

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Communications Studies COMS 401.39 L01
HEALTH AND ILLNESS DISCOURSE

Winter 2016

Tues., Jan. 12 – Tues., April 12 (excluding Feb. 16 & 18)

Lecture: TR 11:00 – 12:15

Instructor: Dr. Monique M. Solomon
Office: TBA
E-Mail: solomonm@ucalgary.ca
Web Page: D2L available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours: Thursdays 12:30-1:30 or by appointment

Course Description

The course examines communication as it relates to understandings and approaches to health and illness in society. Students will explore the ways health and illness are constructed in everyday talk and texts, and examine how the medicalisation of everyday life influences meanings and approaches to health and social care. The course introduces students to historical developments and key theoretical perspectives that inform critical analysis of social meanings of health and illness today. Students will practice analysis of various topics through discussion and application of methodological approaches in discourse analysis. Areas to be covered include chronic illness, mental illness, media representations of health and illness, patient-provider communication, health social movements, and health and illness online.

Additional Information

This is a reading and writing intensive course. The course emphasizes learning through participation; therefore, students should prepare by staying up-to-date on assigned readings, and regular attendance is strongly encouraged. The course assumes basic familiarity with communications theories (COMS 201).

Objectives of the Course

- To introduce students to the ways health and illness are constructed in discourse.
- To examine medicalisation and its influence on understandings and approaches to health and social care.
- To engage students in critical analysis of issues and representations of health and illness using theoretical and methodological approaches in discourse analysis.

Textbooks and Readings

A reading list and schedule of readings will be available on D2L. Additional readings may be assigned in class.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Laptops and other electronic devices may be used during class for course related work and note taking only. All devices must be closed and/or turned off during student presentations. Cell phones must be turned off for the duration of class.

No audio or video recording of any kind is allowed in class without the explicit permission of the instructor. PowerPoint slides and lecture notes will not be posted online for this course. The photographing of lecture slides with a cell phone or other device is not permitted. These restrictions are in place to respect copyright and intellectual property rights and are strictly enforced.

Email

When sending email include **COMS 401** in the subject line with a clear purpose. Ensure your name appears somewhere in the email. Please ensure your correct/preferred email address is being used in the University of Calgary system or you may miss important course emails. Allow up to 48 hours for responses to emails. All communication with the instructor and your fellow students regarding group projects and/or assignments should be addressed and written in a courteous, professional manner.

Email correspondence is most useful for short specific inquiries. If you have detailed questions on the course material or assignments please speak with your instructor during office hours.

Assignments and Evaluation

Details for assignments will be posted on D2L and discussed in class.

COMS 401.39 W16 Assignments	Weight	Due Date
Reflection Paper Students write a one-page (approx. 400-words) critical reflection indicating their interest in specific health and/or illness topics, and reflecting on how their beliefs and knowledge about the topic have been shaped through discourse.	5%	January 28
Research Essay 1: Medicalisation Analysis (1500 words)	25%	February 25
Research Essay 2: Representation Analysis (2500 words)	35%	April 12

COMS 401.39 W16 Assignments	Weight	Due Date
<p>Facilitating Class Discussion In groups, students will lead a class discussion (approx. 30 minutes) relating to the weekly topic and assigned readings. Students will provide discussion questions prior to the class, and post a 500-word summary of the key discussion points for the presentation.</p>	25%	To be scheduled throughout the term Feb/March.
<p>Participation Students should come to class prepared by completing assigned readings, and being ready to contribute informed and reflective comments and questions during discussion, and for impromptu written responses. Students are encouraged to bring in examples of current event issues about health and illness for discussion.</p>	10%	On-going

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

All assignments and exams must be completed or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

Submission of Assignments

Assignments are due in class, in hard copy, on the due date unless you are otherwise instructed. Some assignments may be due via uploads to D2L please follow assignment instructions carefully.

As directed please hand in your assignments directly to your instructor. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at final exams in SS 320 after classes have ended. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. For courses in which assignments are submitted electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the correct copy of the assignment is submitted. Including the version date or version number in your file name may help you avoid submitting the wrong version of your assignments.

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Student Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of

accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

Please note:

1. Students seeking accommodations for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) should contact their instructors directly. Whenever possible, students should advise their instructors in advance if they will be missing quizzes, presentations, in-class assignments, or group meetings.
2. When accommodations are granted, they may take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.
3. For information on Deferrals of Final Exams and Term Work, see sections G.6 and G.7 of the *University Calendar* at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html> and <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see <http://comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Grading & Grade Scale of the Department of Communication, Media and Film

Final grades are reported as letter grades. However, assignments, exams, and other work in the course are graded using a combination of weighted raw scores for each individual assignment. This is converted into a percentage and letter grade for the assignment. All assignments are then weighted based on the percentage value for the course and the scale below is used to calculate the final grade.

The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in the Department. If letter grades are used for an assignment or other course component, the percentage equivalent in the final column will be used for calculating the final grade:

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Department grade scale equivalents	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations
4.00	Outstanding	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70		A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%

3.30		B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good--clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70		B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30		C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70		C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00		D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	F	00 - 49.99%	0%

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. In-text citations must be provided, and readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. Wording taken directly from a source must be enclosed within quotation marks (or, for long quotations, presented in the format prescribed by the documentation style you are using). Paraphrased information must not follow the original wording and sentence structure with only slight word substitutions here and there. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

For information on citation and documentation styles (including APA, Chicago, IEEE, MLA, and others), visit the links provided at <https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support/436> . If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor TFDL, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>).

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Research Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your

research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/resources/ethics>

Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (ASC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 artsads@ucalgary.ca
CAMPUS SECURITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calgary Police Service • Emergency Text Messaging • Emergency Evacuation & Assembly • Safewalk Program 	http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ 403-220-5333 403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911 http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (220-5333). For more information, see http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/
DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT help line 	http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Support Services • Student Services Mobile App 	http://ucalgary.ca/ssc http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents
STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts Reps • Student Ombudsman 	https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/ http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds
SU WELLNESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services • Health Services • Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE • Online resources and tips 	403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health 403-266-HELP (4357) http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus If you're concerned about a friend or your own well-being, it is important to seek help early. Call or visit the SU Wellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

A detailed schedule of lectures, readings, and assignments will be posted on D2L, and discussed in class.