

HLTH AGE 1AA3: INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH AND SOCIETY

Summer 2021

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via Zoom or by appointment

Lecture: Asynchronous content in three modules (Module 1: June 21st - July 4th; Module 2: July 5th - July 18th; Module 3: July 19th - August 6th), and a one-hour synchronous session per week. Please see [class format](#) below for more details.

Contents

Course Description.....	3
Course Objectives.....	3
Required Text.....	4
Class Format.....	4
Asynchronous content.....	4
Synchronous sessions.....	5
Course Evaluation – Overview.....	5
Course Evaluation – Details.....	6
Assignment 1: Tutorial attendance and participation (20%).....	6
Assignment 2: Tutorial presentation: Did you know? (15%) Due dates: individually assigned.....	7
Assignment 3: Module 1 and Module 2 short essay (15% each, total 30%) Due dates: July 9 th for Module 1, July 22 nd for Module 2.....	8
Assignment 4: Final paper (35%) Due date August 11 th	8
Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings.....	9
Module 1: Introduction, Weeks 1 and 2.....	9
Week 1 (21 st – 27 th June).....	9
Week 2 (28 th June – 4 th July).....	9
Module 2: Society, health and illness, weeks 3 and 4.....	9
Week 3 (5 th – 11 th July).....	10
Week 4 (12 th – 18 th July).....	10
Module 3: health care paradigms, systems and policies, weeks 5 and 6.....	10
Week 5 (19 th – 25 th July).....	10
Week 6 (26 th July – 1 st August).....	10

Week 7 (2 nd to 6 th August)	11
Course Policies	11
Technical Requirements	11
Submission of Assignments.....	11
Grades.....	11
Late Assignments	12
Missed Exams, Course Requirements.....	12
Office Hours and Email Communication	12
Course Modification	13
Review of Marks	13
University Policies	13
Academic Integrity	13
Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection	14
Courses with an On-line Element	14
Online Proctoring.....	15
Conduct Expectations.....	15
Academic Accommodation of Students With Disabilities	16
Requests For Relief For Missed Academic Term Work.....	16
Academic Accommodation For Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)	16
Copyright And Recording.....	16
Extreme Circumstances.....	17
Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy	17

Course Description

This course introduces students to the study of health, illness and health care from social, cultural, political and economic perspectives. Its objective is to encourage students to think critically about health and health care issues. This course prepares students to pursue studies in Health, Aging and Society, and in many other health-related disciplines.

The course is divided three, two-week modules. The first is an introductory module, covering what critical health studies means, disciplinarity, the concept of health as a social construct, and the social determinants of health. The second module delves deeper into society, health and illness, covering issues such as culture, identity, politics and globalization. The third module will cover health care paradigms, systems and policies, examining modern biomedical culture, health care systems, consumerism and ethics.

As the course is online-only, most of the content will be delivered asynchronously. This gives students flexibility to work through the materials at their own pace and on their chosen schedule, within the time frame of each module. In addition, online small-group discussions and synchronous tutorial sessions will give students the opportunity to discuss the course content, share ideas and learn together. The course content is closely aligned with the required text, and the text book pages indicated in the weekly course description form the bulk of the required reading. However, students will be encouraged to relate all materials, theories, themes, concepts and issues to their own experiences, and with this in mind, they will also have the opportunity to draw on other materials to complete the coursework, and will be required to find their own sources to complete the final paper.

Course Objectives

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

- Discuss different theoretical approaches to health studies.

- Understand how definitions and states of health, wellness, well-being, and illness are constructed.
- Think critically about the social determinants of health.
- Think critically about complex health matters, and how they are shaped by social forces.
- Develop their academic research and writing skills through the completion of course work and assignments.
- Research, debate and write a comprehensive paper related to health studies issues.
- Present their ideas to their classmates, and engage in critical academic discussions with colleagues through participation in class debates and question periods.

Required Text

- Gillett, J., Andrews, G.J., Savelli, M., (2016). *Health and society: critical perspectives*. Oxford University Press: Canada.

The book is available in hard copy and e-text from the [McMaster Campus Store](#).

Class Format

This is an online course that is held partially asynchronously and partially synchronously. You will also need to do the required reading for each week to meet the requirements for the course, and get the most out of the lectures and synchronous tutorials. Please review the course schedule below for more information

Asynchronous content

The asynchronous content is organized into three modules (Module 1: June 21st - July 4th; Module 2: July 5th - July 18th; Module 3: July 19th - August 6th). The materials for asynchronous learning will comprise four 25-30 minutes recorded lectures and a slide

deck for each topic under each module, and may include some additional notes and supplementary materials. The lectures may include material not drawn from the coursebook, so you will need to watch to all of the lectures in order to be prepared for what will come up in the evaluation assignments. These materials will be uploaded onto Avenue to Learn in three batches, one for each module, by 6pm the day before the module begins. Thus, Module 1 will be available at 6pm on Sunday June 20th; Module 2 will be available at 6pm on Sunday July 4th; with Module 3 will be available at 6pm on Sunday July 18th. Videos will be closed-captioned, and a transcript will be provided for those who cannot access the file.

