

MCGILL DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

COURSE OUTLINE

GEOG 503 **ADVANCED TOPICS IN HEALTH GEOGRAPHY** **Fall 2018**

Instructor: Professor Mylene Riva and Professor Nancy Ross

Class Meeting Times: Wednesdays 11:35-14:25

Location: Burnside 429

Contact information: Prof. Riva, Burnside Hall Rm. 419, mylene.riva@mcgill.ca
Prof. Ross, Burnside Hall Rm. 420, nancy.ross@mcgill.ca

Readings: A list of readings is attached. Readings are available electronically through *MyCourses*.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a critical review of advanced topics in health geography, including perspectives on environmental and social determinants of health and chronic disease. Seminars will focus on critical appraisal of conceptual and methodological approaches in health geography research. Students will develop independent project topics throughout the course, and have the opportunity to focus on selected themes in health geography.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and describe dominant paradigms and conceptual approaches in health geography.
2. Critically appraise literature in the health and geographic sciences.
3. Evaluate alternative methodological approaches to health geography research.
4. Facilitate seminar discussions on selected health geography themes.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD

There will be one 3-hour seminar every Wednesday. Seminars will include both instructor-led and student-led group discussion. Students are expected to complete readings and prepare to participate actively during all class discussions.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Evaluation

Thematic presentation	20%
Proposal for systematic review	10%
Final Paper	50%
Final presentation of review paper	10%
Participation	10%

Thematic presentations: Students will present and facilitate a review of a selected paper for one of the course themes (Weeks 5 through 9). Students will be expected to identify an empirical paper appropriate to the week's topic, provide it to the instructor to post for class-wide reading, present a summary and critical appraisal of the research, and facilitate discussion related to the research and thematic topic.

Proposal for Systematic Review: Students will propose a systematic review in an area of interest to them. The proposal should be about 3 pages in length and communicate the need for a systematic review of a particular body of work. Search strategy and study inclusion criteria should be described as well as an estimate of the number of studies to be included in the review. **The proposal is due Wednesday, October 17th, 2018.**

Final paper: Students will prepare a systematic review of the literature (5,000-word maximum) on a topic related to their research interests. This review should incorporate principles of systematic review learned in class and incorporate realist philosophy and critical appraisal where appropriate. The aim is to produce a publishable quality paper that will also inform the student's research. Students will present their reviews to the class in the final course sessions. **The papers are due one week after the last class - Wednesday, December 5, 2018 by 5pm. Please submit two hard copies of the paper – one for each of Prof. Riva and Prof. Ross.**

Final presentation of review paper: Students will prepare a short presentation of their independent review paper, including a summary of the background, review objectives, methodology, key findings, and implications of their work.

Participation: Class participation is a requirement of the course. Quality of contribution is preferred over quantity. Overall class preparation and participation as well as performance in student-led discussion will be assessed for the participation grade. Class participation will be evaluated based on evidence that students have read assigned readings and prepared for class, and regular, thoughtful contribution to weekly discussions.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Policies governing academic issues which affect students can be found in the Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities, Charter of Students' Right (online at <http://www.mcgill.ca/files/secretariat/greenbookenglish.pdf>).

Academic Integrity: McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/student/srr/honest for more information).

Language of Submission: In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Student assessment: For information on university and department policies for student assessment, please go to <http://www.mcgill.ca/geography/studentassessment>

COURSE SCHEDULE 2018

Date	Topic	
Week 1 Sept 5	First meeting: introductions, student-led discussion about their research interests, course expectations, review of the syllabus	NR + MR
Week 2 Sept 12	Pragmatics of systematic review - getting a handle on the health literature – Class meets in Humanities and Social Sciences Library's eClassroom, Main floor of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library (aka the McLennan Library Building).	Library Session
Week 3 Sept 19	An introduction: Health geography, epidemiology, population level perspectives	NR + MR
Week 4 Sept 26	Critical appraisal of health literature systematic review – theory	NR + MR
Week 5 Oct 3	Social gradient in health	NR + students
Week 6 Oct 10	Housing and health	MR + students
Week 7 Oct 17	Neighbourhoods and health	NR + MR + students
Week 8 Oct 24	Built environment and chronic disease	NR + students
Week 9 Oct 31	Population health intervention research	MR + students
Week 10 Nov 7	Student paper presentations	ALL
Week 11 Nov 14	Student paper presentations	ALL
Week 12 Nov 21	Student paper presentations	ALL
Week 13 Nov 28	Course conclusions	NR + MR

READINGS (please check My Courses for final listing of readings)

An Introduction to Health Geography, Epidemiology, Population Level Perspectives,

Scan the latest issue of Health and Place (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/health-and-place/vol/53/suppl/C>) and Social Science and Medicine

(<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/social-science-and-medicine/vol/213/suppl/C>).

Schwartz S, Susser E, Susser M. A future for epidemiology? Annual Review of Public Health, 1999; 20: 15-33.

Rose, G. Sick individuals and sick populations. International Journal of Epidemiology, 1985; 14: 32-38.

Susser M, Susser E. Choosing a future for epidemiology: I. Eras and paradigms. American Journal of Public Health, 1996; 86: 668-673.

Critical Appraisal

Elwood M. Forward projection—using critical appraisal in the design of studies. International Journal of Epidemiology, 2002; 31: 1071–1073.

Greenhalgh T. How to read a paper: getting your bearings (deciding what the paper is about). BMJ, 1997; 315: 243-246.

Greenhalgh T, Taylor R. How to read a paper: Papers that go beyond numbers (qualitative research). BMJ, 1997; 315: 740-743.

