“It is no measure of health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society.” – J. Krishnamurti

COURSE INFORMATION
Instructor: Faraz Vahid Shahidi
Email: faraz.vahidshahidi@utoronto.ca

Class Hours: Tuesday, 3:00-6:00pm
Class Location: UC175

Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:00-2:00pm
Office Location: HS529

HEALTH STUDIES PROGRAM CONTACTS
Health Studies Director: Sarah Wakefield (sarah.wakefield@utoronto.ca)
Health Studies Program Assistant: Khamla Sengthavy (khamla.sengthavy@utoronto.ca)
Website: http://www.uc.utoronto.ca/healthstudies

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course explores the social production and distribution of health and illness within and across societies. A political economy approach is applied to better understand the fundamental causes of health inequalities and to examine the policy solutions most commonly proposed to address them. The course will equip students with theoretical and empirical insights from a range of disciplines—including economics, epidemiology, political science, and sociology—to facilitate a critical reading of contemporary research on the social determinants of health.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
This course will advance an understanding of:

- the macrosocial determinants of population health;
- competing theories of political economy;
- the political economy of contemporary capitalism; and
- the relationship between political economy and population health.

PRE-REQUISITES
Students enrolled in this course are required to have completed HST209: Introduction to Health or an equivalent course. The prerequisite may be waived at the discretion of the instructor. Students should contact the instructor prior to the first lecture if they require a waiver.

COURSE DROP DATE
The final drop date for this course is Monday, November 6th.

REQUIRED READINGS
All required readings will be posted on under the “Course Materials” tab on Blackboard.
ACCESSIBILITY

If a student requires specific accommodations, they can contact the course instructor and/or the Accessibility Services Office. The St. George Campus Accessibility Services Office is located on the first floor of Robarts Library. Staff are available by appointment to help with assessing specific needs, providing referrals, and arranging for appropriate accommodations. The Accessibility Services Office can be contacted at (416) 978-8060 or through disability.services@utoronto.ca.

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Participation (30%): Students are expected to read the assigned readings prior to class to be able to participate meaningfully in the seminar discussions. Participation will be evaluated based on the quality of their contributions to the facilitated discussions as well as on their ability to promote a supporting learning environment for their peers.

Abstract and Annotated Bibliography (20%): Students will identify a specific research question and conduct some preliminary research on the topic. Based on this preliminary reading, students will complete an abstract that identifies the research question and summarizes their main argument. The abstract should be approximately 300 words long and give some indication of the range of ideas that will be used to support the main argument. In addition, students will complete an annotated bibliography that includes 8 academic sources. For each entry in your bibliography, a small summary approximately 150 words in length should be added in which you describe the source’s main argument and the contribution you expect it to make to your final paper. Due date: October 27th, 2017.

Final Research Paper (50%): Students will complete a 3500 word research paper based on the question they presented in their abstract. Students are expected to draw substantially from the broader literature with the aim of writing a paper of publishable quality. Due date: December 5th, 2017.

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Assignment Submission: Students will submit their assignment to the instructor via email (faraz.vahidshahidi@utoronto.ca) by the end of the day that they are due.

Late Penalties: A late penalty of 1% of the total value of the assignment will be deducted from the grade per day for late work (including weekend days).

Assignment Extensions: Extensions will be granted in the case of illness and other emergencies.

Communication: Students are encouraged to contact the course instructor if they have any questions or concerns. Students should use their University of Toronto e-mail address when communicating with the course instructor.

Academic Integrity: Assignments submitted for evaluation should be the product of the student’s own work except where otherwise indicated. Students should review the University’s guidelines on academic conduct carefully. Should a student have any questions or concerns regarding these guidelines, they are expected to seek out additional information from the course instructor.
CURRICULUM

Week 1: Introduction
Week 2: Theorizing Health Inequalities
Week 3: Theorizing Marginalization
Week 4: Classical Political Economy
Week 5: Marxist Political Economy
Week 6: Keynesian Political Economy
Week 7: Neoliberal Political Economy
Week 8: Case Study - Welfare Reform
Week 9: Case Study - Indigenous Health
Week 10: Case Study - Industrial Epidemics
Week 11: Case Study - Green Cities
Week 12: Case Study - The Trump Era

READINGS

Week 1: Introduction


Week 2: Theorizing Health Inequalities

How does the study of populations differ from the study of individuals? What are the strengths and limitations of a variable-oriented understanding of the social determinants of health? What do we mean by a fundamental cause of health inequalities? Why are health inequalities widening despite growing evidence on the social determinants of health?


Week 3: Theorizing Marginalization

What do we mean by the term marginalization? Who is marginalized and what are the causes of their marginalization? What are the interventions most commonly proposed as potential solutions to the problem of marginalization? Have they worked?


Week 4: Classical Political Economy

What are the principal theoretical traditions informing the study of political economy? How have these different traditions conceptualized the relationship between politics and economics? Why is the study of political economy important to the theory and practice of politics today?


Week 5: Marxist Political Economy

What are the principal theoretical traditions informing the study of political economy? How have these different traditions conceptualized the relationship between politics and economics? Why is the study of political economy important to the theory and practice of politics today?


Week 6: Keynesian Political Economy

What is social policy? Why do states develop social policies? What are the political and economic origins of welfare capitalism? Why is the welfare state under attack?


Week 7: Neoliberal Political Economy

How should we make sense of recent changes in the political economy of capitalism? What do these transformations reveal about the theory and practice of political economy? What are their implications for our understanding of the social determinants of health?


Week 8: Case Study - Welfare Reform


**Week 9: Case Study - Indigenous Health**


**Week 10: Case Study - Industrial Epидemics**


**Week 11: Case Study - Green Cities**


**Week 12: Case Study - The Trump Era**

