**SOCIOLOGY 100: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY**

**Health Studies Colloquium**

**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY, 2015-2016**

**Dr. Riley Olstead**

**Office:** 110C Annex Building

**E-mail**: [rolstead@stfx.ca](mailto:rolstead@stfx.ca)

**Office Hours**:

Mondays 8-11 and 12:45-2;

Tuesdays, 8-9:30 and 11-3:30;

Thursdays, 9:30-12:30 and 2-3:30.

**Class Times**: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

In this course, students will be working with a variety of theoretical approaches to consider the field of health and illness. In terms of emphasis, the first half of the course will concentrate on gaining familiarity with several of sociology’s most common approaches to health studies: particularly feminist, political economic, constructivist and functionalist approaches. At the same time we will come to develop an understanding of such things as, a history of medicine, gender relations of power and the social determinants of health, the process of medicalization, racism and health and the Canadian health care system. However in the second half of the course we will turn to looking at a relatively new field of health inquiry, that of food. This is not to say that food has been previously ignored in health studies, but that we will take a more recent approach to consider the intersection between food and health. Specifically, we will operate using a world ecological approach to ask such questions as, ‘who makes our food’, ‘how is it made’, ‘how did it come to be made this way’ and importantly, how do these processes and practices pertain to the health of the planet. Together we will work toward an understanding of the fundamental relatedness of all things in such a way that we will come to recognize how we cannot achieve human health if our relationship with other people, beings and the planet is founded on exploitation.

**Required Reading**:

1. Reading Kit (Available in the bookstore – look for the course number and my name

on your kit)

1. Hetherington, Kregg. 2005. *Cultivating utopia: Organic farmers in a conventional landscape.* Fernwood Publishing: Toronto.
2. Shiva, Vandana. 2000. *Stolen harvest: The hijacking of the global food supply*. South End Press: Cambridge, MA. \*
3. York, Geoffrey. 1999. *The Dispossessed: Life and Death in Native Canada.* McArthur & Co. \*

\* Note: These books are no longer in publication. Some used copies are available in the campus bookstore, but many students will need to purchase their own copies on Amazon.ca)

**Description:**

**Evaluation:**

1. Service Learning =20 points OR Lecture Series =20 points
2. October quiz= 20 points
3. December Exam= 30 points
4. Final Exam= 30 points

Note: With the exception of the Biology class, students will either be evaluated based on their involvement in the Lecture Series, or in Service Learning ( See A, above) .

**Service Learning Project:** The Service Learning project provides you with the opportunity to choose a placement from a list of community agencies who serve the health needs (broadly defined) of various populations in and around Antigonish. Your Service Learning placement will take place over 10 weeks during the second term of the academic year (2 hrs per week). All the organizational steps that must be completed to begin your Service Learning placement will take place during the first term, and placements will begin in early January of the second term.

Sheena Cameron, the Service Learning Community Support Co-ordinator will provide the class with a list of potential agencies to work with in early September,and opportunities to sign up with specific agencies will be on a first-come, first-served basis. To sign up for your placement, you must see Sheena in her office during her office hours, as listed on the handout distributed in class, and as posted on the HSC Moodle website. **All placements must be designated with Sheena by November 19th at noon.**

Evaluation of your Service Learning project will be based on two components— reflective writing on your placement, and your final presentation. Each component will be worth 10% of your final grade. Extensions for the Service Learning projects **WILL NOT BE GIVEN** due to the involvement of the community agencies and their needs. Failure to comply with all the steps outlined in the Service Learning Agreement or completion of the assignment will result in a grade of 0, **NO EXCEPTIONS PERMITTED**.

**Reflective Writing Component**: You will be asked to complete 4 reflective writing assignments (approximately 1 page each) over the course of your 10 weeks with the organization. The questions on which you will be asked to reflect will be posted on the HSC Moodle site, and you will be able to post your responses on the site for grading. The first reflection will be worth 1% of your grade, and the remaining 3 reflections will be worth 3% each. You may choose when to complete the reflections, as long as they are completed before the last day of class.

