



**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION**

**COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2021**

**SO3820: THE SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS**

**3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks**

Grande Prairie Regional College respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 8 territory, the traditional homeland and gathering place for many diverse Indigenous peoples. We are honoured to be on the ancestral lands of the Cree, Dene/Beaver and Métis, whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work, learn, and live on this land.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr Ana Martins

**PHONE:** 416 407 8489

**OFFICE:** N/A

**E-MAIL:** [AMartins@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:AMartins@gprc.ab.ca)

Monday 2:30pm; Friday 10:30am; or by appointment.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Zoom Office Hours available: <https://gprc.zoom.us/j/2546818252>

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** The sociological analysis of the social and cultural determinants of health, the distribution of health and illness in human populations and in Canadian society, the social psychology of health and illness; and the social organization and delivery of health care. A critical examination of environmental and occupational causes of illness, disease and disability, and of the medical-industrial complex.

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** SO1000 or equivalent.

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

Juane N. Clarke, 2008 (5th ed.), Health, Illness, and Medicine in Canada.

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** Lectures, Class Discussion, Group Work, Class Presentations, Written Tests, Written projects.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** This course examines how health, illness, disease and healing are related to social structure and social processes. We will investigate how the social organization of Canadian society influences not only the type and distribution of disease and illness, but also how the health care

system responds to these contingencies. The course covers a number of topics, where we discuss: (a) sociological perspectives on health and illness; (b) the social patterning of health and illness; (c) social meanings and the lived experience of illness (including disability); (d) the social organization of health care; and (e) the impacts of industrial activity on the environments in which people live and work, and on the health of those exposed to these impacts.

### **TRANSFERABILITY:**

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

**\*\* Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

### **EVALUATIONS:**

#### **CHAPTER REFLECTIONS**

At the end of a covered chapter, you will write a 1 (ONE) page reflection about what you learned, and your general impression of the chapter (enjoyed, criticisms). Chapter reflections are based on the material but are a free space to share your thoughts.

Note that we have many chapter covered in our course, but you have to write only FOUR chapter reflections. It means that you can skip and manage according to your pace.

#### **QUESTION PRESENTATION**

For the daily Chapter Discussion Question presentations, a group of 2 students will select one question from the 'Questions for Study and Discussion' section at the back of each chapter, and present their responses at the beginning of each class (approx. 10 minutes). You have to present a question from the chapter already covered in the previous class.

For your presentation, you can use slides, or any other effective way to communicate. You must then submit the slides and/or a written response (1-2 pages) to the question you answered on the day of your presentation, and must include a title page with your names and date.

We will divide the pairs and dates in our first class. If you miss, please send me an email.

#### **RESEARCH PROJECT**

You have to write a research project on a topic related to health, illness and sociology. The topic is up to you but options will be given upon request.

The project will be broken down into the following steps: First, you will come up with a research topic (of your choice). Second, you have to write an outline for a research project, showing how you would conduct a research in this topic: write a research problem statement, and a working thesis or argument.

### **MIDTERM TEST AND FINAL TEST**

The Midterm term (30%) and Final Examination (30%) will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and open questions. There will be a brief review before each of these evaluations. Tests and final exam will be based on all course material.

### **GRADING CRITERIA:**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Total Point Value</b>	<b>Weight</b>
4 Chapter Reflections	5 each = 20	20%
Question Presentation	5	5%
Research Project	15	15%
Midterm Test	30	30%
Final Test	30	30%

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

<b>Alpha Grade</b>	<b>4-point Equivalent</b>	<b>Percentage Guidelines</b>		<b>Alpha Grade</b>	<b>4-point Equivalent</b>	<b>Percentage Guidelines</b>
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

### **COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:**

## Part 1: Sociological Perspectives

September 2	Outline; Course Requirements; Meet-and-Greet; Introduction
September 7	Chapter 1: Ways of thinking sociologically about health, illness, and medicine.
September 9	Chapter 1: Ways of thinking sociologically about health, illness, and medicine.

## Part 2: Sociology of Health and Illness

September 14	Chapter 2: Disease and Death: Canada in International and Historical Context
September 16	Chapter 2: Disease and Death: Canada in International and Historical Context
September 21	Chapter 3: Environmental and Occupational Health and Illness
September 23	Chapter 3: Environmental and Occupational Health and Illness
September 28	Chapter 4: Neoliberalism, Social Inequity, Disease, and Death: The social determinants of health.
September 30	Chapter 4: Neoliberalism, Social Inequity, Disease, and Death: The social determinants of health.
October 5	Chapter 5: Diversities and Health: Age, Gender, Sexualities, Racialization, and Indigenous Peoples.
October 7	Chapter 5: Diversities and Health: Age, Gender, Sexualities, Racialization, and Indigenous Peoples.
October 12	Fall Break - No Class
October 14	Fall Break - No Class
October 19	Review!
October 21	Midterm Test
October 26	Chapter 6: Some Social Psychological Explanations for Illness
October 28	Chapter 7: The experience of Being Ill
November 2	Chapter 7: The experience of Being Ill

## Part 3: Sociology of Medicine

November 4	Chapter 8: The Social Construction of Scientific and Medical Knowledge and Medical practice.
November 9	Chapter 9: A Brief History of Medicine and the Development and Critique of Modern Medicalization
November 11	Remembrance Day - No Class
November 16	Chapter 11: The Medical profession, Autonomy, and Medical error.
November 18	Chapter 11: The Medical profession, Autonomy, and Medical error.

November 23	Chapter 12: Nurses and Midwives: The stresses and strains of the privatizing medical care system.
November 25	Chapter 13: Complementary and Alternative Medicine
November 30	Chapter 14: The Pharmaceutical Industry and the Medical-Industrial Complex
December 2	Chapter 15: Globalization and Health-Care Systems
December 7	Chapter 15: Globalization and Health-Care Systems
December 9	Review and Due Date for Research Project.
December 11-20: Final Exam Scheduled by the Registrar Office.	

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

You HAVE to read the chapter prior to the class; You HAVE to engage in our discussions; You HAVE to respect everyone and help to build (with other students and instructor) a safe learning environment; You HAVE to complete your assignments and tests on time.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

If at any point in the semester you feel you are struggling with the course material or with your course work, please do not hesitate to ask me for assistance. Please contact me by e-mail for an appointment.

### **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

**\*\*Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

### **Additional Information:**

- To communicate with me, please feel free to send me an email any time, and I will be happy to reply as soon as possible.
- If you feel you have received an unfair mark on an assignment or test, please explain in writing what you think is the misalignment between the instructions and your evaluation, and submit It to me via email.

- If you find yourself unable to fully access the course including the content, space, or experience, you are welcome (although not required) to discuss your specific needs with me.