

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code / Title	: HS4039 Medical Sociology
Pre-requisites	: HS1001 Person and Society HS2001 Classical Social Theory HS2002 Doing Social Research HS3001 Contemporary Social Theory HS3002 Understanding Social Statistics
No. of AUs.	: 4
Contact Hours	: 52

Course Aims

This course is to provide a broad overview into the main areas of medical sociology. We will explore its main subfields, including how sociology functions within medicine and the sociology of medicine. Among the issues we will discuss are the social causation of disease, relationships between clinicians and patients, the sociology of health professions, and health disparities between population subgroups (e.g., gender, race, class).

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

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

1. Describe, summarize, and present to others how sociologists have approached the study of health and medicine
2. Independently synthesize and discuss literature from the field of medical sociology
3. Use empirical data to make clear, coherent, and constructive arguments on a topic in medical sociology

Course Content

Week 1 - Introduction to Medical Sociology

Key concepts: Sociology of Medicine, Sociology in Medicine

Week 2 – The Social Construction of Health and Illness

Key concepts: Illness as Deviance, Biomedicine, Disease/Illness

Week 3 – Medicalization and Contested Illnesses

Key concepts: Medicalization, Contested Illnesses

Week 4 – Social Movements and Social Rationing

Key concepts: Social rationing, social movements

Week 5 – Professionalization and Alternative Medicine
Key concepts: Professionalization, Alternative Medicine

Week 6 – Patient-Provider Interactions
Key concepts: Cultural health capital

Week 7 – Technology and Geneticization
Key concepts: Geneticization

Week 8 – Social Epidemiology
Key concepts: Population health, Epidemiologic Transition

Week 9 – Social Causes of Disease
Key concepts: Fundamental Cause Theory, Compensatory Inversions

Week 10 – The Stress Process and Life Course Perspective
Key concepts: Stress Process, Life Course Perspective

Week 11 – Gender and Social Relationships
Key concepts: Social support, social participation, sex role hypothesis

Week 12 – Neighbourhood and Lifestyles
Key concepts: Health lifestyle theory, neighbourhood effects

Week 13 - Conclusion (review / revision)

Course Assessment

CA1 Class participation : 20%

CA2 In-class group presentation : 25%

CA3 Group Research Memo : 25%

CA4 Individual essay : 30%

Total -----
100%