

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**  
**SOCI 2050 B**  
**WINTER 2026**  
**SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH**

**Instructor:** Professor Steven Prus

**Virtual Office Hours:** Tuesday 10:30-11:30am (or by appointment) at:

<https://zoom.us/j/2288825844>

**Email:** [steven\\_prus@carleton.ca](mailto:steven_prus@carleton.ca)

**Brightspace course page link:** <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/367641>

**Pre-requisites:** SOCI 1001 and SOCI 1002, or SOCI 1003 [1.0], or ANTH 1001, or ANTH 1002.

**Method of Delivery:** Online, Synchronous (Tuesday, 11:35am-2:25pm)

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course provides a sociological analysis of health, illness, and the health care system. It covers a range of topics from a sociological perspective including the distribution of health and disease within and between countries, determinants of health, and development and organization of health care systems. The two-hour (11:35am-1:35pm) lecture (per week) is designed to provide an essential understanding of these topics. Each lecture is followed by (1:35-2:25pm) a tutorial to review and discuss the previous week's lecture. Lectures, tutorials, exams, and office hours will be delivered synchronously (in real-time) through Zoom's video conferencing platform. All lecture material, including lecture notes, will be posted on Brightspace.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- think sociologically, and critically, about health and health care
- understand the organization and structure of the Canadian health care system
- apply sociological theories to understand how social factors shape the health of Canadians

**Reading(s)/Textbook(s):** Juanne Clarke. Health, Illness, and Medicine in Canada, Eighth Edition (2021), Oxford University Press.

- The cost of the textbook is \$125.99
- Second-hand copies are also available and can be used in the course.

**Course Schedule:** Tuesday January 6 to Tuesday April 7, 11:35am-2:25pm

**Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:**

Assessment *	Weight
Test 1 (multiple-choice, on-line, January 27 at 1:25-2:25pm)	25%
Test 2 (multiple-choice, on-line, March 17 at 1:25-2:25pm)	25%
Final Term Paper (essay-style questions, due on Brightspace, April 8 11:59pm)	25%
Class Attendance	25%

\* Please note:

1. self-declaration form (available on the Registrar's Office website) must be completed to request academic accommodation for a missed test or class attendance. The midterm and final tests will be re-scheduled for the following Saturday: January 31 at 6:00-7:00pm and March 21 at 6:00-7:00pm respectively. The tests cannot be rescheduled again.
2. Late exams will be penalized at a rate of 10% of the mark per day, barring completion of the self-declaration form available on the Registrar's Office website.

**Citation Style**

The Chicago author-date citation style (17th edition) is to be used in the assignments and papers of this course. For more information, please see:

[https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html)

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In this course, you are expected to learn from your texts, your teacher and from one another. This requires striving towards understanding each other but it does not imply striving towards finding agreement. Our class will be racially, religiously, politically, culturally, generationally, and economically diverse. We will be of different gender identifications and sexual orientations and our lived experiences and reactions to the course material will reflect this diversity. Sharing our perspectives and interpretations on the course material will enhance everyone's learning experience and you are encouraged to openly express any disagreements with the authors you will read, with your fellow classmates, or with the Professor in the different participation fora that are available for this course. However, you are expected to conduct yourself in such a way that shows the utmost respect to others who may – or may not – share your views. Derogatory comments and hateful behavior towards others (and their views) will not be tolerated.

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

## **Additional Information**

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50	WDN = Withdrawn from the course		DEF = Deferred

## **Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Plagiarism, Etc.**

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website, here:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/>

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (<https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/>). For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

### **Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC: <https://carleton.ca/PMC/>) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at **613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca)** for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your ***Letter of Accommodation*** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*).

\*The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for February/March examinations is **February 1, 2026** and **March 15, 2026** for April examinations.

### **For Religious Obligations:**

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For

more details, visit the Equity Services website: [www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

### **For Pregnancy:**

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

### **For Survivors of Sexual Violence**

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [www.carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](http://www.carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

### **Accommodation for Student Activities**

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as your own and is a serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (See <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/> ). The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Students who infringe the Policy may be subject to one of several penalties.

### **Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools (e.g. ChatGPT)**

Unless explicitly permitted, either generally or for a specific assignment, any use of generative AI tools to produce assessed content is considered a violation of academic integrity standards. As our understanding of the uses of AI and its relationship to student work and academic integrity continue to evolve, students are required to discuss their use of AI in any circumstance not described here with the course instructor to ensure it supports the learning goals for the course.

Note: Students can also access resources related to citing Generative AI on the [MacOdrum Library website](#).

## **What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?**

A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including but not limited to: a grade of zero, a failure or a reduced grade for the piece of academic work; reduction of final grade in the course; completion of a remediation process; resubmission of academic work; withdrawal from course(s); suspension from a program of study; a letter of reprimand.

## **What are the Procedures?**

All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management. Documentation is prepared by instructors and departmental chairs. The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism. The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

## **Statement on Student Mental Health:**

“As a student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>”

## **Emergency Resources ([on and off campus](#))**

- Crisis/Urgent Counselling Support: 613-520-6674 (Mon-Fri, 8:30-4:30)
- Suicide Crisis Helpline: call or text 9-8-8, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For immediate danger or urgent medical support: call 9-1-1

## **Carleton Resources**

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

## Off Campus Resources

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: call 613-238-3311, text 343-306-5550, or connect online at <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: call 613-722-6914 or toll-free 1-866-996-0991, or connect online at <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Good2Talk: call 1-866-925-5454 or connect online at <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: for online or on-site service  
<https://walkincounselling.com>

## Important Information:

- Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.
- Carleton University is committed to protecting the privacy of those who study or work here (currently and formerly). To that end, Carleton's Privacy Office seeks to encourage the implementation of the privacy provisions of Ontario's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) within the university.
- In accordance with FIPPA, please ensure all communication with staff/faculty is via your Carleton email account. To get your Carleton Email you will need to activate your [MyCarletonOne account](#) through Carleton Central. Once you have activated your MyCarletonOne account, log into the [MyCarleton Portal](#).
- Please note that you will be able to link your MyCarletonOne account to other non-MyCarletonOne accounts and receive emails from us. However, for us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid MyCarletonOne address. Therefore, it would be easier to respond to your inquiries if you would send all email from your connect account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting <https://students.carleton.ca/>.

