

SOCI 432 – Issues in Health & Aging: Gender, Race, Health, and Medicine

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Course Description ¹: This course examines the relationships among sex, gender, race, health, and modern medicine. It looks at the ways that social relations like gender and race organize health and medicine, but also how medical systems and health practices create and organize them as well. In this class, we will look at how sex became a subject of scientific study, explore the medicalization of bodies, medical racism, and how gender, race, and ethnicity became categories of analysis. It will explore questions about social forces and how they become embodied as pathologies. There will be also be a significant focus on health technologies, exploring the ways in which health technologies organize, create, and discipline human bodies. We will ask questions of how modern Western medicine traditions view gendered bodies and define their health and illnesses accordingly.

Course Objectives: The goals for this course are to have you learn about pressing topics related to gender, race, health, and medicine, and to learn how to talk about these issues in an informed way. This course is meant to acquaint you with many of the major areas of inquiry, questions, debates and arguments – and the work of influential and/or interesting researchers in this area. You will develop skills to think critically about medicine, scientific and medical knowledge, and health practices. You will also learn to conduct research into a health issue of your choosing – and will learn to revise and critically engage your own writing and work.

Course Pre-requisites: Minimum third-year standing; and a declared Honours or Major in Sociology; or permission of the department.

Required Resources May Include: Required course readings will be made available via Brightspace or will be available through the library. However, you may be required to purchase a book.

Mode of Delivery: This class is a seminar style class and is very hands on for students. Students will be class leaders and each student will be responsible for leading one or two classes where they co-facilitate discussion and learning.

Due to the sensitive nature of this topic, classes will never be recorded or made available after class.

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.