

AP/SOSC 2110:6 A Critical Study of Health and Society

Fall/Winter 2011-12

**Mid-Year Exam: December 1, 2011**

**PLEASE READ CLOSELY – IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

You have from 4:30-6:30 pm to write this exam. Your answers should cover course material from Weeks 1-11 inclusive (see course outline.) Material from the film “Wit” is not course content for this exam, i.e. you won’t receive marks for referencing details from the film.

The exam will consist of three terms from Section 1 and one essay question from Section 2 – both listed below.

Students are not permitted to bring any notes into the examination. Exams must be written in ink. Students are not allowed to have cell phones on their desks and must have their student ID card available for inspection. Exam answers must be entirely your own. Students who turn in exam answers which are close or identical in content and/or writing style to another student or students will be penalized.

**Section 1:** Please identify the following terms or names and explain their importance in the context of lectures, readings and films. (This section is worth 30% of the total exam grade.)

- The 1918-1919 Influenza Epidemic
- The X-ray
- “The Gaze”
- Medicalization
- 1957 Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act
- Residential Schools (for First Nations/Aboriginal Peoples)
- Deepak Chopra

**Section 2:** Please answer the following question in essay form (introduction, main body & conclusion). A good answer will pull together material from several lectures, films and readings – don't forget to provide examples to support your argument(s). (This section is worth 70% of the total exam grade)

- We have used Ethicist Daniel Callahan's concept of "The Conquest of Death" to explore our society's obsession with the promise of biomedical technology. A parallel notion of "The Conquest of Illness" (the idea that we can eliminate physical and psychological illness through the tools and expertise of biomedicine) can be said to underpin the values, culture, therapeutics, and institutions of modern Western biomedicine. However, other cultures and alternative health systems posit very different definitions and practices. Evaluate how this concept of "The Conquest of Illness" can be applied to material covered in the first 9 weeks of SOSC 2110 and consider if the material in Lectures #10 and #11 relates to the concept.
- Western biomedicine was constructed through medical professionalization, the growth of health institutions and technologies, and the process of medicalization. Describe this process and then analyze how non-western medicine and alternative healing modalities challenge the core biomedicine principles, therapeutic techniques and professional power relations.
- If Tommy Douglas were here today, he would undoubtedly say that modern hospitals, state medicine and health professionals have done more to benefit Canadians than any other aspect of recent historical development. An Inuit person from Northern Canada or a homeopathic practitioner would likely present a very different argument. Explore these three perspectives, drawing on course materials from across the first term to support your answer.