (2003). "Cohort and Life-Course Patterns in the Relationship between Education and Health: A Hierarchical Approach." *Demography* 40:309-331.

Willson, Andrea E., Kim M. Shuey, and Glen H. Elder. (2007). "Cumulative Advantage Processes as Mechanisms of Inequality in Life Course Health." *American Journal of Sociology* 112(6):1886-1924.

#### **June 9 – Topic 10. Race, Ethnicity & Immigration**

McDonald J.T. & Kennedy S. (2004). "Insights into the 'healthy immigrant effect': health status and health service use of immigrants to Canada". *Social Science and Medicine*. 59: Pp. 1613-1627. 8

Montazer, Shirin & Blair Wheaton. (2010). "The Impact of Generation and Country of Origin on the Mental Health of Children of Immigrants". *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. 52(1). Pp 23-42.

Noh, S., & Avison, W. R. (1996). "Asian immigrants and the stress process: A study of Koreans in Canada." *Journal of Health & Social Behavior*. 37(2): 192-206.

Wilson K, Rosenberg M.W., Abonyi S. 2010. Aboriginal peoples, health and healing approaches: the effects of age and place on health. *Social Science and Medicine* 72(3) 355-64

#### Supplemental readings -- Race, Ethnicity & Immigration

Williams, D. R. (2005). "The health of U.S. racial and ethnic populations." *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 60B, 53–63.

Williams, David R & Michelle Sternthal. (2010). "Understanding Racial-ethnic Disparities in Health: Sociological Contributions." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. Vol. 51 Pp 15-28.

Ellis P. Monk Jr. 2015. "The Cost of Color: Skin Color, Discrimination, and Health among African-Americans." *American Journal of Sociology* 121(2): 396-444.

Umberson, Debra Kristi Williams, Patricia Thomas. Hui Liu, and Mieke Beth Thomas. 2014. "Race, Gender, and Chains of Disadvantage: Childhood Adversity, Social Relationships, and Health". *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 55:20-38

### **June 11<sup>th</sup> – Topic 11. Neighborhood and Social/Socio-spatial Contexts**

Vartanian, Thomas P & Linda Houser. (2010). "The Effects of Childhood Neighborhood Conditions on Self-reports of Adult Health." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. 51(3): 291-307

Wheaton, Blair and Philippa Clarke. (2003). "Space Meets Time: Integrating Temporal and Contextual Influences on Mental Health in Early Adulthood." *American Sociological Review* 68:680–706.

Green, Mark A., S.V. Subramanian, Daniel Vickers, and Danny Dorling. 2015. "Internal Migration, Area Effects, and Health: Does Where you Move to Impact upon Your Health?" *Social Science & Medicine* 136:27-34.

Fitzgerald, Des, Nikolas Rose and Ilina Singh. 2016. "Revitalizing Sociology: Urban Life and Mental Illness between History and the Present." *The British Journal of Sociology*. 67(1) 138-160. (22)

### **June 16<sup>th</sup> – Topic 12. Health behaviors**

Cockerham, William C. (2005). "Health lifestyle theory: the convergence of agency and structure". *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. 46:51-67.

Devine, Carol M., Margaret M. Connors, Jeffery Sobal, and Carole A. Bisogni. (2003). "Sandwiching it in: Spillover of work onto food choices and family roles in low- and moderate-income urban households." *Social Science and Medicine*. 56(3):617-630.

Katainen, A (2010). "Social Class Differences in the Accounts of Smoking – Striving for Distinction? *Sociology of Health and Illness* 32(7)1087-1001.

Pampel, Fred C. (2012). "Does Reading Keep You Thin? Leisure Activities, Cultural Tastes, and Body Weight in Comparative Perspective." *Sociology of Health and Illness* 34(3):396-411.

#### **Supplemental Readings:**

Rogers, Hummer, Krueger, Pampel (2005) "Mortality Attributable to Cigarette Smoking in the United States." *PDR* 31(2): 259-292.

Boardman, Jason D., Jarron M. Saint Onge, Richard G. Rogers, and Justin T. Denney. (2005).



"Race differentials in Obesity: The Impact of Place." Journal of Health and Social Behavior. 46(3):229-43.

### **Supplemental Topic: Demography, Mortality, Longevity, and Population Health**

**(I cut this to include sociology of pandemics)**

McFalls, Joseph (2007) "Population: A Lively Introduction, 5th Edition." Population Bulletin 62(1): 1-40. (Washington, DC: Population Reference Bureau).

Bongaarts (2006) "How Long Will We Live?" PDR 32(4): 605-628.

Manton, Gu & Lamb (2006) "Long-Term Trends in Life Expectancy and Active Life Expectancy in the United States." PDR 32(1): 81-105.

Riley (2005) "Estimates of Regional and Global Life Expectancy , 1800-2001." PDR 31(3): 537-543.

#### Supplemental:

Edwards & Tuljapurkar (2005) "Inequality in Life Spans and a New Perspective on Mortality Convergence Across Industrialized Countries." PDR 31(4): 645-674.

Salomon & Murray (2002) "The Epidemiological Transition Revisited: Compositional Models for Causes of Death by Age and Sex." PDR 28(2): 205-228.

Torrey & Haub (2004) "A Comparison of US and Canadian Mortality in 1998." PDR 30(3): 519-530.