Synchronous sessions

There will be two, one-hour, synchronous sessions each week, on Mondays at 4-5 pm and Wednesdays, also at 4-5pm. Students are expected to attend **one** session per week, and will be assigned to either group A (Monday session) or group B (Wednesday session) for the duration of the course. Please refer to the tutorial section in the course evaluation below for details of how these sessions will be run.

Synchronous session dates: Mondays (June 21st and 28th, July 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th, August 2nd) and Wednesdays (June 23rd and 30th, July 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th, August 4th) 4-5pm.

PLEASE NOTE: It is strictly prohibited to post, distribute, transmit, copy, etc., lecture and tutorial material/notes in any shape or form (electronically, audio, etc.,) outside of Avenue to Learn and the SAS notetaking program. This includes but is not limited to: online note sharing sites, Facebook, YouTube, Google documents, etc.,. If you miss the notes from a particular class, there is a discussion board in Avenue where you can connect with classmates to obtain the missed notes

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Tutorial attendance and participation: 20%
2. Tutorial presentation: 15%

3. Module 1 and module 2 midterm paper 30%
4. Final paper: 35%

Course Evaluation – Details

Assignment 1: Tutorial attendance and participation (20%)

There are two tutorial times each week, Monday at 4-5pm and Wednesday at 4-5pm, from June 21st/23rd to August 2nd/4th inclusive. The first tutorial (June 21st/23rd) will be for introductions, ensuring everyone is clear about the course outline, and a walk-through of the course objectives, structure and evaluations. At each of the following five tutorials, there will be student-led presentations. Please see below for details of the presentations. The final tutorial (Aug 2nd/4th) will be a wrap-up session and will cover any queries about the final paper.

Students are expected to attend all seven tutorials, but on the basis that life sometimes gets in the way and it may not be possible to be present for all seven, you can make up for up to two absences with extra participation in the sessions you do attend, without incurring a penalty for absence. This grade is not split between attendance and participation. This is deliberate. In this weird year of COVID-19, I have occasionally ‘attended’ events by logging in, switching off my camera, and leaving the room. Whilst you could argue that the only person who is harmed by this is the person missing out on the content, doing this won’t get you any points at all.

Participation means contributing to the conversation, leaving constructive comments in the chat, helping our fellow students by not leaving them in excruciating silence when they have asked for comments from the group e.g., after their own presentations. It means being respectful of each other, supportive and kind. You will be rewarded for the quality of your input to group discussions that shows you’ve done the reading, not by how long, or how often you speak. For the extroverts among us (guilty), that sometimes means knowing when to resist the urge to speak, so that others can have a crack at getting their participation grade. It would be so much nicer if we could be in a room

together for the synchronous sessions, but the online format is the best we have for now, and we must all make the best of it. It is extraordinarily difficult to teach or present to black screens. I ask that we all have our cameras on as often as possible during these sessions. This makes a huge difference to at least feeling like we are all in the same place together.

**Assignment 2: Tutorial presentation: Did you know? (15%) Due dates:
individually assigned**

Each week, several students will be assigned a time slot to do a presentation. These presentations will be an opportunity to break away from the course material, and explore the course topics through other sources. You will all only have to prepare one presentation during the whole course.

For the presentation, you can choose any one of the topics covered in the lectures, and then present another source on that same topic. It doesn't matter if we haven't yet covered that topic by the time it's your turn to do your presentation. You can choose from any of the topics we will cover during the whole course. The source can be a peer-reviewed journal article, a mainstream media article or programme, something you found on social media, a book, a TED (or similar) talk, a YouTube video, a movie or documentary, or even something from your own experience. I'm deliberately leaving the source of the material you present as broad as possible. I want you to approach this presentation the way you would a conversation with a friend about something really interesting that you recently came across, something that you think is worth sharing, something that made you reflect on the course topic, and relate it to real life. You don't have to create a slide deck or do any visual presentation, but you can if you wish.

Please email me directly with your preferred date to present in one of the sessions for your group (see above, Class Format, for the dates). The last day to state your preference is 6pm Tuesday June 22nd for those students in Group A, and 6pm Thursday June 24th for Group B. I will do my best to accommodate your request, while ensuring there are enough presenters each session. For students who don't request a time slot, I

McMaster University, Department of Health, Aging and Society, HLTHAGE 1AA3

will randomly assign one. Please see the assignments tab in Avenue to Learn for your assigned week. I will announce when the assigned weeks are posted there.

Be ready to speak for 6-8 minutes (if you write yourself a script, that's about 2-3 pages of text, 12pt, single spaced), and leaving 2-4 minutes for Q and A. You will need to have three or four discussion points/questions for the class to prompt class discussion. Your grade will be based on the presentation, and your participation in question time. For those of you wondering about presenting in the first week, I will be cognizant of the awkwardness of being one of the first to present when I am grading this assignment.

Assignment 3: Module 1 and Module 2 short essay (15% each, total 30%)

Due dates: July 9th for Module 1, July 22nd for Module 2.

