The University of Newcastle
Faculty of Education and Arts
School of Humanities and Social Science

Student Focus are located at:
Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan
Level 2, Student Services Centre, Callaghan
Ground Floor, University House, City
Ground Floor, Administration Building, Ourimbah

SOCA1200

Health Sociology 1

Course Co-ordinator: Dr Cary Bennett
Room: W319, Behavioural Sciences Building
Ph: 4921 6764
Fax:
Email: Cary.Bennett@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: Wed. 3.00pm - 4pm
Fri. 3.00pm - 4.00pm
And by appointment

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1 Semester 2 2006

CTS Download Date: 11 July 2006
SOCA1200
Health Sociology 1

Course Coordinator: Dr Cary Bennett (Cary.Bennett@newcastle.edu.au)
Tutor: Ms Emma Kirby (Emma.Kirby@studentmail.newcastle.edu.au)
Faculty: Faculty of Education and Arts
School: School of Humanities
Unit Weighting: 10
Teaching Methods: Lectures and Tutorials

Description:
This course will introduce students to the sociological study and understanding of health and illness, focusing predominantly on Australian society. The course will examine the causes, nature and consequences of major health inequalities, the ways they are culturally understood, and some of the most important attempts to address them. Substantive topics may be drawn from a range of areas including the social distribution of health and illness; health promotion and illness prevention; access to health care; the state and health care system; the division of labour in the health workforce; ideologies of health, illness and inequality; and health, politics and social change.

Course Objectives:
On successful completion of this course students will be able to demonstrate:
1. An understanding of sociological approaches to the study of health and illness.
2. An understanding of some of the social, economic, political and cultural factors involved in the reproduction or transformation of inequalities in health and health care in Australian society.
4. Skills in researching, constructing and presenting well-supported arguments in written and verbal form.

Course Content:
1. Sociological approaches to the study and understanding of health and illness.
2. The social distribution of health and illness in Australian society.
3. Health promotion and illness prevention.
5. The Australian health care system.
6. Health, politics and social change.

Contact Hours:
One hour lecture per week for full term
Two hour tutorial per week for full term

Timetable (Semester 2 - 2006)

Lecture: Friday 12.00noon – 1.00pm [HB15]

Tutorials:
Or
Or
Or
Or

Wednesday 10.00am – 12.00noon [RW2-19]
Wednesday 1.00pm – 3.00pm [HA55]
Thursday 1.00pm – 3.00pm [RW2-22]
Friday 9.00am – 11.00am [RW2-22]
Friday 1.00pm – 3.00pm [RW2-22]

Learning Materials/Texts:
The required text for this course is:

This book is available for purchase at the United Campus Bookshop (Callaghan Campus). Copies are also available on Short Loans (Auchmuty and Huxley Libraries). NB: This course is using the 3rd edition (2005).
Plagiarism
University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs. Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link - http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/general/academic_integrity_policy_new.pdf

The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may:

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

Written Assessment Items
Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations
Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:
1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or
2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer on the prescribed form.

Please go to the Policy and the on-line form for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you, at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/adm_prog/adverse_circumstances.pdf

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- Requests for Special Consideration must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the date of submission or examination.
- Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.
- Requests for Rescheduling Exams must be lodged no later than 5 working days before the date of the examination.

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. Students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer in the first instance.
Changing your Enrolment
The last dates to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) is:
For semester 2 courses: **31 August 2006**
Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester and prior to the commencement of the formal exam period. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.
Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with the Student Enquiry Centre.

To change your enrolment online, please refer to [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html)

Contact Details
Faculty Student Service Offices
The Faculty of Education and Arts
Room: GP1-22 (General Purpose Building)
Phone: 02 4921 5314

Ourimbah Focus
Room: AB1.01 (Administration Building)
Phone: 02 4348 4030

The Dean of Students
Dr Jennifer Archer
Phone: 02 4921 5806
Fax: 02 4921 7151
resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah)
Dr Bill Gladstone
Phone: 02 4348 4123
Fax: 02 4348 4145

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit:

Alteration of this Course Outline
No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

**Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards**

**Web Address for Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards**

**Web Address for Rules Governing Professional Doctorate Awards**

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS
The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.
If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator. Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au
As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.
For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: [www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability)
Assessment Items:

Essays / Written Assignments:

**Essay 1,200 words due week 10. (40%)**

The essay will require the student to display a sophisticated understanding of theories, concepts and data explored in the lectures and course readings.

