**Queen's University**
**School of Kinesiology and Health Studies**

| **Course Name:**<br>**HLTH 334/3.0**<br><br>The Politics of Health and Illness | **Course Instructor:**<br><br>Dr. Samantha King | **Contact Hours:**<br><br>Fall 2020 – Remote Delivery |
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| | | **Prerequisite:**<br>HLTH 101/3.0 or KNPE 167/3.0 or SOCY 122/6.0, and level 3 or above in a HLTH, KINE or PHED plan. |

**Course Description:**

The Covid-19 crisis has highlighted a key tenet of sociological research on health and illness: that physical and mental wellbeing are not simply individual, biological experiences, but collective, social phenomena. With a focus on the pandemic, we will explore what it means to approach health and illness as products of systemic forces and sites of political struggle. Our attention will be focused on the cultural meanings of Covid-19 and related illnesses. Through reading, writing, and discussion we will learn to make connections between our own experiences of the pandemic and larger social patterns and struggles, both local and global.

**Exclusion:**

**Course Texts:**

All readings are available on OnQ/e-reserves.

**Course Evaluation:**

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| Discussion board | 25% |
| Tutorial presentation | 20% |
| Tutorial participation | 20% |
| Final assignment | 35% |

**Intended Student Learning Outcomes:**

- To learn how to critically analyse the social and political dimensions of health and illness drawing on approaches that emphasize power and context;
- To use these approaches to examine the Covid crisis and related illnesses;
- To develop the necessary reading, writing, and oral presentation skills to produce informed, insightful, and politically relevant work on this topic.

**Course Outline**

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| Introduction to the Course | Zoonosis and Multispecies Embodiment |
| The Social Construction of Health and Illness | Intersecting Epidemics: Opioids & Covid-19 |
| Key Concepts: Discipline, Normalization, Surveillance | Long-Term Care |
| Key Concepts: Biopolitics, Securitization, Capitalism | Post-Pandemic Futures: The Struggle for a Better World |
| Colonial Biopolitics | Criminalization |
| Immunity/Community | Course Conclusion |