

SOCI 327*

International Perspectives on Inequities in Health and Health Care

Instructor: Sanam Vaghefi (svaghefi@uvic.ca)

SUMMER 2021: W 10:30 AM-12:30 PM; R 10:30-11:30 AM (PST)

Course Description:

- What does sociology teach us about health and health care? Who pays for, affords, and accesses health care?
- Does the COVID19 Pandemic affect the rich and poor in the same way? Can all countries afford the vaccines?
- Who is more at risk when it comes to health and lack of access to health care? What about mental health and illness?
- How do the unequal power relationships between the Global North and the Global South shape health and illness? How does race, gender or sexuality play a role?

While it is not possible to answer all of these questions, this course will provide a space to explore various aspects of global inequities in health and health care. Particular emphasis will be placed on the role of the COVID19 Pandemic in reproducing these inequities. We will learn about and discuss the systemic health challenges and barriers in access to health care faced by disadvantaged communities and individuals, underlining the sociological processes behind them.

Course Objectives:

- Explaining the interaction of health status and access to healthcare with social location from an intersectional lens
- Recognizing the systemic health challenges and barriers in access to health care faced by disadvantaged communities and individuals (including refugee, racialized, Indigenous, and LGBTQ+, as well as those living with poverty)

- Analyzing the interaction of health status and access to healthcare with the Global North-South inequality
- Discussing the impact of the COVID19 Pandemic in regenerating and reproducing the global health inequities

Topics May Include:

Social determinants of health, ethnic and racial inequities in health and access to healthcare, the social and structural COVID19 disparities including the global vaccination inequality, the social construction and medicalization of mental health and illnesses, LGBTQ+ health

Required Resources May Include:

No textbook required. Journal articles and book chapters will be posted on Brightspace.

Grading May Include:

Class participation and written assignments, including a final paper.

The Mode of Delivery May Include:

Online learning with both asynchronous and synchronous components. Lecture videos will be posted each week on Brightspace. Synchronous (live) online meetings and discussions will take place through Zoom each Wednesday from 10.30 AM until 12.30 PM, and open office hours will be arranged each Thursday from 10.30 until 11.30 AM.

* This outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course and it might be subject to change. A detailed course outline will be made available in August before the first day of class. Only that outline is to be considered official.