

<p><b>Course Name:</b></p> <p>HLTH 334/3.0</p> <p> </p> <p>Health, Illness and Society</p>	<p><b>Course Instructor:</b></p> <p>Dr. Samantha King</p>	<p><b>Contact Hours:</b></p> <p>Lectures: 1 x 2 hrs/wk / 12 weeks  Tutorials: 1 x 1 hrs/wk/ 12 weeks</p>
		<p><b>Prerequisite:</b></p> <p>HLTH 101/3.0 or KNPE 167/3.0 or SOCY 122/6.0, and level 3 or above in a HLTH or KINE plan.</p>
		<p><b>Exclusion:</b></p> <p>None</p>

<p><b>Course Description:</b></p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic, a global public health crisis, created significant social, economic, political, and cultural disruptions, the effects of which continue to reverberate. The disruptions caused by the pandemic have contributed to the strengthening of authoritarian and fascist governments around the world, most notably in the United States of America. Three of the pillars of fascism are anti-intellectualism, propaganda that turns reality upside down and foments rage, and a commitment to destroy truth by replacing reason with conspiracy theories. These pillars of fascism are now facilitated and intensified by social media algorithms.</p> <p>There are profound implications of our “post-truth” era for health, as science, scientists, the idea of truth, and universities themselves have come under attack. As we look to an uncertain future, how will we know what is “true” and what to do to promote our own health, the health of our communities, and the health of Planet Earth?</p> <p>In this course, we will explore the context in which our present “health moment” has arisen, including its roots in neoliberalism, healthism, and the COVID-19 pandemic. We will start by thinking about what health is, the determinants of health, and the social and political ways in which health is constructed and shaped. We will consider the rise of medical populism, the construction of health-related mis-/dis-information, vaccine hesitancy, and the implications for the next pandemic. We will conclude with reflections on how we might imagine a better future, with reduced health inequities and improved health for all.</p>	<p><b>Course Texts:</b></p> <p>All required and recommended readings will be made available through the library’s course reserve system and/or will be posted on OnQ.</p>
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<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define and apply key concepts in the sociology of health and illness, including neoliberalism, healthism, medicalization, medical populism, and vaccine hesitancy.</li> <li>• Identify some of the major social theories used in the sociology of health and illness, including social constructionism, feminism, Foucauldian governmentality, and phenomenology, and recognize how they help us understand health-related phenomenon.</li> <li>• Describe the features of our contemporary moment in relation to health and trace its roots in neoliberalism, healthism, wellness culture, and the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• Engage in respectful discussion with peers &amp; be more confident in their presentation skills.</li> <li>• Write in a thoughtful and critical way about issues raised in the course.</li> <li>• Discuss ways to advance reconciliation, decolonization and Indigenisation at Queen's and in our thinking.</li> <li>• Identify ethical concerns about the use of Generative AI, and employ basic critical literacy skills for using GenAI.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Course Evaluation:</b></p> <p>TBD</p>
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**Course Outline**

Social Construction of Health and Illness	Racial Justice Movements and Health
Biomedical Dominance and Epistemologies	Climate Crisis, Environmental Activism and Health
Biopolitics and Health	Food Sovereignty and Health
Healthism and Neoliberalism	LGBTQIAP+ Activism and Health
Introduction to Health Activism	Reproductive Rights and Healthcare