

## SOCA1200: Sociology of Health and Illness

Callaghan

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

*The School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences is committed to providing an inclusive environment in which all cultures are accorded respect and all students and staff are expected to act with honesty, fairness, trustworthiness and accountability in dealings with others. The School recognises and respects the unique histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia, and the validity of Aboriginal ways of knowing. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education.*

## OVERVIEW

### Course 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 that health and illness are experienced and given meaning, and the ways that health care is organised, used and experienced. Substantive topics may be drawn from a range of areas including the social distribution of health and illness; illness experiences; deviance and medicalisation; health and technology; comparative health care systems; the division of labour in the health workforce; ideologies of health, illness and inequality; complementary medicine; and health, politics and social change.

### Academic Progress Requirements

Nil

### Contact Hours

#### Callaghan and Online Lecture

Online – see Canvas for schedule  
1 hour(s) per week(s) for 11 week(s)

#### Tutorial

Face to Face On Campus  
1 hour(s) per week(s) for 10 week(s)

### Unit Weighting Workload

10  
Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

# COURSE OUTLINE

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# CONTACTS

## Course Coordinator

**Callaghan**  
A/Pr Caragh Brosnan

Email: Caragh.Brosnan@newcastle.edu.au  
Telephone: (02) 4921 6348

Office location: SR149 (Social Sciences Building)

Consultation: Office drop-in hour, 3-4pm Thursdays during semester  
Other times by appointment (please email me to make a time).

## Teaching Staff

Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.

## School Office

**School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences**  
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# SYLLABUS

## Course Content

1. Sociological approaches to the study and understanding of health and illness.
2. The social production and distribution of health and illness in Australian society.
3. The social construction of health and illness.
4. The social organisation of health care.

## Course Learning Outcomes

**On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:**

1. Demonstrate a sound understanding of sociological approaches to the study of health and illness.
2. Identify sociological explanations for health inequalities, experiences of health/illness and the organisation of health care.
3. Apply sociological concepts to real-world examples of health outcomes, policies, experiences and debates.
4. Construct arguments in written and verbal form, based on the critical reading of health sociology literature.

## Course Materials

### Required Textbook:

Germov, J. (ed) (2019) *Second Opinion: An Introduction to Health Sociology* (6th edition).  
Melbourne: Oxford University Press

# SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins (Monday)	Tutorial (Thursday)	Topic	Required reading (see Course Readings in Canvas for recommended readings)
<b>Part 1. Introduction</b>				
1	26 Feb	No tutorial	Imagining health problems as social issues	Chapter 1
<b>Part 2. The social production and distribution of health and illness</b>				
2	4 March	7 March	Social class and health inequality	Chapter 5
3	11 March	14 March	Gender and health	Chapter 7
4	18 March	21 March	Inequality in Australia: ethnicity and geography	Chapter 8
<b>Part 3. The social construction of health and illness</b>				
5	25 March	28 March	Deviance and medicalisation	Chapter 13
6	1 April	No tutorial	READING WEEK There is no lecture or tutorial this week. <u>The online quiz opens on Thursday 4 April at 9am.</u>	Revise weeks 1-4 before completing the quiz.
7	8 April	11 April	<b>Quiz closes at 9am on Thursday 11 April.</b> The illness experience: lay perspectives, disability and chronic illness	Chapter 15
<b>SEMESTER 1 RECESS: 15-28 APRIL</b>				
8	29 April	2 May	Health technologies: changing life for the better?	Chapter 18
<b>Part 4. The social organisation of health care</b>				
9	6 May	9 May	Health care, power and politics <b>Essays are due by 11:59pm on Friday 10 May.</b>	Chapter 20
10	13 May	16 May	Challenges to medical dominance	Chapter 21
11	20 May	23 May	Complementary and alternative medicine	Chapter 23
12	27 May	30 May	Revision lecture	No set reading Practice quiz available in Canvas

# ASSESSMENTS

This course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Group/Tutorial Exercises (10%)	Tutorials run in weeks 2-5 and 7-12.	Individual	10%	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Online quiz (10%)	Quiz opens at 9am on Thursday 4 April and closes at 9am on Thursday 11 April.	Individual	10%	1, 2
3	Essays/Written Assignments (40%)	Friday 10 May 11:59pm	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4
4	Formal Examination (40%)	Formal exam schedule TBA (will be held in June)	Individual	40%	1, 2

## Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

## Assessment 1 - Group/Tutorial Exercises (10%)

### Assessment Type Description

Tutorial / Laboratory Exercises

Tutorial participation involves taking an active part in the face-to-face tutorials. Tutorial exercises are designed to reinforce key concepts and help students to apply what they have learned in the lectures and readings.

### Weighting

10%

### Length

Participation assessed over 10 tutorials.

### Due Date

Tutorials run in weeks 2-5 and 7-12.

### Submission Method

In-class participation.

### Assessment Criteria

Please refer to the tutorial participation rubric in Canvas.

### Return Method

Canvas

### Feedback Provided

Students will have the opportunity to assess their own participation, using the tutorial participation rubric in Canvas, and to discuss this with the tutor and receive feedback in Week 7 of the course. The final participation mark will be allocated by the tutor at the end of the semester.

## Assessment 2 - Online quiz (10%)

### Assessment Type

Quiz

### Description

An online multiple choice quiz consisting of 20 questions. The quiz will test students' knowledge of Parts 1 & 2 of the course and help them to gauge their progress ahead of the larger assessment items.

- The quiz will be conducted online and contain 20 randomly generated multiple choice questions.
- Questions will be drawn from a question bank
- Backtracking will be allowed.
- There is a one hour time limit to complete the quiz once you start it.
- Each question is worth 0.5 marks.
- You must save your answers correctly and click 'submit' only when you have completed the quiz. If you do not, the quiz remains 'in progress' and if it is not completed within the due date will be awarded zero marks.

### Weighting

10%

### Length

One hour time limit.

### Due Date

Quiz opens at 9am on Thursday 4 April and closes at 9am on Thursday 11 April.

### Submission Method

Online in Canvas

### Return Method

Online - Students will receive an electronic score after completion of the quiz.

### Feedback Provided

Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment.

### Assessment 3 – Essays/Written assignments (40%)

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Written Assignment
<b>Description</b>	The essay will require the student to display an ability to understand concepts and data and apply the theories explored in the lectures and course readings. It 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.
	Essay topics can be found under Assignments in Canvas. Choose <b>one</b> of the four topics.
<b>Weighting</b>	40%
<b>Length</b>	1200 words
<b>Due Date</b>	Friday 10 May 11:59pm
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online in Canvas
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Please refer to the rubric under Assignments in Canvas
<b>Return Method</b>	Online in Canvas; this assessment will go through Turnitin
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online in Canvas

### Assessment 4 - Formal Examination (40%)

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Formal Examination
<b>Description</b>	A two hour multiple choice exam will be based on required readings and lecture and tutorial content. Each question is worth 0.5 marks.
<b>Weighting</b>	40%
<b>Length</b>	80 questions to be answered in 2 hours
<b>Due Date</b>	The exam will take place during the formal exam period (June)
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online in Canvas
<b>Return Method</b>	Online - Students will receive an electronic score after completion of the quiz.
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	N/A

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

\*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

### Communication

Communication methods used in this course include:

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## Methods

- Course Evaluation** Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.
- Oral Interviews (Vivas)** As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).
- Academic Misconduct** All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>.
- Adverse Circumstances** The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:
1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
  2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
  3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
  4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.
- Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:  
<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236>
- Important Policy Information** The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

*This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.*

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