

# **ASCI 3200 PUBLIC HEALTH F2024**

**INSTRUCTOR: TBA**

In Canada, public health is defined as “organized efforts of society to keep people healthy and prevent injury, illness and premature death. It is a combination of programs, services and policies that protect and promote the health of all Canadians.” (Government of Canada, 2008, para 2).

The aim of this course is to trace the history and evolution of public health in Canada – from its origins to present day. Much of this history has been shaped by public health challenges, or issues, that negatively impacted the health of populations both inside and outside of Canada. Social, economic, political, and technological contexts also played an important role in the number and types of public health challenges that emerged over time as well as the response(s) or non-response(s) that followed each. These responses are largely responsible for the long life expectancy that many citizens of high income countries currently enjoy.

Analysis of past and present public health issues is critical for learning purposes and to help better predict and respond to future issues. On the first class day, we will explore through readings, asynchronous lectures, and videos, some of the most challenging public health issues in Canada’s history. On the second class day, during our in-person classes, we will draw on these historical case studies to help in the analysis of current public health issues, or modern-day case studies. Relevant social, economic, political, and technological issues will be identified and discussed. Issues related to equity, equality, diversity, and inclusion will also be explored.