## WINTER TERM 2026 – Important Dates and Deadlines

Date	Activity
WINTER TERM 2026	
December 29, 2025	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in full winter and early winter term courses.
January 5, 2026	University reopens.
	Winter term begins. Full winter and early winter classes begin.
January 9, 2026	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in early winter courses.
January 16, 2026	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in full winter and late winter courses.
	Last day to withdraw from early winter courses with a full fee adjustment.
	Graduate students who have not electronically submitted their final thesis copy to Graduate Studies will not be eligible to graduate in winter 2026 and must register for the winter 2026 term.
January 23-25, January 30- February 1, 2026	Full fall and late fall term deferred final examinations will be held.

Date	Activity
January 31, 2026	Last day to withdraw from full winter courses and the winter portion of fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment.
February 1, 2026	Last day for academic withdrawal from early winter courses.
Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for Feb/Mar final examinations from the Paul Merton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.	
February 6, 2026	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in early winter undergraduate courses, before the official Feb/Mar final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
February 13, 2026	Last day of early winter classes.
Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned in early winter courses, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.	
Last day that can be specified by an instructor as a due date for term work for early winter courses.	

Date	Activity
	April examination schedule available online.
February 16, 2026	Statutory holiday. University closed.
	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in late winter courses.
February 16-20, 2026	Winter break, no classes.
February 21-22, February 28-March 1, 2026	Final examinations in early winter undergraduate courses will be held.
February 23, 2026	Late winter classes begin.
February 27, 2026	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in late winter courses.
March 1, 2026	Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate degree program for the fall/winter session from applicants whose documents originate outside Canada or the United States.
	Last day for receipt of applications to Bachelor of Architecture, Bachelor of Industrial Design, Bachelor of Information Technology (Interactive Multimedia and Design), Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of

Date	Activity
	Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Social Work degree programs for the fall/winter session.
March 6, 2026	<p>Last day for receipt of applications for admission from candidates who wish to be guaranteed consideration for financial assistance (including Carleton fellowships, scholarships and teaching assistantships) administered by Carleton University.</p> <p>Candidates whose applications are received after the March 1 deadline may be considered for the award of a fellowship, scholarship or teaching assistantship (Graduate students only).</p>
March 13-15, 2026	Last day to withdraw from late winter term courses with a full fee adjustment.
March 15, 2026	Early winter undergraduate deferred final examinations will be held.
	Last day for academic withdrawal from full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses.
March 25, 2026	Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for April full winter, late winter, and fall/winter final examinations from the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.
	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in full winter term or fall/winter undergraduate

Date	Activity
	courses, before the official April final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
April 1, 2026	Last day for graduate students to submit their supervisor-approved thesis, in examinable form to the department.
	Last day for receipt of applications from potential spring (June) graduates.
	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in late winter term undergraduate courses, before the official final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
April 3, 2026	Statutory holiday. University closed.
April 8, 2026	Winter term ends.
	Classes follow a Friday schedule.
	Last day of full winter, late winter, and fall/winter classes.

Date	Activity
	Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.
April 9-10, 2026	Last day that can be specified by an instructor as a due date for term work for full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses.
April 11-23, 2026	Final examinations in full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses will be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
April 23, 2026	All final take-home examinations are due on this day, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.
May 1, 2026	Last day for receipt of applications for undergraduate internal degree transfers to allow for registration for the summer session.
May 15-27, 2026	Full winter, late winter term, and fall/winter deferred final examinations will be held.
June 1, 2026	Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate program for

Date	Activity
	the fall/winter session except for applications due March 1.
June 15, 2026	Last day for receipt of applications for undergraduate degree program transfers for the fall term.

# COURSE OUTLINE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics and Required Readings</u>
Jan 6, 13, 20	<b>Sociology of Health, Part 1—Health in an International, Historical, and Environmental Context</b>  <b>Main Topics:</b> Health in Global and Canadian Contexts; Social causes of Illness; Physical Environment and Health; Occupational Health and Safety.  Readings Chs. 2 and 3
Jan 27, Feb 3, 10, 24	<b>Sociology of Health, Part 2—Social Determinants of Health</b>  <b>Main Topics:</b> Social Determinants of Health: Gender, Sexualities, Racialization, Ethnicity, and Indigenous Peoples; Explanations for the Health Inequalities; Social-Psychological Explanations for Health: Stress, Social Support, and Health.  Readings: Chs. 4-6
Mar 3, 10, 17	<b>Sociology of Medicine, Part 1—Medicalization, the Medical Profession, and Medicare</b>  <b>Main Topics:</b> History of Western Medical Practice; Medicare in Canada; Impact of Medicare; and Health-Care Systems in International Context.  Readings: Chs. 9-11 and 15
Mar 24, 31, Apr 7	<b>Sociology of Medicine, Part 2—Alternative and Complementary Health Care Systems &amp; the Medical-Industrial Complex</b>  <b>Main Topics:</b> Alternative, Complementary Medicine; Pharmaceutical Industry  Readings: Chs. 13-14