

# GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

## GPHY 339 – Medical Geography



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<b>Office</b>	E308 Macintosh-Corry Hall	
<b>Contact Time</b>	Two 1.5 hour lectures per week	<b>Phone:</b> 533-6046
<b>Format</b>	Lectures and discussions based on key texts, case studies and videos	
<b>Class Assessment</b>	Three page paper proposal	20% Week 6
	Term Paper	40% Week 12
	Discussion Group Participation	20% Ongoing
	Take home final test	20% Examination Period

### COURSE OVERVIEW

Most medical and health geographers divide the subject into the geography of disease and the geography of health care delivery. Medical and health geography are, however, about more than just the spatial distribution of diseases and access to health care services. Medical and health geography link the geography of disease and access to health care services to demographic trends, environmental factors, institutional and social 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, a second goal of the course is to discuss various perspectives regarding health and health care in a group setting. The third goal of the course is to develop a more sophisticated understanding of some aspect of medical and health geography through the writing of a term paper.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To provide a critical understanding of key concepts related to medical and health geography.
- To examine the role of societal structures and human behavior in creating and sustaining health inequalities and differences in access to health care.
- 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 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.

### SELECTED COURSE TEXTS & 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*).