**Service Learning Final Presentation:** For your final presentation, you will be asked to work with 2 other students in your class who are either working at the same organization, or who are working with an organization that is serving a similar health need, or population in the community. Your team of 3 will be asked to design a presentation for your class that will demonstrate what it is that you learned from you placement with the organization, and how your understanding of your course material was enhanced through your placement. One member of the team will demonstrate how their understanding of Psychology was enhanced, one will demonstrate how their understanding of Sociology was enhanced and the third member will demonstrate how their understanding of Biology was enhanced. The link between the placements of each group member should be clear to everyone.

You are responsible for forming your own groups of 3. A sign up sheet for the group presentation dates will be posted on the HSC Moodle site, and the order of presentations will be on first come first-served basis. Final presentations will be given in your Sociology class on March 22nd, or on the 23rd if you are doing your SL component in the Psychology class. Half of the HSC groups will present in each class, and grades will be assigned as an evaluation of the group.   
  
Students are welcome to be creative in the way they present their work, for instance, in the form of a video or a poster. Work will be evaluated on the basis of the apparent collaboration between group members, the depth of reflection and critical thought involved, the clarity and overall creativity of the project, and finally, the structural quality of the work—the grammar, syntax, formatting, etc… You will be provided approximately 10 minutes to present your work to the class.

**The HSC Lecture Series:** All students will also participate in the HSC Lecture Series offered by local health scholars, researchers and activists. Students are expected to attend at least 2 of 3 lectures each term, and in that same term, submit an evaluation of the lecture through the HSC Moodle site. Each of the 2 evaluations per term will be worth 2.5% of your final grade. The grades for all 4 of your evaluations will be applied to your second term mark in either your PSYC100 or your SOCI100 class.

To meet the requirements of this assignment, students must submit a critical reflection in which an issue raised in the HSC lecture is explored in light of something that you have learned in one or more of your HSC courses. Alternatively, students may wish to further explore something that was raised in the lecture, using independent research, and including proper citations for the independent research in the assignment. Each evaluation must be at least 1 page, and no longer than 2 pages, in length (12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced). Evaluation of the responses to the lecture series will take into account the quality of critical consideration of the topic, along with the depth of analysis brought to the issue highlighted.

**University and Classroom Policies**

**Plagiarism**: Familiarize yourself with the university plagiarism policies and punishments. You are responsible for understanding them and abiding by them. The StFX library has links, tutorials, and definitions at this site: <http://sites.stfx.ca/library/plagiarism>. The StFX calendar outlines the procedures concerning and penalties for committing plagiarism.

**StFX Equity Policy**: Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and harassment.  I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space—both face-to-face and online—that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity.  These values and practices are in accord with the StFX Discrimination and Harassment Policy which can be found at <http://www.mystfx.ca/campus/stu-serv/equity/>. Please feel free to talk to me about your questions or concerns about equity in our classroom or in the StFX community in general.  If I cannot answer your questions or help you address your concerns, I encourage you to talk to the Chair/Coordinator of the Department/Program or the Human Rights and Equity Advisor, Marie Brunelle at [mbrunell@stfx.ca](mailto:mbrunell@stfx.ca).

**Electronics:** Students who use electronic devices for anything other than taking notes will be asked to leave the class. Cellular phones must be turned off. This practice is intended to protect students from unnecessary intrusions on their learning.

**Moodle:** This course uses the HSC Moodle website. Please consult the website and familiarize yourself with the information available ( such as sign-up sheets for group presentations).

**Schedule of Weekly Readings, Tests and Assignments**

**Week 1: Introduction & The dominant vs. sociological approach**

**(Sep. Tuesday 8th & Thursday 10th)**

* **“**What we mean by social determinants of health”

**Week 2: The birth of allopathic medicine**

**(Sep. 15th and Thursday 17th)**

* “The questionable” contribution of medical measures to the decline of mortality”

**Week 3: Service Learning & critical thinking**

**(Sep. 22 and 24th)**

* **“**Service-learning: Charity-based or transformative?”
* Service learning Speaker: SL Theory

**Week 4: Suicide and the critical practice of sociology**

**(Tuesday Sept. 29th and Oct 1st** )

* “Body ritual among the Nacirema”
* Selection from “What is a social fact?”

