

HLTH AGE 1ZZ3: INQUIRY INTO HEALTH & SOCIETY

Fall 2020

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Tutorial 1: Tues: 1:30-2:20pm:
<https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/96858940834>

Tutorial 2: Weds: 12:30-1:20pm:
<https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/96984453532>

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Course Description

This course introduces students to the study of health from non-biomedical perspectives. It examines the ways in which culture, politics, economics, and other social forces shape our conceptions of health and illness. Emphasis is placed on learning to apply competing and complementary sources of professional and academic knowledge to the complexities inherent in health and illness. Taking an inquiry-based approach, students will play an active role in shaping their own learning and research questions. Moreover, regular participation (asking and answering questions) is an important part of the lectures themselves.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to discuss the socio-cultural dimensions of health and analyze health and illness from a variety of critical perspectives. They should demonstrate an ability to discuss the ways in which characteristics such as ethnicity, gender, age, and class contribute to health outcomes and definitions. Students are also required to demonstrate the ability to formulate a research question and respond through a clear, properly cited, well-organized academic essay. They will also learn how to approach and understand academic articles from a variety of disciplines.

Key Course Questions

What is the difference between health and illness? Are these fixed categories or subject to interpretation? What social forces and processes determine if a person is (considered) healthy or ill? How do different professional and academic disciplines approach these issues? What can non-biomedical approaches contribute to our understanding of health, illness, disease, and medicine?

Class Format

The course involves mandatory (synchronous) lectures and tutorials. Lectures are held via Zoom on Tuesdays from 10:30-12:30pm. In addition, students will be required to attend six Zoom tutorials during their assigned tutorial timeslots. The six dates that students must attend tutorial will be posted on Avenue to Learn at the start of the course. Links for lecture and tutorial can be found at the top of the syllabus.

The tutorial slots are as follows:

- T01- Tues 1:20-2:20PM T02- Wed 12:30-1:20PM

Required Materials and Texts

Gillett, Andrews, and Savelli, *Health and Society: Critical Perspectives*. Oxford University Press, 2016. All other readings are available on [Avenue to Learn](#).

Course Evaluation – Overview

There are no tests or exams in this course. Instead, students will complete the following assignments:

1. Interdisciplinary Assignment: 15% (due October 6th at 11:59pm)
2. Tutorial Participation: 20%
3. Essay Proposal: 25% (due October Nov 3rd at 11:59pm)
4. Major Essay: 40% (due December 8th at 11:59pm)

Course Evaluation – Details

Interdisciplinary Assignment (15%), due October 6th at 11:59pm

Students must complete a 2-page assignment that explains how any two, social science/humanities disciplines might explore and respond to a particular issue related to health. What questions might that discipline ask? What tools and techniques could they use to answer those questions? The specific health issues will be assigned in class.

Tutorial Participation (20%)

All students are expected to regularly attend tutorial and to participate in discussion. Attendance alone will not earn students marks, it is *fundamental* that they participate in discussions based on that week's readings. At the beginning of the course, students will be assigned six dates during which time they must attend tutorial

Essay Proposal (25%), due November 3rd at 11:59pm

Students must complete a 3-page essay proposal that outlines the research question that they will explore in the Major Essay. The proposal should outline the question that the student wishes to explore, highlight why the question is significant, and incorporate relevant academic literature. Students should use at least five peer-reviewed academic sources in constructing their proposal. Please include a bibliography (separate from the page count).

Major Essay (40%), due December 8th at 11:59pm

Students are required to complete a 7-8 page essay on a topic related to health and society. The paper itself should involve some degree of interdisciplinarity. Essays should incorporate at least ten peer-reviewed academic sources and must include a bibliography (separate from the page count). Essays should be double spaced, using a 12-point font and APA style margins.

OTHER CRUCIAL COURSE NOTES

- 1) Do not email the course instructor or TA via Avenue to Learn. Direct all communication to our McMaster email addresses.

- 2) Students making use of MSAFs will have to complete all assignments at a later date. In other words, there is no chance that the grade for missed assignments or tests will be tacked onto the final exam. As per university policy, MSAFs cannot be used for assignments worth greater than 24%.
- 3) Late assignments will be penalized 3% per day.
- 4) There will be absolutely no leniency on plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any type. Don't copy and paste anything directly into your essay...even if you cite it!

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (September 8)

Introduction to Health & Society I

Week 2 (September 15)

Why do we need critical health studies?

- Reading: *Health & Society*, chapter 1.
- Tutorials begin

Week 3 (September 22)

Social determinants of health

- Readings: *Health & Society*, chapter 10; Larsen, K., & Gilliland, J. (2008). Mapping the evolution of 'food deserts' in a Canadian city: Supermarket accessibility in London, Ontario, 1961–2005. *International Journal of Health Geographics* 7:16.

Week 4 (September 29)

Politics, ideology, and health

- Readings: Raphael, D., Curry-Stevens, A., & Bryant, T. (2008). Barriers to addressing the social determinants of health: Insights from the Canadian experience. *Health Policy*, 88(2), 222-235.

Week 5 (October 6)

Health care systems in a comparative context (**Interdisciplinary Assignment due**)

- Readings: *Health & Society*, chapter 9; Vos, P. D. (2005). "No one left abandoned": Cuba's national health system since the 1959 revolution. *International Journal of Health Services*, 35(1), 189-207.

Week 6 (October 13)

Reading Week – No Class

Week 7 (October 20)

Health as a social construction

- Reading: *Health & Society*, chapter 3; Rodin (1992) "The Social Construction of Premenstrual Syndrome" *Social Science and Medicine*, 35 (1), 49-56.

Week 8 (October 27)

Culture and health

- Readings: *Health & Society*, chapter 4; Wilson "Therapeutic Landscapes and the First Nations Peoples: An Exploration of Culture, Health, and Place," *Health and Place* 2003.

Week 9 (November 3)

Biomedical culture (**Essay Proposal due**)

- Readings: *Health & Society*, chapter 8; Lambert, H. (2006). Accounting for EBM: notions of evidence in medicine. *Social Science & Medicine*, 62(11), 2633-2645.

Week 10 (November 10)

Identity, marginality, and health

- Readings: *Health & Society*, chapter 5; Courtenay, W. H. (2000). Constructions of masculinity and their influence on men's well-being: a theory of gender and health. *Social Science & Medicine*, 50(10), 1385-1401.

Week 11 (November 17)

Alternative approaches to health and healing

- Reading: *Health & Society*, chapter 11; From quackery to "complementary" medicine: The American medical profession confronts alternative therapies. *Social Problems*, 52(1), 38-61.

Week 12 (November 24)

Health consumerism

- Readings: *Health & Society*, chapter 12; Fox, N.J. & Ward, K.J. (2006). Health identities: From expert patient to resisting consumer. *Health*, 10(4), 461-479.

Week 13 (December 1)

Globalization and the global health movement

- Readings: *Health & Society*, chapter 7; Groenhout, R. (2012). The 'brain drain' problem: Migrating health professionals and global health care. *International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics*, 5, 1-24

Week 14 (December 8)

Course Conclusion (**Final Essay due**)

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

[Insert policy on format of assignments and how to be submitted]

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments

[Insert policy on late assignments]

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Requests For Relief For Missed Academic Term Work

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work".

Copyright And Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must still submit an electronic and/or hardcopy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

Course Modification

The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course during the term. If any modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

University Policies

Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

Academic Accommodation of Students With Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

Academic Accommodation For Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#)

policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office ***normally within 10 working days*** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.