The essay is intended to provide an opportunity for students to critically examine and evaluate the reading material provided through this course, as well as readings students have found themselves.

There are two primary aims informing this task:

1. to ascertain whether students have a clear and sophisticated understanding of some of the key themes, concepts, theories and perspectives introduced in the readings from this course;
2. whether students can clearly and accurately express this understanding in the form of an scholarly essay.

Students’ work will be evaluated in terms of their ability to research, analyse, evaluate and synthesize relevant knowledge. Credit will also be given to work that demonstrates imagination, style and clear and persuasive expression.

The essay question/s will be provided early in the course.

Formal Examination:

**A two and a half hour multiple choice formal exam due end of semester based on lecture and tutorial readings. (40%)**

Group Oral Presentation and Individual Summary:

**Students will be required to give a 15 minute group oral presentation in tutorials, and provide a 500 word individual summary of their review (due one week after their presentation). (20%)**

Aim: To critically analyse a newspaper article on a social determinant of health from a sociological perspective.

**Oral Presentation:**

- Students are required to critically review, analyse and evaluate a health care issue covered in the Australian print media (newspaper or magazine) in relation to the various social determinants (eg, class, gender, race/ethnicity, age, disability, occupation) covered in the course lectures and tutorials.
- Students should clearly identify the social determinant they are examining and explain its impact on the health-related issue by drawing on the sociological themes, perspectives, theories, and concepts explored in the course lectures, tutorials and readings.
- In addition to the required reading, students are encouraged to draw on other substantive sociological readings.
- Students will organise themselves into groups of three or four (depending on class numbers) and nominate the week for their review. (We will organise this in Week 2).
- All presenters should make an equal contribution to their review.
- The duration of the presentation is 15 minutes.
- Presenters should allow for some class discussion at the conclusion of their review.

**Individual Review Summary:**

- Students are required to complete an individual written summary of the group presentation and findings.
- It should include a critically engaged review of the print article and the main conclusions drawn by their group.
- It should include the names of the presenters, the date of the oral presentation, and a copy of the article (placed in an Appendix).
- The report should be approximately 500 words and is due one week after the group oral presentation.

Further specific details regarding each assessment will be provided well in advance of the due date.
Online Tutorial Registration:
Students are required to enrol in the Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system:  
Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

Studentmail and Blackboard: www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/
This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details
Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Late assignments will be subject to the penalties described below.

Hard copy submission:

- **Type your assignments:** All work must be typewritten in 11 or 12 point black font. Leave a wide margin for marker’s comments, use 1.5 or double spacing, and include page numbers.
- **Word length:** The word limit of all assessment items should be strictly followed – 10% above or below is acceptable, otherwise penalties may apply.
- **Proof read your work** because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will be penalised.
- **Staple the pages** of your assignment together (do not use pins or paper clips).
- **University coversheet:** All assignments must be submitted with the University coversheet:  

Assignments are to be deposited at any Student Focus. Focus are located at:
- Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan
- Level 2, Student Services Centre, Callaghan
- Ground Floor, University House, City
- Ground Floor, Administration Building, Ourimbah

Any changes to this procedure will be announced during the semester.

- **Do not fax or email assignments:** Only hard copies of assignments will be considered for assessment. Inability to physically submit a hard copy of an assignment by the deadline due to other commitments or distance from campus is an unacceptable excuse. Assignments mailed to Schools are accepted from the date posted.
- **Keep a copy of all assignments:** All students must date stamp their own assignments using the machine provided. Mailed assignments to schools are date-stamped upon receipt. However, it is the student’s responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Students are advised to keep updated back-ups in hard copy and on disk.

Online copy submission to Turnitin
In addition to hard copy submission, students are required to submit an electronic version of the following assignments to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website:
- Essay 1,200 words
- 500 word summary of their oral presentation and review

Prior to final submission, all students have the opportunity to submit one draft of their assignment to Turnitin to self-check their referencing. Assignments will not be marked until both hard copy and online versions have been submitted. Marks may be deducted for late submission of either version.

Penalties for Late Assignments
Assignments submitted after the due date, without an approved extension of time will be penalised by the **reduction of 5% of the possible maximum mark** for the assessment item for each day or part day that the item is late. Weekends count as one day in determining the penalty. Assessment items submitted **more than ten days** after the due date will be awarded zero marks.

Special Consideration/Extension of Time Applications
Students wishing to apply for Special Consideration or Extension of Time should obtain the appropriate form from the Student Focus.  
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/index.html

No Assignment Re-submission
Students who have failed an assignment are not permitted to revise and resubmit it in this course. However, students are always welcome to contact their Tutor, Lecturer or Course Coordinator to make a consultation time to receive individual feedback on their assignments.
Remarks
Students can request to have their work re-marked by the Course Coordinator or Discipline Convenor (or their delegate); three outcomes are possible: the same grade, a lower grade, or a higher grade being awarded. Students may also appeal against their final result for a course. Please consult the University policy at:

Return of Assignments
Students can collect assignments from a nominated Student Focus during office hours. Students will be informed during class which Focus to go to and the earliest date assignments will be available for collection. Students must present their student identification card to collect their assignment.

Preferred Referencing Style
In this course, it is recommended that you use the Harvard in-text referencing system (similar to the APA system) for referencing sources of information used in assignments. Inadequate or incorrect reference to the work of others may be viewed as plagiarism and result in reduced marks or failure.

An in-text citation names the author (surname) of the source, gives the date of publication, and for direct quotes and paraphrases includes page number/s, in parentheses. For example: (Smith 2005:52); or Smith (2005:52) argues that… At the end of the paper, a list of references provides publication information about the source; the list is alphabetised by authors' last names (or by titles for works without authors). Further information on referencing and general study skills can be obtained from:

Student Representatives
We are very interested in your feedback and suggestions for improvement. Student Representatives are the channel of communication between students and the School Board. Contact details of Student Representatives can be found on the School website.

Student Communication
Students should discuss any course related matters with their Tutor, Lecturer, or Course Coordinator in the first instance and then the relevant Discipline or Program Convenor. If this proves unsatisfactory, they should then contact the Head of School if required. Contact details can be found on the School website.

Essential Online Information for Students
Information on Class and Exam Timetables, Tutorial Online Registration, Learning Support, Campus Maps, Careers information, Counselling, the Health Service and a range of free Student Support Services can be found at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/currentstudents/index.html

Grading guide

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49% or less</td>
<td>Fail (FF) An unacceptable effort, including non-completion. The student has not understood the basic principles of the subject matter and/or has been unable to express their understanding in a comprehensible way. Deficient in terms of answering the question, research, referencing and correct presentation (spelling, grammar etc). May include extensive plagiarism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>50% to 64%</td>
<td>Pass (P) The work demonstrates a reasonable attempt to answer the question, shows some grasp of the basic principles of the subject matter and a basic knowledge of the required readings, is comprehensible, accurate and adequately referenced.</td>
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<tr>
<td>65% to 74%</td>
<td>Credit (C) The work demonstrates a clear understanding of the question, a capacity to integrate research into the discussion, and a critical appreciation of a range of different theoretical perspectives. A deficiency in any of the above may be compensated by evidence of independent thought. The work is coherent and accurate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>75% to 84%</td>
<td>Distinction (D) Evidence of substantial additional reading and/or research, and evidence of the ability to generalise from the theoretical content to develop an argument in an informed and original manner. The work is well organised, clearly expressed and shows a capacity for critical analysis.</td>
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<td>85% upwards</td>
<td>High Distinction (HD) All of the above, plus a thorough understanding of the subject matter based on substantial additional reading and/or research. The work shows a high level of independent thought, presents informed and insightful discussion of the topic, particularly the theoretical issues involved, and demonstrates a well-developed capacity for critical analysis.</td>
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## Lecture Program

