SOCI 285 ¹
Sociology of Health over the Lifecourse

Instructor: Dr. Simon Carroll

Course Description:
Notions of health, wellness and who is deserving of health care are socially-constructed concepts. This course begins with an examination of some of the main sociological ways of conceptualizing and studying health across the life course. We then examine social factors and social institutions that shape individual health trajectories. The course concludes with a discussion of interventions to promote equitable health across the life course. Students will learn about how a life-course approach is also relevant to the impact of pandemics, like COVID-19, both in terms of how a disease spreads in a population, and how the social determinants of health affect which populations suffer disproportionately from direct disease outcomes (mortality, morbidity), and also from the indirect social consequences of the societal response to pandemic emergencies (e.g. physical distancing directives, unemployment, mental health impacts, etc.).

Course Outcomes/Objectives:
Students will learn about the theoretical basis of the life course approach to health and well-being; including sociological and demographic approaches, the social determinants of health approach and the health promotion perspective. Students will learn how social relations impact health and health inequity between populations at each developmental stage of the life course, as well as cumulatively over the entire course of a human life. Students will also learn about how societies are impacted differentially by pandemic disease outbreaks, both between countries and within countries.

Course Pre/Co-requisites:
N/A

Topics May Include:
Social Determinants of Health; Health Promotion; The Life Course Approach; Early Childhood Development; Adolescent Health and Development; Health and development impacts of emerging pandemic diseases; Early Adulthood; Mid-life; Older Adulthood; Stigma; Colonialism; & Interventions to Promote Health across the Life Course

Required Resources May Include:
Resources are posted on Coursespaces

¹ This online outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.