**CARLETON UNIVERSITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

**SOCI 2050B**

**WINTER 2024**

**SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH**

**Instructor:** Alex Hilmarsson

**Email:** [AlexHilmarsson@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:AlexHilmarsson@cunet.carleton.ca)

**Method of Delivery:** In-person

**Course Description:** This course will examine key sociological theories and issues related to health, illness, and medicine. We will explore the Canadian healthcare system, and how it relates to the international context. We will address questions such as what determines individual and population health? Are these determined by lifestyle choices, or by socioeconomic positions of individuals and groups in society? Social determinants of health will be critically analyzed, alongside societal inequality and disease, and how these are impacted by neoliberal policies. In addition, we will discuss the structural and individual factors crucial for the health and well-being of Canada’s diverse population. A brief history of Western medicine, Canadian universal Medicare, and more contemporary developments of medicalization, and privatization of public health services will be explored. Development of alternative, complementary and allopathic medicine will be reviewed, and a critique of the rise of pharmaceutical corporations and the medical-industrial complex will be examined.

**Reading (s)/Textbook (s):** Clarke, Juanne N. (Juanne Nancarrow). *Health, Illness, and Medicine in Canada*. Eighth edition., Oxford University Press, 2020.

**Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Assessment | Weight |
| **Short Assignment** | **15%** |
| **Midterm Assignment** | **35%** |
| **Take Home Exam** | **35%** |
| **Attendance and Participation** | **15%** |