Course Title: Health, Technology and Society

Aims and Objective

This course is designed to provide students with a broad overview of the relations among health, technology and society. It helps students understand the historical, social, cultural, and ethical dimensions of healthcare technology, increase their knowledge of health issues and commitment to human rights, and sharpen their critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills in issues associated with health.

Intended Learning Outcomes of the Course

On completion of the course, students should be able to

ILO1. describe how scientific and technological development affects health and healthcare;
ILO2. discuss the scientific controversies and ethical concerns of issues in health and healthcare;
ILO3. identify and analyze the historical, social, economic, cultural and ethical dimensions of healthcare technology.

Syllabus

Lecture:
1. Science and technology and the transformation of healthcare
   - Course introduction: dimensions of healthcare technology
2. Technology and risks to health and environment
   - The emergence of risk society and the hazards to health and environment
3. Perspectives on health and illness
   - Comparing and contrasting different perspectives on health and illness and how these affect our understanding of the meaning of health
4. The power of experts and the (dis)empowerment of people
   - How unchecked experts’ power over ordinary people on health-related matters affects the life of individuals, families and communities
5. Public health practices and human rights concern
   - How public health policy and programmes foster discrimination, create stigma or undermine human dignity
6. Commodification of healthcare and its ethical consequences
   - How the corporatization, commodification or commercialization of healthcare is ethically problematic

Seminar:
7. Perspectives from a local nuclear power safety concern group
8. Perspectives from a local patients’ rights concern group

Tutorial:
9. Group presentations and discussion on selected technology and risks to human health and environment

10. Group presentations and discussion on the social experiences of maintaining health in Hong Kong

11. Group presentations and discussion on selected bioethical issues, like reproductive technology, cosmetic surgery, cloning, etc.

### Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Assessment (Weighting)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continuous Assessment (100%)</td>
<td>Participation in class activities (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group project (30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quiz (30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Individual essays (30%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Pre-requisite(s)

Nil

### Required and Recommended Reading

**Recommended Reading:**


