

**MCMASTER UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AGING AND SOCIETY**  
**HLTH AGE 1AA3: INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH STUDIES**  
**SPRING 2018**

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Clancy  
Lectures: 4-7pm Tuesdays & Thursdays  
TSH/B106

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Office hours: By appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will critically examine social, political, cultural, economic, and professional/institutional factors that impact both our perceptions of and actual states of health, wellness, well-being, illness, and health care. In order to explore the diverse field of health studies, the course is divided in three parts. In the first part of the course, we will learn about the field of health studies, as well as what critical health studies is; examine how health, illness, wellness and well-being are socially constructed; and finally, discuss the social determinants of health. The second part of the course will examine health care systems; health care policies; the use of technology; and, health consumerism. The last part of the course explores globalization; ethics in health and health care; health care advocacy and social movements, as well as alternative and complementary approaches to health and health care.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Gain a critical understanding of the field of health studies
- Understand how definitions and states of health, wellness, well-being, and illness are constructed
- Explore how the social determinants of health impact our states of health, illness, wellness and well-being
- Examine different health care systems and policies to determine how systems of health impact individual and population health
- Learn about different health advocacy groups and their role in the construction of health and illness
- Explore the role of technology and health consumerism in health and illness
- Understand the diversity of ethical issues in health and health care
- Improve critical reflection skills, as well as research and writing skills through completion of a group assignment and in-class discussions

- Engage in scholarly debate with classroom colleagues through in-class participation in lectures and in-class activities

## **COURSE EVALUATION - OVERVIEW**

1. **Test 1** - 35%, May 17, 2018
2. **Group written paper**- 27%, due May 24, 2018
3. **Test 2** - 35%, June 7, 2018
4. **Participation** - 3%, Participation in group activities and class discussion on June 12, 2018

## **COURSE READINGS**

Gillett, James, Andrews, Gavin J., and Savelli, Mat. 2016. *Health and Society: Critical Perspectives*. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE**

### ***COURSE FORMAT***

This is an interactive lecture style course held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-7pm. Lectures may include the use of video clips, when applicable, to illustrate course material. We will also have in-class discussions and possibly small group activities on course material presented in lecture throughout the term.

### ***COURSE WEBSITE***

This course will use Avenue to Learn (<http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/>). Please check the website frequently for class announcements and other important information. We may be using the site for posting of grades. More information will be provided in class.

Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

## **EVALUATION COMPONENTS**

### **1. TEST 1 - 35%, MAY 17, 2018**

- This test will consist of multiple choice/true and false questions and will test your knowledge of both lecture material (including any films and/or video clips, etc., viewed in lecture) and assigned readings. If this test is missed, only Faculty-approved absences will be offered consideration for a re-write. As the test is worth 35%, students must visit their respective Faculty office with appropriate documentation for the Faculty to review as the test is not eligible for an online MSAF. If Faculty approval is obtained, the make-up date for the test is May 25th from 10am-11:30am. No other date or time will be offered. It is your responsibility to attend scheduled test dates.

### **2. GROUP WRITTEN PAPER - 27%, DUE ON MAY 24, 2018**

- In this assignment, you will look more deeply at social movements or other health and healing practices. Each group, consisting of 2 to 3 students, will have the choice of looking at either: (1) an alternative or complementary health care practice/provider (i.e., reiki, chiropractors, traditional healers, etc.), OR (2) a health social movement. This assignment involves a written paper (5-6 pages maximum) directed towards a scholarly/policymaking audience. You must consult 5 external resources for this assignment (please note: you will likely consult more than this minimum). You are expected to meet with your group members throughout the term to complete the assignment. Some in-class time (on May 22) is allotted for finishing up the project prior to its due date on May 24th. Students are expected to use this time wisely to complete the project. More information, including assignment guidelines, will be posted on Avenue to Learn during the first week of class.