Lectures are based around the required tutorial readings (below) and presented in the week prior to the tutorial.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic &amp; Assessment at a Glance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>Course Introduction and Overview: Imagining Health Problems and Social Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>July 28</td>
<td>Class, Health Inequality, and Social Justice</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>August 4</td>
<td>Gender and Health</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>August 11</td>
<td>Ethnicity, Multiculturalism and Indigenous Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>August 18</td>
<td>The Body, Deviance and Disability</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>August 25</td>
<td>Power, Politics, and Health Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Major Theoretical Perspectives in Health Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>Challenges to Medical Dominance</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Alternative Medicine                                                  [NB: Essay Due]</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>Health Promotion Dilemmas</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>September 29</td>
<td>A Sociology of Medical Technology</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>Mid-Semester Recess: Monday 2 October - Friday 14 October</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>Aging, Dying and Death</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>Course Review and Exam Preparation</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>No Lecture</td>
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<td><strong>Examination period: Monday 6 November - Friday 24 November</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SOCA1200: Health Sociology 1 (2006)

Tutorial Program and Readings

The required reading for this course is:

Lectures are based around the required tutorial readings (below) and presented in the week prior to the tutorial.

Week 1 (Week beginning July 17)
Course Introduction and Overview
[No Tutorial Readings]

Week 2 (Week beginning July 24)
Imagining Health Problems and Social Issues

Required reading:

Further readings:


Week 3 (Week beginning July 31)
Class, Health Inequality, and Social Justice

Required reading:

Further readings:


**Week 4 (Week beginning August 7)**

**Gender and Health**

**Required reading:**

**Further readings:**


**Week 5 (Week beginning August 14)**

**Ethnicity, Multiculturalism and Indigenous Health**

**Required readings:**


**Further readings:**


**Week 6 (Week beginning August 21)**

**The Body, Deviance and Disability**

**Required readings:**


**Further readings:**


Week 7 (Week beginning August 28)

Power, Politics, and Health Care

Required reading:

Further readings:


Week 8 (Week beginning September 4)

Major Theoretical Perspectives in Health Sociology

Required reading:

Further readings:


Week 9 (Week beginning September 11)

Challenges to Medical Dominance

Required reading:

Further readings:


Week 10 (Week beginning September 18)  [NB: Essay Due]  
Alternative Medicine

Required reading:

Further readings:


Week 11 (Week beginning September 25)  
Health Promotion Dilemmas

Required reading:

Further readings:


Mid-Semester Recess: Monday 2 October - Friday 14 October

Week 12 (Week beginning October 16)  
A Sociology of Medical Technology

Required reading:

Further readings:

**Week 13** (Week beginning October 23)

**Aging, Dying and Death**

**Required reading:**

**Further readings:**


**Week 14** (Week beginning October 30)

[No Lecture]

Exam preparation time and individual consultations (if required)

[No tutorials or tutorial readings:]

**Further References:**


**Recommended Web Sites**

- Australian Institute of Health & Welfare: <www.aihw.gov.au>
- Australian Department of Health and Ageing: <www.health.gov.au>
- The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet: <www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au>
- eSocHealth - Health Section of The Australian Sociological Association: <www.latrobe.edu.au/telehealth/esochealth/>
Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health: <www.health.gov.au/oatsih/cont.htm>


Women’s Health Australia: Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/centre/wha/>

**Recommended Journals**

- Australian Health Review
- Australian & New Zealand Journal of Public Health
- Australian Journal of Social Issues
- Critical Public Health
- Health: An Interdisciplinary Journal for the Social Study of Health, Illness and Medicine
- Health Issues
- Health Policy and Planning
- Health Promotion Journal of Australia
- Health Sociology Review (formerly Annual Review of Health Social Sciences)
- International Journal of Health Services
- Journal of Sociology
- Milbank Quarterly
- New Doctor
- Psychology and Health
- Sociology of Health & Illness
- Social Science & Medicine