

GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

GPHY 887 – The Geography of Health and Health Care – Fall 2021



Course Instructor	Dr. Mark W. Rosenberg	Email: mark.rosenberg@queensu.ca
Office	E308 Mackintosh-Corry Hall	Tel: 613-533-6046
Contact Time	3 hours	
Format	Seminar	
Class Assessment	Evaluation will be based on the oral and written presentation of two papers. The topics for the papers are to be selected by the student with the agreement of the instructor. Each paper will be worth <u>50 percent</u> of the final grade. Papers will be approximately 3500 words in length. Papers will be submitted within <u>one week</u> of the oral presentation to the seminar group.	

COURSE OVERVIEW

Medical geography is generally defined under two major themes: the geography of disease and the geography of health care. The thrust of research under the disease theme has been to examine the spatial diffusion of diseases, or the linkages among disease, the physical environment and human practice. Some typical examples are modelling the spatial diffusion of measles or the factors that explain the geography of AIDS. The thrust of research under the health care delivery theme has been to examine issues related to the location of health care deliverers, facilities, and consumers. The factors explaining the location of physicians or the impacts of mental health facilities on neighbourhoods are typical examples of this theme. This view of medical geography has, however, been overtaken by arguments for a geography of health and health care. The geography of health and health care emphasises a “critical” geography, which seeks to take into account “place”, “structure” and “agency,” “health and the environment,” and “globalization.”

LEARNING OUTCOMES

My graduate seminar has three goals. First, to evaluate the underlying arguments for the traditional definition of medical geography and new ways of defining a geography of health and health care. Secondly, to consider a selection of topics which are of current interest to medical/health geographers. Some possible topics are women's health and health care, restructuring of health care systems, ageing and health, and the links between health and the environment. At the organisational meeting of the course, a set of topics will be chosen by the seminar group depending on the particular interests of the participants. The third goal of the seminar is to situate much of the discussion within the context of changing Canadian and global public policies towards the delivery of health care, the implications for people's health, and what these changes mean for those involved in the delivery or receipt of health care.

Course Topics

At the first seminar meeting, graduate students will be given the opportunity to identify potential seminar topics. A weekly program of seminars will then be organized based on the topics identified by the group.

Course Readings

Depending on the seminar topics chosen, reading lists will be generated for each seminar topic from the current published researched and a subset of the references will be required reading.