### **3. TEST 2 - 35%, JUNE 7, 2018**

- This test will consist of multiple choice/true and false questions and will test your knowledge of both lecture material (including any films and/or video clips, etc., viewed in lecture) and assigned readings. If this test is missed, only Faculty-approved absences will be offered consideration for a re-write. As the test is worth 35%, students must visit their respective Faculty office with appropriate documentation for the Faculty to review the test is not eligible for an online MSAF. If Faculty approval is obtained, the make-up date for the test is June 15, from 10am-11:30am. No other date or time will be offered. It is your responsibility to attend scheduled test dates.

### **4. IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION - 3%, ONGOING AND IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES ON JUNE 12, 2018**

- Student participation will be evaluated based on quality participation in class discussions and in small group activities on June 12, 2018.

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### ***COMPLETION OF ASSIGNMENTS***

**COMPLETION OF ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS ARE MANDATORY TO PASS THE COURSE. IF ANY COURSE REQUIREMENT IS NOT COMPLETED, YOU WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF 0 AND NOT PASS THE COURSE.**

Please submit your assignments (hard copies only) in class on the day that they are due. Faxed or emailed assignments will NOT be accepted.

Your assignments should be typed and double-spaced in either 10 or 12 point Times New Roman or Arial font. **The due dates for all assignments are fixed and non-negotiable.** There will be a **deduction of 15% per day** for all late assignments, including weekends (15% for the whole weekend). If an assignment is due on Thursday, but handed in on or after 12:00am on Wednesday, the deduction will be 15% for that day and so on. Deductions are calculated per day, not per 24 hour period. **No assignments will be accepted 3 days after the original due date; there are no exceptions. Please refer to assignment handouts for exact dates. Any late papers/assignments will receive a grade only; no comments.**

### ***ILLNESSES AND EMERGENCIES***

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work". Please note these regulations have changed beginning Fall 2015.

### ***REVIEW OF MARKS***

Assignments and exams are marked fairly and carefully. However, in the event that a student disagrees with his/her mark, the following procedure will be followed:

1. The student must write a detailed one-page note (hard copy only; emails will not be accepted) outlining the reason for the review of the mark. This note must be attached to the original assignment and handed in to the instructor
2. The instructor will review the request and review the original assignment and provide the student with written feedback
3. Students must not submit a request for review any earlier than 2 days after the paper/exams are returned and no later than 1 week after
4. Please note that upon re-review, there is a chance that the new grade may be lower than the original grade received

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Please feel free to discuss your personal needs with me. Arrangements for Individualized accommodations can be made through Students Accessibility Services (<http://sas.mcmaster.ca/>). Students Accessibility Services (<http://sas.mcmaster.ca/>) also provides helpful information on time management, note-taking, keeping up with readings, and taking multiple choice tests.

If you require course information in an alternate/accessible format, please contact the Department of Health, Aging & Society (ext. 27227 | e-mail: [hasdept@mcmaster.ca](mailto:hasdept@mcmaster.ca)).

### **Student Accessibility Services (SAS):**

Students who require academic accommodations must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652, or by email at [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca). For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

### **Responsibilities as a Student Registered at SAS:**

SAS assists with academic and disability-related resources for students with a variety of learning needs. If you require academic accommodation through SAS, be sure that you arrange your accommodations with SAS as early as possible, and ensure that the instructor receives a copy of your accommodation letter as early as possible in the term.

Students registered with SAS are responsible for:

- meeting their SAS Program Coordinator prior to, or at the start of each academic term (September, January and summer sessions);
- providing their SAS Program Coordinator with relevant and professional medical or psychological documentation;
- notifying their SAS Program Coordinator if courses are dropped or added, or if accommodations require a change;
- meeting with individual course instructors to discuss their specific accommodation needs in relation to the course; and
- providing the instructor with their accommodation letter as early as possible

For more information, visit the SAS website: <http://sas.mcmaster.ca>

### **Accommodating Peers:**

Students may be asked to assist in making our learning environment accessible for all students. For example, in-class presenters may be asked to submit, in advance, a text summary of the presentation's visual components to ensure the inclusion of students for whom those visuals would not otherwise be accessible.

