This course is designed for the students who are interested in the sociology of health, health care and public health to study some key concepts and theoretical approaches/debates in sociology of health. Main topics covered in this course include:

1) Sociological approaches of health and illness
2) Main concepts and terminologies of health and measurement
3) Health and health care in Canada and beyond
4) The Canadian health care system
5) Social determinants of health
6) The relationship between gender/class/ethnicity and health/health care, and
7) Cultural competency issue in health care

Throughout this course, students will learn to look at health, illness and health care through sociological lenses, to have a thorough understanding of the Canadian health care system, especially its strength and shortcomings in a global perspective; to study the concept of social determinants of health and population health perspective. Students will learn to think about health and health care sociologically.

This course will be in a seminar format and much of the learning will take place in the seminar exchange. Students are expected to read all the assigned readings before class and actively participate in the seminar discussions.

### Course Readings:

- Dennis Raphael (ed): Social Determinants of Health: Canadian Perspectives, CSPI press
- Kue Young: Population Health: Concepts & Methods, Oxford University Press, 2004

The reading package for the course is available at the UW Bookstore.

Other readings will be posted on the UW-ACE course website.

Please check the course website often for course announcements and other relevant information.
SOC 725/424 Course Schedule

Week one:
Topics: Course introduction and assignments instructions
Sociology of health
Sociological perspectives on health and illness
Readings:

Week two:
Topic: Measuring health
Reading:

Week three:
Topic: Health, illness and medicine
Reading:

Week four:
Topic: The distribution of health and illness
Reading:

Week five:
Topic: Cultural competency in health care
Reading: Handouts

Week six:
Guest lecturer: Prof. Sue Horton
Cost-effectiveness in health care: an international perspective

Week seven:
Topic: Population health

Week eight:
Topic: Social determinants of health
Readings:
Chapter 1 and Chapter 23 of Social Determinants of Health: Canadian Perspectives, Dennis Raphael (ed), CSPI press. Pp 1-17 & pp345-359 & Handouts
**Week nine:**
Topic: The Canadian health care system
Readings:
Chapter 10 “Creating a Health Care System” in Alexander Segall and Neena L. Chappell: *Health and Health Care in Canada*, pp236-263

**Week ten:**
Topic: Comparative health policies
Readings:

**Week eleven:**
Topic: Medicalization of Society & Medical Tourism
Readings: handouts

**Week twelve:**
Student presentations
Discussions
Course paper Qs and As

**Course Evaluation:**
1. Classroom participation: 20% (attendance 10%; class subject matter discussion contribution 10%). This seminar course emphasizes on classroom learning and sharing, attendance is important. Any student who missed three or more classes will have zero participation mark.
2. Presentations: 30% (course reading material presentation, 15%; course paper presentation, 15%)
3. Final paper* (50%)
*Any student who plans to work on his/her thesis in the area of the course’s subject matter can write a research proposal/thesis chapter instead of a course paper.

**Course paper due:** 7 December 2011 (Wednesday)

**Important Message:**
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**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.
[Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.]
Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity [check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/] to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 (Student Petitions and Grievances) (other than a petition) or Policy 71 (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals) www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm. When in doubt please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Note for students with disabilities The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.