

## SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS

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### Course description:

Sociology of health has emerged as one of the key yet relatively unrecognized subfields of health research that spans the population health, health services and policy research fields. It has been an important contributing field to key policy decision-makers and the growing field of health knowledge translation. In this course, we begin with the idea that we cannot understand the topics of health and illness simply by looking at biological phenomena and medical knowledge, but instead, we must also consider a variety of social, political, economic, and cultural forces. Sociologists of health and illness, also known as medical sociologists, use sociological perspectives and methods to understand the difference between looking at medicine and health care issues from an individualist and bio-medical model to a social and cultural model. In this course we will examine these differences and their implication for health care leaders, health care policy and delivery. During this course students will learn about the social and cultural context of health and medicine.

The objectives of this course are for the students to:

- To provide students with a broad overview of the field of sociology of health and illness.
- To enable students to understand links between the subfield and sociology more generally.
- To highlight health policy implications of medical sociology.
- Provide students with the tools to be creative and critical in analysis of readings on health and illness.

Course evaluation:

- In class exercises/presentations, counting 30% of your grade
- Final project, counting 70% of your grade

CLASS CALENDAR

Date	Day/Time	Topic	Reading
17 July	Sunday 8.30-16.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to medical sociology</li> <li>• Lecture: Social origins of health and illness</li> <li>• Lecture agency-structure debate</li> <li>• Exercise:debate agency-structure (2 hour library preparation)</li> <li>• Exercise: Sociological imagination</li> <li>• Group questions: determinants of health</li> <li>• Lecture: Social production and distribution of health and disease</li> <li>• <b>Film: unnatural causes, questions to film discussed in class, and library assignment</b></li> <li>• Lecture: The sociology of health promotion</li> <li>• Exercise: Choosing Health, UK health policy white paper : press release exercise + read report and answer question</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Germov, J., Imagining health problems as social issues, in Germov, J., (2009) Second Opinion: an introduction to health sociology, pp: 1-24</li> <li>• Williams, G. H. (2003). "The determinants of health: structure, context and agency." Sociol Health Illn 25: 131-154.</li> <li>• Rose, G. (2001). "Sick individuals and sick populations." International Journal of Epidemiology 30(3): 427-432.</li> <li>• Germov, J., The class origins of health inequality, in Germov, J., (2009) Second Opinion: an introduction to health sociology, pp: 63-84</li> <li>• Marmot, MG., Davey Smith, G., Stansfield, S., (1991) Inequalities in health twenty years on: the Whitehall II study of British civil servants, Lancet, 337: 1387-93</li> <li>• Richmond, K., and Germov, J., A sociology of health promotion, in Germov, J., The class origins of health inequality, in Germov, J., (2009) Second Opinion: an introduction to health sociology, pp: 476-498</li> <li>• NHS, UK government white paper: Choosing Health</li> </ul>
19 July	Tuesday 8.30-16.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion: final project</li> <li>• Group discussion: Exploring the machinery of ill health</li> <li>• The social construction of health and illness</li> <li>• <b>Film: drugging our children</b></li> <li>• Group discussions of film questions</li> <li>• Role play: medicalization</li> <li>• Debate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Germov, J., Theorizing Health: Major theoretical perspectives in health sociology, in Germov, J., (2009) Second Opinion: an introduction to health sociology, pp: 25-44</li> <li>• Anleu, S.L.R., The medicalization of deviance, in Germov, J., in Germov, J., (2009) Second Opinion: an introduction to health sociology, pp: 242-268</li> <li>• White, K., (2009), The social</li> </ul>

			<p>construction of medical knowledge (pp. 14-32), in An introduction to the sociology of health and illness, second edition, Sage publication: London.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conrad P, Barker KK. (2010) The social construction of illness: key insights and policy implications. <i>J Health Soc Behav</i>;51 Suppl:S67-79. Review. PubMed PMID: 20943584.</li> <li>Conrad, Peter. 1992. "Medicalization and Social Control." <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i>, 18: 209-32</li> </ul>
21 July	Thursday 8.30-16.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lecture: Social construction of AIDS</li> <li>Film: And the band played on</li> <li>Durkheim and suicide</li> <li>Film: Jonestown: The Life and Death of Peoples Temple</li> <li>Exercise: answer questions to movie and articles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conrad, Peter. (1990). The Social Meaning of AIDS. Pp. 285-292 in <i>Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives, Third Edition</i>, edited by Peter Conrad and Rochelle Kern. New York: St.Martin's Press.</li> <li>Black A Jr. Jonestown--two faces of suicide: a Durkheimian analysis. <i>Suicide Life Threat Behav.</i> 1990 Winter;20(4):285-306.</li> <li>Cuff, E. C., W. W. Sharrock and D. W. Francis, (2001) Emilie Durkheim, in <i>Perspectives in Sociology</i>, 4th edition, London, Routledge, pp: 71-75.</li> <li>Ritzer, George, Emilie Durkheim, (1996) in <i>Sociological Theory</i>, 4th edition, New York, McGraw-Hill,. Pp: 75-91.</li> </ul>

\* Class Calendar is subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor