

The University of Western Ontario  
London Canada

Department of Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies and School of Health Studies

September 2022 – April 2023

<b>HS/GSWS 2244: Women and Health</b>
Wednesdays 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Location: HSB-240

Instructors	Office Hours	
	Or by appointment	Lawson Hall, 3255
Teaching Assistant s	Office Hours	Location
Grecia Alaniz (Fall)	TBA	TBA
TBA (Winter)	TBA	TBA

### Women and Health: Course Perspective & Organization

This course takes a critical, interdisciplinary approach to understanding women's health. The course is organized into six modules with each module covering a topic area that is relevant to women and health. The topics covered in this course are:

Module 1:	The Medicalization of Women's Health
Module 2:	Representing Gender and Women's Health
Module 3:	The Politics of Reproduction
Module 4:	Diversity and Experiences of Health and Health Care
Module 5:	The Social Determinants of Women's Health
Module 6:	Gender, Work, and Health

### Course Objectives

Through engagement with course materials and facilitated in-class discussions, students will:

- gain a critical awareness of the social and political forces that shape women's health;
- articulate the links between constructions of gender and health, with a particular focus on women and women's bodies;
- consider how medical and popular knowledge about health is implicated in the social reproduction of gender difference and gender roles;
- develop a deeper understanding of how women's experiences of health and health care vary according to social position, including social class, race, age, Indigeneity, and sexual identity;
- learn about the gendered dimensions of intersecting social and health inequities, nationally and internationally;
- broaden their understanding of women's "choices" in relation to their health and reproduction.





## Support Services

Registrar's Office: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

## Accommodation Policies

### Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides

recommendations for accommodation b029d(T)(d)Tj0.239 0 Td(s)Tj BDC /d(o)Tj0.543 0 Td(w)Tjal

### Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is provided here: <https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

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## Grade Descriptions

The university-wide descriptor of the meaning of letter grades, as approved by Senate:

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	

Assignments must be submitted in class and on OWL. Assignments will NOT be accepted by email.



## Class Schedule

Week #	Date	Topic
<b>MODULE 1 – THE MEDICALIZATION OF WOMEN’S HEALTH</b>		
1	Sept 14	The politics of “women’s health”
2	Sept 21	The medicalization of female sexuality
3	Sept 28	Women and medicalization
4	Oct 5	From medicalization to healthism and risk
5	Oct 12	The corporatization of women’s health
<b>MODULE 2 – REPRESENTING GENDER AND WOMEN’S HEALTH</b>		
6	Oct 19	



Week 4 – October 5

From medicalization to healthism and risk

Week 7 – October 26

**Representations of gender and health in popular culture**

Roy, S. (2007). 'Taking Charge of Your Health': Discourses of Responsibility in English-Canadian Women's Magazines. *Sociology of Health and Illness*, 30(3), 463-477.

Duncan, M. (

Please browse these websites on Indigenous midwifery: <https://indigenousmidwifery.ca/history-strategic-plan/>; <https://indigenousmidwifery.ca/indigenous-midwifery-in-canada/>

**Week 10 – November 23**

**Reproductive “choice”**

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Week 8 – March 8

Structural violence and social suffering

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Week 11 – March 29

**Globalization, gender, and health**

Parrenas, R. (2002). The care crisis in the Philippines: Children and transnational families in the new global economy. In *Global Woman: Nannies, maids, and sex workers in the new economy*. Owl Books: New York. pp. 39-54 of 328. ISBN 0805075097

Walter, N, Borgois, P. & Loinaz, M. (2004). Masculinity and undocumented labor migration: Injured latino day labourers in San Francisco, *Social Science and Medicine*, 59, 1159-1168.

Garwood, S. (2002). Working to death: Gender, labour, and violence in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. *Peii,xno)balai 13.3 (,).3 (D3*