

SOC361 Medical Sociology

Level: 3

Credit Units: 5 Credit Units

Language: ENGLISH

Presentation Pattern: EVERY JAN

Synopsis:

Medical Sociology covers a wide range of issues exploring the relationship between health and the notions of illness and wellness as they are shaped by society. The healthcare relationship across societies and their populations will provide an important focus for a part of the course. We will address how socio-economic and cultural factors influence perceptions and access to healthcare. This involves an examination of gender, class, ethnicity, age and religious practices within the context of healthcare access and delivery. The role of medical technology is also explored as they demonstrate how current trends in medicine have shaped the health and well-being of both man and woman, especially in the area of sexual reproduction. In addition, the role of the medical profession will be explored. While well-being and illness may be socially constructed, a section is devoted to understanding individual responses to notions of health.

Topics:

- Introduction and overview: introduction and understanding the social construction of health and medicine
- Comparative healthcare systems: healthcare in the West and in Asia; Medical technology and ethics
- Health and the individual: personal experience of illness; the patient's perspective on healthcare; Healthcare utilization and barriers
- Determinants of health inequalities: health, class and social inequalities
- Men's and women's health: key issues and dilemmas
- Health profession: issues and perspectives -- power and politics of health; professional/patient relations

Textbooks:

G.L. Albrecht, R. Fitzpatrick & S.C. Scrimshaw: *The Handbook of Social Studies in Health & Medicine* (eText) (2007). (New Edition) Sage
ISBN-13: 9781473910676

Learning Outcome:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the basic concepts, theories, current debates and methods covered in the sociology of health and medicine
- Appraise the various models of approaching health and medicine
- Discuss the socioeconomic and cultural factors which influence and contribute to health inequalities at the individual and societal levels
- Illustrate the dynamic roles of healthcare professionals and their contributions to healthcare delivery
- Compare and contrast the different healthcare systems existing in the world today
- Examine health policies and the role of government in addressing health and medical issues
- Analyse the influence of power, and power structures in health outcomes, medical practices and the medical profession
- Propose strategies and health policies that facilitate easier access to healthcare

Assessment Strategies (Evening Class):

Components	Description	Weightage Allocation (%)
Overall Continuous Assessment	PRE-CLASS QUIZ 1	10
	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 1	20
	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 2	20
Overall Examinable Components	Written Exam	50
Total		100