Greenhalgh T. How to read a paper: Statistics for the non-statistician. II: "Significant" relations and their pitfalls. BMJ, 1997; 315: 422-425.

Greenhalgh T. How to read a paper: Papers that summarize other papers (systematic reviews and meta-analysis). BMJ, 1997;315: 672-75.

Heller RF, Verma A, Gemmell I, Harrison R, Hart J, Edwards R. Critical appraisal for public health: A new checklist. Public Health 2008; 122: 92–98.

Paper that we will appraise together: Génèreux M, Auger N, Goneau M and Daniel M. Neighbourhood socioeconomic status, maternal education and adverse birth outcomes among mothers living near highways. Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, 2008; 62: 695-700.

Systematic Review

Pawson R, Greenhalgh T, Harvey G, Walshe K. Realist review – a new method of systematic review designed for complex policy interventions. Journal of Health Services Research and Policy, 2005; 10: 21-34.

Barnett-Page E, Thomas J. Methods for the synthesis of qualitative research: a critical review. BMC Medical Research Methodology, 2009; 9: 59.

Greenhalgh T, Peacock R. Effectiveness and efficiency of search methods in systematic reviews of complex evidence: audit of primary sources. BMJ, 2005; 331:1064-65.

Greenhalgh T, Kristjansson E, Robinson V. Realist review to understand the efficacy of school feeding programmes. BMJ, 2007; 335: 858-861.

Example published systematic reviews from GEOG 503:

DeBono NL, Ross NA, Berrang-Ford L. Does the Food Stamp Program cause obesity? A realist review and a call for place-based research. Health & Place, 2012; 18: 747-756.

Social Gradient in Health

Link BG, Phelan J. Social conditions as fundamental causes of disease. Journal of Health and Social Behavior, 1995; 35: Special issue:80-94.

Phelan JC, Link BG, Tehranifar P. Social conditions as fundamental causes of health inequalities: theory, evidence, and policy implications. Journal of Health and Social Behavior, 2010; 51: Suppl:S28-40.

Evans G, Kim P. Multiple risk exposure as a potential explanatory mechanism for the socioeconomic-health status gradient. Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, 2010; 1186: 174–189.

Hertzman C. The social geography of developmental health in the early years. *Health Care Quarterly*, 2010; 14: 32-40.

Arnold C. Money for nothing: the truth about universal basic income. *Nature* 2018; 557: 626-28.

Housing

Dunn JR. Housing and health inequalities: review and prospects for research. *Housing Studies*, 2000; 15: 341-366

Kearns A, Whitley E, Mason P, Petticrew M, Hoy C. Material and meaningful homes: mental health impacts and psychosocial benefits of rehousing to new dwellings. *International Journal of Public Health*, 2011; 56: 597-607.

Howden-Chapman P, Matheson A, Crane J, Viggers H, Cunningham M, Blakely T, et al. Effect of insulating existing houses on health inequality: cluster randomised study in the community. *BMJ*, 2007; 334:460.

Hinds AM, Bechtel B, Distasio J, Roos LL, Lix LM. Health and social predictors of applications to public housing: a population-based analysis. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 2016; 70:1229-1235.

Neighbourhoods and Health

Ellaway A and Mcintyre S. Neighbourhoods and health. Chapter 21 in *A Companion to Health and Medical Geography*. Wiley: New York. 2009.

Diez Roux AV, Merkin SS, Arnett D, Chambless L, Massing M, Nieto FJ, et al. Neighborhood of residence and incidence of coronary heart disease. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 2001; 345: 99-106.

Ludwig J, Duncan GJ, Gennetian LA, Katz LF, Kessler RC, Kling JR, Sanbonmatsu L. Neighbourhood effects on the long-term well-being of low-income adults. *Science*, 2012; 337: 1505-1510.

Built Environment and Chronic Disease

Althoff T, Sosič R, Hicks J, King AC, Delp SL, Leskovec J. Large-scale physical activity data reveal worldwide activity inequality. *Nature*, 2017; 547: 336-339.

Swinburn BA, Sacks G, Hall KD, McPherson K, Finegood DT, Moodie ML, Gortmaker SL. The global obesity pandemic: shaped by global drivers and local environments. *Lancet* 2011; 378: 804-814.

Kolb H, Martin S. Environmental/lifestyle factors in the pathogenesis and prevention of type 2 diabetes. *BMC Medicine*, 2017; 15: 131.

Herrmann T, Gleckner W, Wasfi RA, Thierry B, Kestens Y, Ross NA. A Pan-Canadian Measure of Community Active Living Environments (Can-ALE) Using Open Data. *Health Reports*, Under Review.

Population Health Intervention Research

Hawe P, Potvin L. What is population health intervention research? *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, 2009; 100: I8-I14.

Hawe P, Di Ruggiero E, Cohen E. Frequently asked questions about population health intervention research. *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, 2012; 103: e468-e471.

Petticrew M, Cummins S, Ferrell C, Findlay A, Higgins C, Hoy C, et al. Natural experiments: an underused tool for public health? *Public Health*, 2005; 119:751-757.

Fuller D, Gauvin L, Kestens Y, Daniel M, Fournier M, Morency P, Drouin L. Impact evaluation of a public bicycle share program on cycling: a case example of BIXI in Montreal, Quebec. *American Journal of Public Health*, 2013; 103:e85-92.

Riva M, Fletcher C, Dufresne P, Perreault, K, Potvin L, Bailie R, Muckle G. Social housing construction in the Arctic: Significant health improvements associated with moving to a new house for Inuit in Nunavik and Nunavut. *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, Under Review.