

## COURSE OUTLINE

**Course Code / Title** : HS3014 Health, Medicine, and Society

**Pre-requisites** : HS1001 Person and Society  
HS2001 Classical Social Theory  
HS2002 Doing Social Research

**No. of AUs.** : 3

**Contact Hours** : 39

### Course Aims

This course is designed to help you obtain a comprehensive and critical understanding of health and society. Readings and lectures cover various topics, including the sociological determinants and consequences of health, health behaviour, and health care seeking. Students who are interested in the social and cultural influences on health may take this course. Alumni of this course will be able to use course ideas or perspectives in their professional roles such as medical professionals. Moreover, as this course will equip you with tools to analyze relationships between health and society, it will benefit those who plan to pursue graduate study in the field of medical sociology or other health-related disciplines.

### Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Explain the concepts, theories, and methods of medical sociology
2. Assess how health is produced through social, economic, and cultural forces on a macro, meso and micro level
3. Develop academic writing, presentation, and group discussion skills

### Course Content

#### Introduction to Medical Sociology

- What is sociology of health?
- A brief history
- The state of sociology of health and its relation to other fields

#### Social Context of Health: Socioeconomic Status

- A discussion of the accumulated evidence on the social patterns of health outcomes
- The role of SES in this process
- Fundamental cause theory

#### Social Context of Health: Gender and Sexuality

- Gender differences in health
- Theories explaining gender disparities in health
- The role of gender norms in society in this process

#### Social Context of Health: Race and Ethnicity

- Racial/ethnic differences in health
- Theories explaining racial/ethnic disparities in health
- A discussion of the minority status and health

#### Social Context of Health: Age and cohort

- Ageing and health
- Early origins of adult health outcomes
- Health among older adults

#### Social Context of Health: Social Stress

- Stress process model
- The role of personal resources in the stress process model
- Expansions of the stress universe and implications for stress research

#### Social Context of Health: Family and Work Interface

- Work and health
- Health benefits of marriage
- The implications of research on family-work interface

#### Social Context of Health: Neighborhood

- Neighborhoods as a template for the study of social contexts
- Theoretical understandings of neighborhood effects
- Cross-level dependence of effects of social inequalities

#### Social Context of Health: Social Relationship and Network

- Social integration and health
- The dual aspects of social network in affecting health
- Theoretical understandings of the effects of social ties and networks

#### Social Context of Health: Health behavior

- Health behavior and health outcomes
- The interplay of social status and health behavior

### Social Context of Health: Health care

- Health care system
- Social network and health care seeking
- Stigmatization and health
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### Social Context of Health: Cross-National Perspective

- The importance of cross-national perspective
- Explaining variations in health outcomes across countries
- The theoretical logic of the multilevel model

### Course Assessment

CA1	Research in the News	: 20%
CA2	Mid-term test	: 15%
CA3	Presentation	: 10%
CA4	Class Participation	: 5%
	Final Examination	: 50%
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<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>