### ***COMPUTER USE IN THE CLASSROOM***

Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that particular lecture or tutorial. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off for the remainder of the lecture or tutorial.

### ***OFFICE HOURS and EMAIL COMMUNICATION***

Office hours will be by appointment for the spring term. Please send me an email and we can set up a mutually agreeable time to meet before a scheduled lecture. I am also available by email (clancysj@mcmaster.ca). Please use proper email etiquette when sending an email: include the course name in your subject line; provide a salutation (Dear Dr. Clancy); and include your name and student number. You can expect a response to your email within 48 hours, **excluding weekends and holidays**.

#### **Faculty Of Social Sciences E-Mail Communication Policy:**

It is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including to TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

#### **Avenue Mail:**

Please use your McMaster e-mail account to contact the instructor. There is a technical difference between the Mail feature in Avenue to Learn and the McMaster e-mail services, including UnivMail, the mail service used by most instructors. Messages sent from Avenue to e-mail, for example, can often cause unhelpful delays and errors.

### ***ACADEMIC DISHONESTY***

#### **University Policy on Academic Dishonesty:**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit

with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the University.

### **Avoiding Academic Dishonesty:**

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the McMaster Academic Integrity Policy, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>. The following illustrates only a few forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Submitting work that is not your own.
2. Submitting your own material for which other credit has already been obtained in another course.
3. Using another writer’s sentences, phrasing, or writing structure without properly indicating your debt by using quotation marks.
4. Neglecting to properly cite the source of your ideas.
5. Improper collaboration in non-group work.
6. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.
7. Requesting accommodation or exceptions in bad faith or under false pretenses.

**Information on current regulations for copying for education purposes can be found at the following website: <http://www.copyright.mcmaster.ca/>**

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

**WEEKLY TOPICS AND READING SCHEDULE**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ASSIGNED READINGS</b>	<b>IMPORTANT NOTES</b>
May 1	Introduction to the course	No assigned readings	
May 3	Introduction to critical health studies and disciplinarity in health studies	Text: Chapters 1 and 2	<b>MUST FORM GROUPS BY END OF FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES AND INFORM DR. CLANCY OF THE GROUP ARRANGEMENTS</b>
May 8	Social construction of health	Text: Chapters 3 and 8	
May 10	Social determinants of health - Part 1 - Concepts and frameworks	Text: Chapter 10	
May 15	Social determinants of health - Part 2 - Culture and identity (social class)	Text - Chapter 4; Chapter 5, p.82-86	<b>TEST 1 REVIEW TODAY</b>
<b>MAY 17</b>	<b>TEST 1 TODAY (MAY 17)</b>	<b>TEST 1 TODAY (MAY 17)</b>	<b>TEST 1 TODAY (MAY 17)</b>
May 22	Dedicated in-class time to work on group assignment; no formal in-class meeting today	No assigned readings	<b>STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO USE THIS TIME WISELY TO MEET WITH THE GROUP TO FINISH UP THE GROUP PAPER DUE ON MAY 24</b>
May 24	Social determinants of health - Part 3 - Social identity	Text - Chapter 5, p.87-98	<b>GROUP PAPER - 27% DUE ON MAY 24</b>
May 29	Health care systems	Text: Chapter 9	
May 31	Health care consumerism	Text: Chapter 12	
June 5	Health technology	Text: Chapter 13	<b>TEST 2 REVIEW TODAY</b>
<b>JUNE 7</b>	<b>TEST 2 TODAY (JUNE 7)</b>	<b>TEST 2 TODAY (JUNE 7)</b>	<b>TEST 2 TODAY (JUNE 7)</b>



DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNED READINGS	IMPORTANT NOTES
June 12	Class discussion and class group activities: Globalization and ethical issues in health and health care	Text: Chapters 7 and 14	<b>PLEASE ENSURE YOU READ CHAPTERS 7 AND 14 BEFORE COMING TO CLASS AS THEY WILL INFORM OUR DISCUSSION AND GROUP ACTIVITIES</b>
June 14	Course wrap-up and course evaluations	No assigned readings	