

SOCI 285

Health over the Life Course

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Course Description¹ : Held tight in time's grip, all things in the world undergo change over the lifecourse – particularly health. This course examines *sociological* theories and consequences of this ever-present process, with particular attention to inequalities. It focuses on notions of health, wellness, and the ways in which people differently experience health and health care. 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) critically discuss health care experiences.

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) the social relations and social inequalities that impact health, health care, and health experiences. The approach taken in this course will also be largely 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.

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

Topics may include: We will cover core themes in sociology, including social inequality, colonization and health, social networks and linked lives, early childhood development, sexuality, sexual health, STDs and stigma, trans and

intersex health, mental health, cumulative adversity and resiliency, and navigating health disruptions over the life course.

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

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 before the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.