Inequalities in Health and Health Care

Instructor: Dr. Simon Carroll

Course Description:
This course offers a critical appraisal of the institutional, economic and political determinants of health and illness from an international/global perspective. In particular, the course explores the health inequities between and within countries in the context of poverty and economic marginalization and the role of health care systems in the distribution of health. The course draws on case studies from around the world to examine health and health care inequities. The role of the globalization of capital, communication technologies, and third sector social movements is examined.

Course Outcomes/Objectives:
Students will learn about the theoretical basis of the political, economic and social determinants of 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 and how they way health systems are organized and financed has an impact on health inequity, positively or negatively. Students will also learn about how societies and certain populations are impacted differentially by pandemic disease outbreaks, both between countries and within countries.

Course Format: The course will be offered mainly via an asynchronous teaching-learning format, meaning that course materials, including readings, lecture videos and other multi-media resources, will be posted on the UVic online platform, and students can access them on their own time throughout each week. The course will offer two synchronous open office hours/week via the Uvic Zoom platform, where students can drop in and ask questions about the course topics and receive additional guidance regarding course assignments (these will be non-private sessions and will be recorded for other students to watch later). There will be opportunities for private Zoom meetings to be arranged separately with individual students.

Course Assignments: There will be two course assignments: 1) A take home exam worth 50%; 2) A final paper worth 50%

Course Pre/Co-requisites: N/A

Topics May Include:
Social Determinants of Health
Global Health Promotion
Health and development impacts of emerging pandemic diseases

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.
Settler Colonialism and health inequity
Racialization, systemic racism and health and health care
Reorienting health systems
Capitalist globalization and health
The political economy of health care systems
Primary health care reform efforts
Health for All

Required Resources May Include:

Resources are posted on Uvic online platform