

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

COURSE OUTLINE

SOCIOLOGY 301.01 WINTER 2017

SOCIAL CONTEXTS AND HEALTH

- INSTRUCTOR: V. A. Haines  
Office: Social Sciences 946  
Phone: 403-220-7605  
Email: [haines@ucalgary.ca](mailto:haines@ucalgary.ca)
- OFFICE HOURS: MW 09:00-09:30 or by appointment
- LECTURES MWF 10:00-10:50 ENG 230
- REQUIRED READING: TEXTBOOK: William C. Cockerham. (2013) *Social Causes of Health and Disease*. Second Edition. Cambridge: Polity.
- JOURNAL ARTICLES: Available online through the University of Calgary Library. Posted on D2L when assigned.
- BOOK CHAPTERS: Available online through the University of Calgary Library. Posted on D2L when assigned.
- MARK DISTRIBUTION: A. Composition of Final Grade
- |                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Examination One (February 8) | 25% |
| Examination Two (March 15)   | 35% |
| Final Examination            | 40% |
- B. Examination One and Examination Two
- Examination One and Examination Two will be written during scheduled lecture periods.
- C. Final Examination
- There will be a two-hour final examination scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

## LETTER GRADE CONVERSIONS:

A+	90% or >
A	85-89%
A-	80-84%
B+	77-79%
B	73-76%
B-	70-72%
C+	67-69%
C	63-66%
C-	60-62%
D+	55-59%
D	50-54%
F	49% or <

Fractions of 0.5% or higher are rounded up.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

The objective of this course is to explore how social statuses, neighborhoods and social networks shape health. After completing this course, students will be familiar with theoretical and methodological tools sociologists use to study health effects of these social contexts. They will know how physical health and mental health are distributed across social strata defined by class, gender, race, ethnicity, and age. They will understand the ways in which characteristics of the neighborhoods where individuals live and characteristics of the social networks in which individuals are embedded shape their physical and mental health. They will be able to link basic research on social contexts and health to ongoing efforts to develop efficient and effective interventions to improve health and reduce health inequalities.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Part I addresses what sociology brings to the return to social context in the health arena. Part II focuses on social statuses as positions in a social hierarchy, exploring links between class and health, gender and health, race, ethnicity and health and age and health. Part III discusses the neighborhood-health connection. Social networks and health are discussed in Part IV. Part V moves beyond basic research on social contexts and health to address policy implications.

## LECTURE OUTLINE AND REQUIRED READING

The following is a brief summary of the dates when the major topics will be covered and the topic-specific readings from *Social Causes of Health and Disease*. Where additional readings are required, they will be assigned throughout the course on a topic-by-topic basis and posted on D2L. All additional readings will be available through the University of Calgary Library. Minor departures from this outline should be expected.

## PART I. PREPARING THE WAY

Introduction: What does Sociology Bring to the Table? (Jan. 9-11)

Chapter 1:1-16, 22-26

Sociological Theories and Methods. (Jan. 11-27)

Chapter 2:27-54; Chapter 3:64-65

Strategic Illustration: Cockerham's Health Lifestyles Paradigm

Chapter 3:55-57, 67, 77-79, 82-83

## PART II. SOCIAL STATUSES AND HEALTH

Class and Health. (Jan. 30-Feb. 6)

Chapter 3: 61; Chapter 4: 85-90, 97-99, 102-113; Chapter 1: 17-22

Gender, Race, Ethnicity, Age and Health. (Feb. 6-13)

Chapter 6:138-163

Explaining Social Status-Health Relationships: The Stress Process Paradigm  
(Feb. 15-27)

Chapter 5:121-126

## PART III. NEIGHBORHOODS AND HEALTH

The Neighborhood Effects Framing (Feb. 27-Mar. 10)

Chapter 7 164-179

The Neighborhood Social Capital Framing (Mar. 10-22)

Chapter 8:181-186, 191-198

## PART IV. SOCIAL NETWORKS AND HEALTH

The Social Networks Framing (Mar. 22-29)

The Network Social Capital Framing (Mar. 29-Apr. 10)

Chapter 8:187-190

## PART V. WRAPPING UP

Where are we? Where should we go from here? Implications for intervention research? (Apr. 10-12)

Concluding Remarks:199-207

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Required reading should be completed before each class. Where additional readings are required, they will be assigned on a topic-by-topic basis and posted on D2L.

All examinations will be cumulative. Examinations will cover material that is presented in the lectures and required readings.

### Handing in Papers, Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

### Ethics Research

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Faculty Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

### Academic Misconduct

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

### Deferrals

When possible, please provide advance notice if you are unable to write an exam or complete/turn-in assignments on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the health issue rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements, misreading

the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the percentage weight of a missed examination will be transferred to the other course components. **NOTE: There are no “make up” tests for Examination One or Examination Two.**

**Deferred Final Exam Form:** Please note that requests to defer a Registrar scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar’s Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-forms>

**Deferred Term Work Form:** Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It’s available at [https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred\\_termwork15\\_0.pdf](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15_0.pdf)

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

### **Student Representation**

The 2016-17 Students’ Union VP Academic is Alicia Lunz ([suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)). The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca), [arts2@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@ucalgary.ca), [arts3@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@ucalgary.ca), and [arts4@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@ucalgary.ca). You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/role>

### **Emergency Evacuations**

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at MSC North Courtyard.

### **Safewalk**

The University of Calgary provides a “safe walk” service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the “Help” phones located around Campus.

### **Academic Accommodation**

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services (MC 293, phone 403-220-8237) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities available at <http://ucalgary.ca/access/>. Please provide academic accommodation letters to the instructor as early in the semester as possible and no later than two weeks after the course begins.