**Week 5: Colonialism, cultural genocide and health**

**(Oct 6th and 8th**)

* *The Dispossessed*
* Film: Richard Cardinal (NFB)

**Week 6: Aboriginal health and justice**

**(Oct 13th and 15th)**

* Finish film
* October Quiz (20%)

**Week 7 Medicalisation and medical control**

**(Oct 20th and 22nd**)

* “The medicalization of shyness: From social misfits to social fitness”
* Film Clip: Through a Blue Lens (20 minutes) (NFB)
* Shyness quiz and theory

**Week 8 Health Industries**

**(Oct 27th and 29th**)

* Lexchin, J. “Profits first: The pharmaceutical industry in Canada
* Film: Pink Ribbon, Inc.

**Week 9 Industrial politics of food Ecology, health and the common good**

**(Nov 3rd and 5th**)

* The Supermarket guide”
* “Food security, food justice, or food sovereignty?”

**Week 10**

**(Nov 10th )**

* People’s Place Library: Global Banquet

**\*\*No class on the 13th for fall study day**

**Week 11 Food justice**

**(Nov 17th and 19th**)

* ““Global ecology and the common good”
* \*\*Students must have met with Sheen Cameron regarding their Service Learning Placement, no later than November 19th.

Wednesday Nov 18th: All locations for the following are TBA

* + Food Justice Exhibition 6:00-7:00 pm
  + Public Lecture: 2015 Social Justice Chair, Mr. Palagummi Sainath 7:00-8:30 pm
  + Informal Reception to follow the Public Lecture.

**Week 12 Globalization, food and health**

**(Nov 24th and 26th)**

* **“**Jihad vs. McWorld”
* **“**Globalisation”
* Nov. 25th: SL representative to visit Dean Brebner’s class re: Placements
* \*\*Students must have Criminal Records Check done now

**Week 13 Corporate control vs. the public good**

**(Dec 1st and 3rd )**

* Film: Milk wars
* “Relocating law: Making corporate crime disappear”
* Final Exam preparation, last day of classes

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**Week 14 Dirt**

**(Jan 5th and 7th)**

* Film: “Dirt”
* *Stolen harvest: The hijacking of the global food supply*

**Week 15 Our bodies and the earth**

**(Jan 12th and 14th**)

* “The body and the earth”
* Prepare for Food analysis/stories workshop (Bonus credit: 2 points)

**Week 16 The moral, political and healthy eater**

**(Jan 19th and 21st**)

* Food analysis/stories workshop (Based on *Hungry Planet*)
* Food analysis/stories workshop
* Thursday, January 21st (7 pm-9 pm): Service Learning Orientation

Location: TBA

**Week 17 Food labour**

**(Jan 26th and 28th** )

* Film: El Contrato (NFB)
* “Agricultural production, work and health”
* 26th: SL representative coming to do follow-up for placements

**Week 18 Food deserts**

**(February 2nd and 4th )**

* “Exploring food availability in Antigonish, Nova Scotia through community-university partnerships”
* Feb 4th: Guest speaker: Christine Johnson

**Week 19 ‘Healthy food’ as moral code**

**(Feb 9th and 11th** )

* Harman, V. and Cappellini, B. (2015). “Mothers on display: Lunchboxes, social class and moral accountability”, *Sociology*, 1-18.
* Inthorn, S. and T. Boyce. (2010). “It’s disgusting how much salt you eat: Televison discourses of obesity, health and morality”, *International Journal of Cultural Studies* 13, (1): 83-100.
* <http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/video/viral-anti-obesity-ad-unhealthy-eating-habits-24975755>

**Week 20 Counter-agriculture : Farming as if you belong to an ecosystem**

**(Feb 23rd and 25th** )

* Hetherington, K. ( 2005). *Cultivating Utopia: Organic Farmers in a Conventional Landscape*.
* Film: The Real Dirt on Farmer John

**Week 22 Hunting**

**(Mar 8th and 10th** )

* “Tracking in pursuit of knowledge: Teachings of an Algonquin Anishinabe Bush Hunter”
* “The new Artemis? Women who hunt”

**Week 23 Gender, food and the economy**

**(Mar 15th and 17th** )

* Film: Whose Counting? (NFB)
* Reiter: “Life in the fast food industry”.

**Week 24 The local food supply**

**(Mar 22nd and 24th )**

* Mar 22: Student Research Showcase
* Guest speaker panel: Local farmers and food justice activists

**Week 25 Food justice**

**(Mar 29th and 31st** )

* Film: Food, Inc.
* Exam preparation

**Week 26 Final Exam**