McGill University
Department of Sociology
SOC1526: Indigenous Women’s Health & Healthcare
Lectures: Tuesdays

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Office Hours: Mondays 3:00-5:00 PM. Office hours are on a drop-in basis. No sign-up necessary. Students “wait” in the waiting room and will be let in. Zoom link for office hours will be posted on MyCourses.

Time: 10:35 am to 12:25 pm

- Tuesdays: synchronous seminar via Zoom; Zoom link will be sent to students via email and also posted on MyCourses.

1 Students who cannot attend the synchronous seminars because of time zone issues should contact Dr. Vang via email to work out an alternative plan.

COURSE SUMMARY
The objective of this seminar is to provide students with a sociological understanding of the historical and contemporary factors that shape Indigenous women’s health and their access (or lack thereof) to culturally safe healthcare services in urban and rural/remote areas. Integral to the course will be the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives and ways of knowing, particularly with regards to women’s health, well-being and resilience. Students will have the opportunity to critically think about what it would take to decolonize Western biomedical healthcare institutions to better serve the needs of Indigenous women, their families and communities. Through readings from Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars/authors and discussions with guest lecturers working directly with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities in Quebec, students will gain exposure to the complex issues and challenges that affect the health of Indigenous women in Canada.

REQUIREMENTS
Breakdown of assignments for final course grade:

- Leading Class Discussion: 15%
- Reflection Memos (5): 85%
Presentation & Leading Class Discussion
Each student will be assigned to lead a class discussion. Discussion leaders will present four questions for the class to discuss. Students will be graded on (1) the quality and clarity of the questions, (2) the effectiveness of the questions in fostering discussion, and (3) students’ effectiveness in facilitating the class discussions. Discussion questions must be emailed to Professor Vang by 9:00 AM on the day of the scheduled class.

Reflection Memos
Students are required to write five reflection memos (5 pages max, double space), worth 17% each. Memos must be of an analytical nature and not simply summaries of the readings. See the detailed course outline below for specific due dates.

See grading rubric on MyCourses.

REQUIRED READINGS
The following textbooks are required for this course:


All other required and recommended readings will be available as either electronic course reserves via the Humanities and Social Sciences Library or as PDFs from MyCourses.

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS
A full grade will be deducted for every 24 hours that the assignment is late. For example, if your reflection memo is submitted anytime between, and inclusive of, 09:01 (on the due date) and 08:59 on the following day, and you earn a B- on the assignment, then your adjusted grade will be C+.

PLAGIARISM
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/students/srr/honest/ for more information). (approved by Senate on 29 January 2003.)

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK
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. (approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 – see also the section in this document on Assignments and evaluations.)
REGRADE POLICY
Students who want a regrade of an assignment must submit a 1-page (double space, 12-point font) written request to the instructor no later than 2 weeks from the date the graded assignment is returned to students and/or when the grade is posted on MyCourses. The written request must include a clear justification for the regrade, and if necessary, a point-by-point rebuttal.

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CONTENT WARNING: The content and discussion in this course will necessarily engage with settler colonialism and its myriad symbolic and material manifestations. As such, some of the required readings in this class contain depictions of rape, child abuse, self-harm, suicide, and other forms of trauma and violence. Much of it will be emotionally and intellectually challenging to engage with. I’ve flagged especially graphic or intense content next to certain readings and will do my best to make this classroom a space where we can engage bravely, empathetically and thoughtfully with difficult content.

Note: The due dates for the various assignments may be subject to change, contingent on discussion and agreement from the entire class.
DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 (Jan 12) – Post-Colonialism


Week 2 (Jan 19) – Settler Colonialism


**Reflection memo 1 due 9:00 AM January 19, 2021. Must submit Word copy to relevant assignment folder on MyCourses.**

Week 3 (Jan 26) – Social Determinants of Health & Fundamental Causes of Disease


**Recommended:**

### Week 4 (Feb 2) – Historical Foundations: Forced Sterilization


**Recommended:**

### Week 5 (Feb 9) – Historical Foundations: Segregated Indian Hospitals


**Recommended:**

**Reflection memo 2 due 9:00 AM February 9, 2021. Must submit Word copy to relevant assignment folder on MyCourses.**

### Week 6 (Feb 16) – Historical Foundations: Residential Schools, Sixties Scoop & Intergenerational Trauma


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**Week 7 (Feb 23) – Women, Mothers and Grandmothers**


*Recommended:*

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**Week 8 (Mar 9) – Health & Health Care Access in Northern & Remote Communities**


**Guest Speaker: Arian Navickas, Midwife, Inuulitsivik Health Centre**

**Reflection memo3. Due 9:00 AM, March 16, 2021. Must submit Word copy to relevant assignment folder on MyCourses.**

**Week 9 (Mar 16) – Anti-Indigenous Racism and Discrimination in Health Care**

No lecture on March 16. Instead, students will attend the IMIHW Lab’s co-sponsored Zoom webinar on Anti-Indigenous Racism at the MUHC on March 17, 2021.


Recommended:

**Reflection memo 4. Due 9:00 AM, March 23, 2021. Must submit Word copy to relevant assignment folder on MyCourses.**

**Week 10 (Mar 23) – Mohawk Concepts of Health & Wellness, part 1**

The Haudenosaunee Confederacy. https://www.haudenosauneeconfederacy.com/who-we-are/


**Guest speakers: Shaun Yuan & elders**
**Week 11 (Mar 30) – Mohawk Concepts of Health & Wellness, part 2**

**Guest Lecturers:** Shaun Yuan & elders

**Reflection memo 5 (can focus on either March 23 or March 30 content). Due 9:00 AM, April 6, 2021. Must submit Word copy to relevant assignment folder on MyCourses.**

**Week 12 (Apr 6) – Interrogating Concepts of Cultural Competence, Sensitivity, Humility & Safety**


**Week 13 (Apr 13) – Decolonization**


Recommended: