Course Title: Sociology of Health

Aims and Objective

This course is designed to provide students with a broad overview of the knowledge in the field of medical sociology. It helps to deepen students’ understanding of the social and cultural environment and its consequences for health beliefs, illness behaviors, and healthcare. The course introduce an overview of different sociological perspectives and methods in the understanding and analysis of various issues associated with healthcare, such as: social meanings of illness; patterns in the distribution of health and illness; the ways people make sense of, seek help for, and manage their illnesses; the ways doctors, nurses, and patients interact with each other, including the changing nature of health-related professions; the cultural, organizational, and economic functioning of various healthcare institutions; social movements surrounding health, including the ways some deviant behaviors are "medicalized" while others are not; and the sociological effects of public policy on health outcomes. Students will acquire skills to assess clients health needs, communicate with the clients and their families, plan and implement safe nursing inventions in healthcare settings, and discuss controversies within this subfield, including debates about theory, substance, and methodology, and across various disciplines that are concerned with health, illness, and healing. The course enables students to critically evaluate their impacts on the delivery of services and the professional roles of practitioners.

Intended Learning Outcomes of the Course

On completion of the course, students should be able to

- ILO1. explain basic concepts and theories in sociology of health and illness;
- ILO2. apply sociological perspectives to the analysis of healthcare issues;
- ILO3. explain how cultural, economic, and socio-political factors may lead to disease production and health disparities;
- ILO4. evaluate matters of health, illness, and medicine in a critical and reflective matter.

Syllabus

1. General Introduction: the relevance of Sociology
2. Defining health and illness: the medical Controversy Debate
3. Social and Cultural Impact on health beliefs and Illness behaviours
4. Social and Inequality and Health: Material Foundations of Health and Illness
5. Gender and Women’s Health
7. Marginalization and Stigmatization I: Disability
8. Marginalization and Stigmatization II: Mental Illness
9. Health promotion, The Regulation of Bodies, and the Medicalization of Everyday Life
10. The Professionalization of Healthcare Workers
### Assessment

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Assessment (Weighting)</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continuous Assessment (50%)</td>
<td>Project (20%)</td>
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<td>Mid-term test (30%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examination (50%)</td>
<td>Written Examination</td>
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**Pre-requisite(s)**

Nil

### Required and Recommended Reading

Recommended textbook:


Additional notes and useful library/web-site references will be provided for each topic.

04.07.2016