This take-home exam assignment is to be completed at the end of Module 1, and at the end of Module 2. You will be given three questions based on the content of the relevant module, and will need to choose one question to answer. Your answer should demonstrate your familiarity with the course materials in that module, and should be approximately 600-800 words. If you write substantially beyond the required word count, I may not grade it beyond the first 800 words. You will have four full days from when the questions are posted on Avenue to when the submission folder is closed to write the paper.

Assignment 4: Final paper (35%) Due date August 11th

For the final paper, I will provide a list of questions relating to the content across all three modules of the course. Students must choose one and write an essay of approximately 1,000 words. Details of these questions, together with a detailed overview of this assignment, will be provided in the final tutorial session and on Avenue. Briefly, you will be expected to draw on the course materials and your own reading, and you will have one week to complete the assignment.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Module 1: Introduction, Weeks 1 and 2

- Recorded lecture 1: Introduction to health and society
- Recorded lecture 2: Health studies disciplines
- Recorded lecture 3: The social construction of health
- Recorded lecture 4: The (social) determinants of health
- Readings: Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 10 of the textbook

Week 1 (21st – 27th June)

- Group A tutorial: Monday June 21st 4-5pm
- Group B tutorial: Wednesday June 23rd 4-5pm
- Introduction to 1AA3 and Course Expectations. Introductions: please be ready to introduce yourself, your programme of study, why you're taking the course and/or a fun fact about yourself.

Week 2 (28th June – 4th July)

- Group A tutorial: Monday June 28th 4-5pm
- Group B tutorial: Wednesday June 30th 4-5pm
- Student presentations, review of module 1 materials

Module 2: Society, health and illness, weeks 3 and 4

- Recorded lecture 5: Cultures and meanings of health
- Recorded lecture 6: Identity, intersectionality and health
- Recorded lecture 7: Politics, social justice and health
- Recorded lecture 8: Globalization and health
- Readings: Chapters 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the textbook

Week 3 (5th – 11th July)

- Group A tutorial: Monday July 5th 4-5pm
- Group B tutorial: Wednesday July 7th 4-5pm
- Student presentations

Week 4 (12th – 18th July)

- Group A tutorial: Monday July 12th 4-5pm
- Group B tutorial: Wednesday July 14th 4-5pm
- Student presentations, review of module 2 materials

Module 3: health care paradigms, systems and policies, weeks 5 and 6

- Recorded lecture 9: Modern biomedical culture
- Recorded lecture 10: Health care systems
- Recorded lecture 11: Ethical issues in Health and Health Care
- Recorded lecture 12: Consumerism, health and health care
- Readings: Chapters 8, 9, 12, and 13 of the textbook

Week 5 (19th – 25th July)

- Group A tutorial: Monday July 19th 4-5pm
- Group B tutorial: Wednesday July 21st 4-5pm
- Student presentations

Week 6 (26th July – 1st August)

- Group A tutorial: Monday July 26th 4-5pm
- Group B tutorial: Wednesday July 28th 4-5pm
- Student presentations, review of module 3 materials

Week 7 (2nd to 6th August)

- Group A tutorial: Monday August 2nd 4-5pm
- Group B tutorial: Wednesday August 4th 4-5pm
- Final student presentations, exam preview, course roundup

Course Policies

Technical Requirements

This course will have materials, announcements, grades etc. posted online using [Avenue to Learn](#) (aka Avenue) - McMaster's online learning management system. System and software requirements can be found at <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca>

Submission of Assignments

Please note the instructions for submission of work listed under the [Course Evaluation – Overview](#) and under [Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings](#) sections. All items are clearly noted with regard to the due date and protocol for submission.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C

MARK	GRADE
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments

All late papers, presentations etc. will lose 3 points per day including weekends.

Missed Exams, Course Requirements

Should a student miss a presentation or assignment, they must notify me immediately by phone or e-mail. The student must read the information regarding deferred exams/term work. The student absence form online must be filled out only if the work missed is less than 24% of the student's final overall grade.

All students must complete the midterm work. No one may miss the presentation or fail to hand in the midterm paper and assume the final paper will count for more. This is not permitted in this course.

Office Hours and Email Communication

Every Monday for the duration of the course, I will be available from 5.30-6.30pm via the same Zoom link as that day's tutorial for questions you have about the course content (starting the week of June 21st). Please be aware: this is not a private discussion. Alternatively, I am also available by email (parryj@mcmaster.ca). Please use proper email etiquette when sending an email: include the course name in your subject line; provide a salutation (Dear Jane is fine); and include your name and student number. You can expect a response to your email within 24 hours.

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.

Review of Marks

We are very diligent in marking all work in the course making sure all is fair and accurate. Occasionally students disagree with the marks they receive for an assignment. To have your assignment reviewed, please adhere to the following procedure.

1. Write a one-page memo describing in detail the nature of the review.
2. Please make sure to submit your assignment for review no later than one week after receiving your mark and after carefully reviewing the markers comments.
3. Keep in mind that when a mark is reviewed, the new mark may be lower than the original.

University Policies

Academic Integrity

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. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

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. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

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 other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software.

All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster’s use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

Courses with an On-line Element

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, 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 a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Online Proctoring

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

Academic Accommodation of Students With Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

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".

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 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.

Copyright And Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized

distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

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.

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.