

Course Instructor	Lorraine Hutton	Email: l.hutton@queensu.ca
Office	D310 Macintosh-Corry Hall	
Contact Time	Two (1.5 hour) lectures per week.	
Format	Lectures and discussions based on key texts, case studies and videos	
Class Assessment	Three-page proposal	20% week 6
	Term paper	40% week 12
	Discussion group participation	20% ongoing
	Take home final test	20% per exam schedule

COURSE OVERVIEW

Medical and health geography are often seen as distinctly different with medical geography focusing on the geography of disease, and health geography focusing on health care delivery. However, both consider spatial distribution, and link the geography of disease and access to health care services to demographic trends, environmental factors, institutional change, and public policy. The main goal of this course is to explore medical and health geography within this broader perspective. At the specific level, (the second goal) various perspectives regarding health and health care will be discussed as a group. The third goal of the course is to develop a more sophisticated understanding of some aspect of medical and health geography through researching and writing a term paper.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To provide a critical understanding of key concepts related to medical and health geography.
- To provide a set of analytical skills to evaluate the demographic, social, economic, and political relationships that explain health inequalities and differences in access to health care.
- To examine the role of societal structures and human behavior in creating and sustaining health inequalities and differences in access to health care.
- To understand how national health care systems either reduce or enhance health inequalities, and differences in access to health care.

COURSE TOPICS

Medical geography; Health geography; Emerging and re-emerging diseases; Health inequalities; the Canadian health care system; International health systems; Geographies of women's health; Geographies of Aboriginal health; Geographies of aging and disability; Geographies of immigrant health; Geographies of mental health; Urban health; Globalization, health, and health care.

COURSE READINGS

Readings for the course are assigned approximately every two weeks and are linked to the lecture topics and the discussion groups. The readings are from the leading journals of medical and health geography (e.g., *Health and Place*, *Social Science & Medicine*).