Course Title: Social Contexts & Health

Course Number: Soci 301.01
Pre/Co-Requisites: Soci 201
Instructor Name: V. A. Haines
Email: haines@ucalgary.ca
Office Location: Social Sciences 946
Office Hours: MoWeFr 11:00-11:30 or by appointment
Telephone No.: 403-220-7605
Class Dates: 13/01/2020 - 15/04/2020
Class Times: MoWeFr 10:00 - 10:50
Class Location: ICT 121

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 of this research.

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.
Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials, Electronic Resources


JOURNAL ARTICLES: Available online through the University of Calgary Library at no cost to you.

BOOK CHAPTERS: Available online through the University of Calgary Library This will vary by course – University regulations require this information.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

The following is a brief summary of the dates when the major topics will be covered, the topic-specific readings from Social Causes of Health and Disease and, where required, additional readings (overviews and empirical examples) in the forms of journal articles and book chapters. All additional readings are available through the University of Calgary Library at no cost to you. Minor departures from this outline should be expected.

PART I: PREPARING THE WAY

Introduction: What does Sociology Bring to the Table? (Jan. 13)

Social Causes of Health and Disease Chapter 1:1-16, 22-26


Sociological Theories and Methods. (Jan. 15-31)

Social Causes of Health and Disease Chapter 2:27-54; Chapter 3:64-65

Strategic Illustration: Cockerham’s Health Lifestyles Paradigm

Social Causes of Health and Disease Chapter 3:55-57, 67, 77-79, 82-83

PART II: SOCIAL STATUSES AND HEALTH

Class and Health. (Jan. 31-Feb. 7)

Social Causes of Health and Disease Chapter 3: 61; Chapter 4: 85-90, 97-99, 102-113; Chapter 1: 17-22


Gender, Race, Ethnicity, Age and Health. (Feb. 10-24)

Explaining Social Status-Health Relationships: The Stress Process Model (Feb. 26-Mar. 2)


PART III. NEIGHBORHOODS AND HEALTH

The Neighborhood Effects Framing (Mar. 2-13)


Arcaya, M. C., R. D. Tucker-Seeley, R. Kim, A. Schnake-Mahl, M. So, and S.V. Subramanian. 2016. “Research on Neighborhood Effects on Health in the United States: A Systematic Review of Study Characteristics.” *Social Science & Medicine* 168:16-29, excluding sections 1.1; 1.2; 1.3; 1.4; 1.5; 2.2; 2.6; 3.2; 3.3; 3.4.


The Neighborhood Social Capital Framing (Mar.13-25)

*Social Causes of Health and Disease* Chapter 8:181-186, 191-198


PART IV. SOCIAL NETWORKS AND HEALTH

The Social Networks Framing (Mar. 25-30)


The Network Social Capital Framing (Mar. 30-Apr. 8)

*Social Causes of Health and Disease* Chapter 8:187-190


**PART V. WRAPPING UP**

Where are we? Where should we go from here? Implications for intervention research? (Apr. 8-15)

*Social Causes of Health and Disease* Concluding Remarks:199-207


Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

All examinations will be cumulative. Examinations will cover material that is presented in the lectures and required readings. Type of examination: multiple choice.

Composition of Final Grade

| Examination One (February 12) | 25% |
| Examination Two (March 18)   | 35% |
| Final Examination            | 40% |

Examination One and Examination Two

Examination One and Examination Two will be written during scheduled lecture periods. These examinations can be written only as scheduled on the course outline.

Final Exam Information

There will be a two-hour final examination scheduled by the Registrar’s Office. Unless a Deferred Final Examination is granted by the Registrar’s Office, this examination can be written only as scheduled by the Registrar.

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent range</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90 – 100%</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Outstanding performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85 – 89%</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Excellent-superior performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80 – 84%</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77 – 79%</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73 – 76%</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Good – clearly above average performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70 – 72%</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67 – 69%</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>63 – 66%</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Satisfactory - basic understanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60 – 62%</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>55 – 59%</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50 – 54%</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Minimal pass - marginal performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>49% or &lt;</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory performance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fractions of 0.5% or higher are rounded up.
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 can provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

Research Ethics

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.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the Copyright Act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

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.html

Absences and Deferrals

Absences: Students who are absent from class assessments (examinations) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Evidence in the form of documentation must be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, then upon receipt of written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar, 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. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see [https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html](https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html)

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 can be found at: [https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams)

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://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/deferred_termwork15_0.pdf](https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/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).

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at: [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf)

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive support when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through Student Wellness Services (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre, [https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services](https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services)) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy ([http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/)).

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit: [https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success](https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success)

Student Ombuds Office

The Student Ombuds Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit [www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/) or email [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca).
Student Union (SU) Information
The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or suvpaca@ucalgary.ca; Information about the SU, including elected Faculty Representatives, can be found here: https://www.su.ucalgary.ca.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees; from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, see the University of Calgary’s Emergency Management website:

Safewalk
Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.