

**SOCI 285 <sup>1</sup>**

# **Sociology of Health over the Life Course**

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**Course Description:** Held tight in time's grip, all things in the world undergo change and aging over a lifecourse – particularly health. This course examines theories and consequences of this ever-present process, with particular attention to inequalities. It focuses on notions of health, wellness, and who is deserving of health care – all socially constructed concepts. We will (1) examine some of the main sociological ways of conceptualizing and studying health across the life course, (2) learn social factors and social institutions that shape individual health trajectories, and (3) discuss interventions to promote equitable health across the life course.

**Course Objectives:** By the end of this course, students will have a deeper knowledge of: 1) the key concepts and theories involved in studying health from a life course perspective; 2) why social determinants of population health are differentially expressed and experienced across the life course and across subgroups, and 3) interventions to promote equitable health across the life.

**Course Pre-requisites:** Recommended prior to SOCI 327, SOCI 385, and SOCI 432

**Topics may include:** We will cover core themes in sociology, including social inequality, social connectedness, sexuality, and the overlapping of institutions that impact one's health and wellness. Throughout the semester, we will visit these (and other) themes. The approach taken in this course will also be largely

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<sup>1</sup> This outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. A detailed course outline will be made available in August before the first day of class. Only that outline is to be considered official.

informed by a broad consideration of the entire life span, better known in sociology as “the life course perspective”, which posits that people are never fully separated from the impact of their origins.

**Required Resources May Include:** Some required readings will be made available via CourseSpaces. You may be required to purchase a textbook for this course.

**Mode of Delivery:** At this time, this course will be online and will involve a mix of synchronous and asynchronous delivery. In other words, lectures and classes will be held live during the designated course timetable time, using Bb collaborate or Zoom, but will likely be recorded. However, students should attend the live online lecture/class, so that they can engage and get the most out of the class itself. There will many interactive and participatory aspects of this course, which will occur during the live timeslot.