

# HLTH AGE 1AA3: INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH AND SOCIETY

## Summer 2019

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**Lecture:** Mon. & Wed., 6:00 – 9:00 pm

**Location:** TSH B106

**Office:** KTH 202

**Office Hours:** Before class or by appointment

## Contents

Course Description.....	3
Course Objectives.....	3
Required Materials and Texts .....	4
Class Format.....	4
Course Evaluation – Overview .....	4
Course Evaluation – Details .....	4
1. TEST ONE - 25%, MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019.....	4
2. INDIVIDUAL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT - 30%, WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2019	4
3. TEST TWO - 35%, WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2019.....	5
4. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION - 5%, DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIVITIES	5
5. FINAL REFLECTION - 5%, IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST	5
7, 2019.....	5
Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings .....	5
Week 1 (Monday, June 24 & Wednesday, June 26).....	5
Week 2 (Wednesday, July 3).....	6
Week 3 (Monday, July 8 and Wednesday, July 10).....	6
Week 4 (Monday, July 15 and Wednesday, July 17).....	6
Week 5 (Monday, July 22 and Wednesday, July 24).....	6
Week 6 (Monday, July 29 and Wednesday, July 31).....	6
Week 7 (Wednesday, August 7).....	7
Course Policies .....	7
Submission of Assignments.....	7
Grades.....	8
Late Assignments.....	8
Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work .....	8

Avenue to Learn .....	8
Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection .....	8
Course Modification .....	9
University Policies .....	9
Academic Integrity Statement.....	9
Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.....	9
Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO) .....	10
Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy .....	10
Extreme Circumstances.....	10

## **Course Description**

This course will critically examine social, political, cultural, economic, and institutional factors that impact perceptions of and actual states of health, wellness, wellbeing, illness, and healthcare. As an introduction to the field of health studies, this course provides an overview of topics that are central to the disciplines that contribute to health studies research and provides students with an opportunity to explore a preferred topic through a critical health studies lens. This course prepares students to pursue studies in Health, Aging and Society, and in many other health-related disciplines.

In order to provide an overview of health studies as a discipline, this course explores the field of critical health studies and examines how health, illness, wellness and wellbeing are socially constructed. Importantly, this course introduces students to the concept and the reality of the social determinants of health. Further, the class will be introduced to the politics and ethics of health and healthcare, health care advocacy and social health movements and how these serve particular communities. This course will then investigate healthcare systems, policies and health consumerism and finish by examining globalization, and alternative approaches to health and healthcare.

## **Course Objectives**

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Possess a critical understanding of the field of health studies and the various disciplines that contribute to health studies
- Understand how definitions and states of health, wellness, well-being, and illness are constructed within society and the paradigms that influence social constructions and experiences of health
- Understand the ways in which the social determinants of health impact individual and population health, illness, wellness and well-being
- Understand the diversity of political and ethical issues in health and healthcare
- Possess an understanding of healthcare systems and health consumerism in order to identify how these systems affect individual and population health
- Identify the impacts of globalization on health and illness, and recognize alternative forms of healthcare in society
- Establish academic research and writing skills through the completion of an individually written assignment
- Demonstrate their critical personal reflection skills through the completion of a written reflection on their personal learning and engagement with course material
- Engage in critical academic discussions with colleagues through participation in class debates and question periods

## **Required Materials and Texts**

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

## **Class Format**

This is an interactive lecture-style course held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm in TSH B106. Lectures may include the use of video clips, audio, social media, or special guests, when applicable, to illustrate course material and provide current examples. There will often be in-class discussions and small group activities for students to participate in together, to demonstrate engagement and experience with course material covered in lecture and in the readings. Students are encouraged to participate in class discussions, where inspiration for written assignment topics and examples used in the tests often come from.

## **Course Evaluation – Overview**

1. **Test 1** - 25%, Monday, July 15, 2019
2. **Individual Written Assignment** - 30%, due Wednesday, July 24, 2019
3. **Test 2** - 35%, Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>
4. **Attendance and Participation** - 5%, Class attendance and participation in group activities and class discussion will be evaluated throughout the term
5. **Final Reflection** - 5%, Final written reflection on course content and learning, due in class on Wednesday, August 7, 2019

## **Course Evaluation – Details**

### **1. TEST ONE - 25%, MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019**

- This test will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions and will test your knowledge of both lecture material (including any content viewed or discussed 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 25%, 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 July 22 from 3:30 pm - 6:00 pm. No other date or time will be offered. It is your responsibility to attend scheduled test dates.

### **2. INDIVIDUAL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT - 30%, WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2019**

- For this assignment, students will select a current issue or problem that has an impact on health within Canadian society, and connect it to a topic from

the course, such as social determinants of health, social justice, or health consumerism.

