

SOCI 545

Current Issues in the Sociology of Health and Aging - Seminar in Population Health, Health Equity & Health Care

Fall, 2020 - Preliminary Course Outline

Course Description and Objectives:

This year, the focus of this course will be on issues of population health, health equity and health care. Health equity encompasses concepts of social justice such as fairness, equality and human rights. Health inequities are considered unjust because they reflect an unfair distribution of the social determinants of health across social groups. In this seminar, we will learn to think critically about the fundamental causes of health inequities in Canada and internationally, assess research frameworks and methodologies for studying major health issues through an equity lens, and evaluate various policies and practices for reducing health inequities.

Among the topics to be discussed are:

- Sociology of Health and Health Care: Theoretical Traditions
- Determinants of Health, Health Inequalities and Health Inequities
- Social Class as a Fundamental Determinant of Health
- Sex, Gender, Sexuality and Health Inequities
- Aboriginal, Race, Immigrant and Minority Status and Health Inequities
- Age, Ableism, and Life Course Inequities in Health
- The Health Care System and Health Inequities: Medicine and Medicalization
- Self-care, Empowerment, Consumerism and Alternative Health Practices
- Informal, Family and In-Home Care
- Welfare States and Global Health Inequities

Course Instructor:

Professor Margaret Penning

Email: mpenning@uvic.ca

Office Hours: TBD

Course Readings:

There is no textbook for this course. Assigned readings and other course materials (course outline, assignments, grades, announcements) will be accessible through CourseSpaces.

Format:

Soci 545 is designed to be a seminar course with significant student participation. At this time, the plan is to offer this class in an in-person face-to-face format.

Classes are scheduled for Tuesdays, 1:00 pm – 3:50 pm (PST).

Please contact the Instructor if you anticipate difficulties attending the class in person due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Evaluation:

Course requirements are designed to enhance critical thinking, oral communication and presentation skills, and written work in Sociology with respect to the substantive areas of population health and health care. They include: completion of all of the required readings before each seminar and participation in class discussions regarding these readings; brief written critical assessments of selected readings; leading class discussions of selected readings; and the preparation and presentation of a term paper (on a topic chosen by the student and approved by the instructor) to the class.



* This is a tentative outline, intended to provide an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.