

GEOGRAPHY 366

MEDICAL & HEALTH GEOGRAPHY

Fall 2016

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Aleck S. Ostry Office: B314 – Social Science and Math Bldg.
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I. PROFESSOR AND COURSE ORGANIZATION

Dr. Aleck Ostry: Condensed Biography

Dr. Ostry is a Professor in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Victoria. He holds a Canadian Citizenship. Course Readings:

There is no textbook for this class. Students are encouraged to obtain the BC Health and Wellness Atlas. P. Keller and L. Foster. Available at <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/wellness/index.swf>

[http://www.geog.uvic.ca/wellness/index.swf](#). This atlas is a treasure trove of health and health services information illustrated mainly across BC's Health Services Districts. Finally, most lectures have specific reading. These will be made available on Moodle usually the week prior to each class. Students will be expected to read these articles prior to class and be prepared to discuss them during class.

II. COURSE OUTLINE & OVERVIEW:

Geographic focus:

The geographic focus on this course is Canada and the province of British Columbia. Although the focus of the course is on Canada and BC, we will utilize examples from the international literature.

Course Description:

Traditionally, medical geography has focused on studying geographic variation in prevalence of infectious disease. However, given that most diseases of developed societies are chronic and given that distribution of these diseases depend mainly on social and environmental conditions (notwithstanding the importance of genes in the production of disease), it is important for

students to study the geography of these determinants of disease as well as the geography of the diseases themselves. Accordingly, this course provides students with a basic understanding of the geography of the social determinants of health (i.e., the social conditions that determine why some people are healthy and why others are not) and their variation both over time and place within Canada.

In order that health geographers become familiar with the methods used to describe illness and wellness, we provide several sessions discussing basic epidemiology and covering basic

2. Lateness Policy: Unless an extension has been granted in advance, late assignments will be marked down one-third of a letter grade for each day late. An "A" paper that is one day late, for example, will receive an "A-".
3. University of Victoria's Policy on Inclusivity and Diversity: The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning

5. Undergraduate Grading Description

IV. COURSE OUTLINE & READING SCHEDULE

Class Date	Topic	Description
Sept 10 th	Introduction	Description of course content; explanation of assignments, exam schedule, and marking. Explanation of readings.
Sept 14 th	What is Medical and What is Health Geography?	What is medical/health geography? Why does epidemiology and the social determinants matter to medical and health geography inquiry? What can a geographic approach offer to understanding health, healthcare policy, and illness?

Sept 17th An Historical Approach to the Geography of Health and Illness. Students are introduced to early classical approaches to the geography of health and illness. Approach to the

Oct 1 st	Epidemiology and Geography	Students are given bas on prevalence, incid confounding, and som on the type of study de health geography inv
Oct 5 th	Mid-Term REVIEW	Mid-Term Rev
Oct 8 th	1 st Mid-term exam	1 st Mid-term ex

Oct 15h	What are the Social Determinants of Health?	If social and environmental factors largely determine geographical patterns of ill health which social and environmental factors are the most important to study? We identify these.
Oct 19 th	The Geography of the Social Determinants of Health in BC Part 1	In this session we map the distribution of these “determinants” of illness in BC
Oct 22 nd	The Geography of the Social Determinants of Health in BC Part 2	We continue our discussion of the social determinants of health in the province of BC
Oct 26 th	Introduction to Geography of Urban vs Rural Health in Canada	One of the most important geographical issues in providing healthcare services and in terms of differences in health status across populations arises across the urban/rural continuum. We outline in this introductory session the basic geography of rural compared to urban health services distribution and health status in Canada.
Oct 29 th	Geography of Urban vs Rural Health in BC	We shift our focus on differences in health status between urban and rural British Columbians.
Nov 2 nd	Rural Health in BC Part 2	In this session we delve deeper into the differences in health status and service delivery across various rural regions of BC.

Nov 5th	Mid-term Review	Mid-term Review
Nov 9 th	Remembrance Day No Class	Remembrance Day No Class
Nov 12 th	2 nd Mid-Term Exam	2 nd Mid – Term Exam
Nov 16 th	First Nations People's Health in Canada	We have described differences in both health services and health status across the urban/rural continuum in Canada and in BC. In this session we introduce students to the basic health situation facing Aboriginal people in Canada

Change and Continuity in the Canadian Health Care System. Ostry A. Ottawa: Canadian Healthcare Association, 2006.

Determinants of Health: A New Synthesis. John Frank *Current Issues in Public Health*, 1:233-240, 1995.

Health Inequalities Among British Civil Servants: The Whitehall II Study Marmot M, Davey Smith G, Stansfeld S, et al. *Lancet*, 337, June 8th 1387-1393, 1991.

Healthier Societies: From Analysis to Action. Editors (Jody Heymann, Clyde Hertzman,