- Each student will write a formal paper (5-6 pages maximum, not including cover page and references page) geared towards an academic, governmental, or policy-making audience. The paper must be formally structured, including a thesis statement, and students must consult at least **5 external sources** (in addition to the textbook) to support their thesis, **3 of which must be scholarly, peer-reviewed sources**, and **1 of which must be a news media source describing the current issue**. The paper must utilize APA format and referencing style and include an APA cover page and references page. More information, including assignment guidelines, will be posted on Avenue to Learn and reviewed in class.

### **3. TEST TWO - 35%, WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2019**

- The final test is cumulative and will consist of multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions. Student knowledge and engagement with both lecture material (including any content viewed or discussed in lecture) and assigned readings will be tested.
- 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 August 12, from 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm. No other date or time will be offered. It is your responsibility to attend scheduled test dates.

### **4. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION - 5%, DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIVITIES**

- Students' attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each class. Student participation will be evaluated based on quality engagement in class discussions and in small group activities throughout the term.

### **5. FINAL REFLECTION - 5%, IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2019**

- A final written reflection on course content and personal learning is due in class. Students will share their ideas in small groups and in a class discussion.

## **Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

### **Week 1 (Monday, June 24 & Wednesday, June 26)**

**Monday, June 24 – Introduction to 1AA3 and Course Expectations**

Readings: None assigned

Notes: An opportunity to inquire regarding the syllabus and assignments

**Wednesday, June 26 – Introduction to Critical Health Studies and  
Disciplinarity**

Readings: Chapters 1 and 2 of the textbook

**Week 2 (Wednesday, July 3)**

**Wednesday, July 3 – The Social Construction of Health**

Readings: Chapters 3 and 8 of the textbook

Notes: In-class review of Individually Written Assignment instructions

**Week 3 (Monday, July 8 and Wednesday, July 10)**

**Monday, July 8 – The Social Determinants of Health - Introduction**

Readings: Chapter 10 of the textbook

**Wednesday, July 10 – The Social Determinants of Health – Culture and  
Identity**

Readings: Chapters 4 and 5 of the textbook

Notes: Test One review in class

**Week 4 (Monday, July 15 and Wednesday, July 17)**

**Monday, July 15 – Test One & Colonialism and Indigenous Health in  
Canada**

Readings: None assigned

Notes: Test One will be held in the first half of class, followed by lecture.

**Wednesday, July 17 – Politics, Social Justice and Ethics**

Readings: Chapters 6 and 14 of the textbook

**Week 5 (Monday, July 22 and Wednesday, July 24)**

**Monday, July 22 – Healthcare Systems and Health Consumerism**

Readings: Chapters 9 and 12 of the textbook

**Wednesday, July 24 – Globalization and Health**

Readings: Chapter 7 of the textbook

Notes: Individual Written Assignment is due at the beginning of class

**Week 6 (Monday, July 29 and Wednesday, July 31)**

**Monday, July 29 – Alternative Healing Paradigms**

Readings: Chapter 11 of the textbook

Notes: Test Two review in class

**Wednesday, July 31 – Test Two**

Readings: None assigned

**Week 7 (Wednesday, August 7)**

**Wednesday, August 7 – Final Class and Reflections**

Readings: None assigned

Notes: Students will complete and submit a final written reflection on their learning in the course, and engage each other in small group discussions. Course evaluations will be made available for students to complete.

**Course Policies**

**Submission of Assignments**

Written assignments should be typed and double-spaced in either 10 or 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font. Please submit your assignments (hard copies only) in class on the day that they are due. Emailed assignments will not be accepted. Please refer to lecture material and course postings for information on how, when and where to submit your assignments.

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

1. The student must write and submit a detailed one-page note describing the reason for the request for review of the mark to the instructor along with their original graded assignment.
  - This request may not be submitted until two days have passed since the return of their graded assignment, and cannot be submitted later than one week following the return.
2. The instructor will review the request alongside the original assignment and provide the student with written feedback.

## **Grades**

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

<b>MARK</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

## **Late Assignments**

The due dates for assignments are fixed and non-negotiable. There will be a deduction of 10% per day for all late assignments, including weekends. If an assignment is due on Monday, but handed in at or after 12:00 am on Tuesday, the deduction will be 10% for that day. Deductions are calculated per day, not per 24-hour period. No assignments will be accepted 3 days after the original due date. Please refer to assignment instructions for details. Any late assignments will receive a grade only, no comments will be provided.

## **Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work**

### **McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF)**

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".

## **Avenue to Learn**

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. 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.

## **Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection**

All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.).



## **Course Modification**

The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course during the term. If any 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.

## **University Policies**

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior 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 behavior 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.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), located at [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

### **Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities**

Students who require academic accommodation 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 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca). For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

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

### **Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)**

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

### **Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy**

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including 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.

### **Extreme Circumstances**

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.