



**EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER 2004**  
**CURRICULUM GUIDELINES**

**A:** Division: **INSTRUCTIONAL** Effective Date: **SEPTEMBER 2004**

**B:** Department / **SOCIOLOGY** Revision  New Course   
 Program Area: **FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

If Revision, Section(s) **C, H**  
 Revised:  
 Date of Previous Revision: **FEBRUARY 1999**  
 Date of Current Revision: **APRIL 2004**

**C: SOCI 2280 D: SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS E: 3**

Subject & Course No.	Descriptive Title	Semester Credits
<b>F:</b>	Calendar Description: This course reviews various topics pertinent to the social organization of health, illness and medicine. Through application of the sociological perspective to the Canadian context, important social issues relating to health outcomes are critically examined.	
<b>G:</b>	Allocation of Contact Hours to Type of Instruction / Learning Settings	<b>H:</b> Course Prerequisites:  <b>SOCI 1125 or SOCI 1145 or SOCI 1155 or old SOCI 135</b>
	Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings:  <b>Lecture and Seminar</b>	<b>I:</b> Course Corequisites:  <b>NONE</b>
	Number of Contact Hours: (per week /semester for each descriptor)  <b>Lecture: 2 hrs. per week / semester</b> <b>Seminar: 2 hrs. per week / semester</b>	<b>J:</b> Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite  <b>NONE</b>
	Number of Weeks per Semester: <b>15</b>	<b>K:</b> Maximum Class Size:  <b>35</b>
<b>L: PLEASE INDICATE:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Credit	
<input type="checkbox"/>	College Credit Non-Transfer	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	College Credit Transfer:	
SEE BC TRANSFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DETAILS ( <a href="http://www.bccat.bc.ca">www.bccat.bc.ca</a> )		

**M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of the course the successful student will be able to:

1. Describe some of the ways in which social and cultural factors affect illness outcomes and health care practices.
2. Describe and evaluate social structural conditions associated with health and illness issues.
3. Critically evaluate the political and economic contexts relating to health and illness outcomes.
4. Describe the roles of health care practitioners and the institutional context of health care delivery.
5. Apply sociological perspective(s) to a range of health, illness, and medical issues.
6. Critically evaluate significant social issues relating to the organization of health and illness as these pertain to contemporary Canadian society.

**N: Course Content:**

1. Introduction
  - Overview of course
  - A brief introduction to sociological approaches to health & illness
  - Social structure, social organization, sociological method
  - Sociological theories as applied to health & illness topics
2. Sociology of Health and Illness
  - Social definition of health
  - Objective definition of disease & illness
  - Subjective definitions of illness
3. Demography and Epidemiology
  - Understanding epidemiology
  - Health status of Canadian population
  - Mortality and life expectancy
4. Inequalities in Health and Illness and Health Care Utilization
  - Gender, social class, race and ethnicity, and age
5. Help Seeking and Experiential Dimensions of Illness
  - Seeking medical help
  - Social support
  - Effects of stress
  - Social meanings & experiential aspects of disease
6. Medicalization
  - Historical development of medicalization
  - Moral dimensions of medical diagnosis/labeling
  - Social and economic significance of medicalization
7. Health Care Professionals
  - Social organization of health care: the professions
  - Contemporary issues

**Course Content Cont'd.**

- 8.     Nursing
  - Contemporary issues in nursing
  - Education and work
  
- 9.     Medicare and Health Care Policy
  - Historical development of Medicare
  - Medicare in Canada, past, present & future prospects
  
- 10    Issues in the Medical Care System
  - Racism
  - The drug industry
  - Ethics
  - Politics of disease
  
- 11.    Environment and Health
  - Environment/disease relationships
  - Balancing economy and health

**O: Methods of Instruction:**

The course will employ a variety of instructional methods to accomplish its objectives, including some of the following: lectures, audio visual materials (including overheads, films), small group discussions, oral presentations (discussion seminars) and specialist guest speakers.

**P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students:**

Texts will be updated periodically. Typical examples are:

Singh, Bolaria & Dickinson, Harley D, (1994) Health, Illness, and Health Care in Canada Toronto, Harcourt Brace & Company

**Q: Means of Assessment:**

Course evaluation is based on formative and summative elements and is in accord with the Douglas College student evaluation policy.

Specific components of evaluation will include some of the following: exams made up of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and short essay questions; essay assignment; oral presentation; and participation in class discussions, student presentations, and group discussions.

Specific evaluation criteria will be provided by the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

An example of one evaluation scheme would be:

Midterm examination	20%
Essay/written assignment	25%
Final examination	25%
Oral presentation	15%
Participation	15%

**R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR**

No.

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Course Designer(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Education Council / Curriculum Committee Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean / Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Registrar