

Course Code MED-110	Course Title Medical Sociology	ECTS Credits 6
School Medical School	Semester Spring (Semester 2)	Prerequisites None
Type of Course Required	Field Medicine	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course Undergraduate	Year of Study 1st	Lecturer(s) Dr Costas Constantinou
Mode of Delivery Face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

The objective of this course is to teach students the main principles of the sociology of health and illness and train them in how to apply and use these principles to explain real-life health conditions.

Learning Outcomes:

The following list provides the learning objectives that will be covered in the lectures and tutorials of each week:

Week 1

LOBs covered during lectures:

1. Define Sociology and give examples of issues of sociological interest.
2. Describe the scope of Medical Sociology and its usefulness in medical practice.

LOB covered during tutorial:

3. Apply a sociological approach to explain a case of disability.

Week 2

LOBs covered during lectures:

4. Explain how the body is shaped by social forces and values.
5. Describe the concept "embodiment."
6. Apply the concept of "embodiment" to explain a case of anorexia.

LOB covered during tutorial:

7. Practise the sociological principles of the body.

Week 3

LOBs covered during lectures:

8. Describe specific lay health beliefs.
9. Outline the factors that influence illness behaviour.
10. Describe beliefs about the causes of illness.
11. Describe how lay health beliefs can influence illness behaviour.
12. Apply the sociological principles of lay health beliefs to explain a case of adherence to therapy.

LOB covered during tutorial:

13. Practise the sociological principles of lay health beliefs and illness behaviour

Week 4

LOBs covered during lectures:

14. Outline the importance of a label.
15. Describe how patients live with a stigmatising condition.
16. Outline the mechanism of labelling.
17. Describe the types of stigma and the situations of stigmatisation.
18. Explain how patients respond to stigma.
19. Apply the principles of labelling and stigma to explain a case of intellectual disability.

LOB covered during tutorial:

20. Practise the principles of labelling and stigma.

Week 5

LOBs covered during lectures:

21. Describe the characteristics and meaning of chronic illness.
22. Describe the psychosocial changes a chronic patient goes through.
23. Outline the main features of the concepts “the sick role” and “biographical disruption.”
24. Apply the sociological principles to explain the experience of haemodialysis.

LOB covered during tutorial:

25. Practise the sociological principles of chronic illness experience.

MIDTERM EXAM

Week 6

LOBs covered during lectures:

26. Explain how social class is linked with mental illness.
27. Describe the way gender, age and migration are associated with mental illness.
28. Describe the main theoretical explanations of the link between social characteristics and mental illness.
29. Apply the sociological principles to explain a case of depression.

LOB covered during tutorial:

30. Practise the sociological principles of mental illness

Week 7

31. Describe the relationship between social class and illness.
32. Explain the reasons why social class is associated with high mortality and morbidity rates.
33. Apply the sociological principles to explain a case of cardiovascular disease.

LOB covered during tutorial:

34. Practise the sociological principles of social inequalities in health.

Week 8

LOBs covered during lectures:

35. Describe the association between gender and health.
36. Explain the differences in mortality and morbidity between men and women.
37. Apply the sociological principles to explain a case of lower life expectancy.

LOB covered during tutorial:

38. Practise the sociological principles of gender and health.

Week 9

LOBs covered during lectures:

39. Describe race, ethnicity and culture.
40. Describe the health profile of migrants.
41. Explain the impact of racism on migrants' health.
42. Outline the main features of "institutionalised racism".
43. Apply the sociological principles to explain the experiences of a migrant.

LOB covered during tutorial:

44. Practise the sociological principles of ethnicity and illness.

Week 10

LOBs covered during lectures:

45. Explain the term 'demographic transition.'
46. Describe the health profile and social conditions of the elderly.
47. Outline the main feature of the terms "lifecourse" and "cultures of ageing."
48. Describe the needs of informal carers.
49. Apply the sociological principles to explain the experiences of an older patient.

LOB covered during tutorial:

50. Practise the sociological principles of ageing.

Week 11

LOBs covered during lectures:

51. Describe the social aspects of dying, death and bereavement.
52. Distinguish between social and biological death and describe the changes in the perception of death.
53. Describe the process of medicalisation of death.
54. Explain the terms "awareness context" and "good death."
55. Apply the sociological principles to explain the case of a dying person.

LOB covered during tutorial:

56. Practise the sociological principles of death and dying.

Week 12

LOBs covered during lectures:

57. Describe the social roles of patients and doctors.
58. Explain the various models of doctor-patient relationships.
59. Describe the various approaches to treatment decision-making.
60. Outline doctors' communication skills.
61. Apply the sociological principles to explain a case of doctor-patient relations.

LOB covered during tutorial:

62. Practise the sociological principles of doctor-patients relations.

Course Contents:

- Introduction to Sociology and Medical Sociology
- The Body as Social Entity
- Lay Health Beliefs and Illness Behaviour
- Labelling and Stigma
- Chronic Illness Experience
- Mental Illness
- Social Inequalities in Health
- Gender and Health
- Ethnicity and Illness
- Ageing
- Death and Dying
- Doctor-Patient Relationships

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, Tutorials.

Assessment Methods:

Written Report (paper) (5%), Oral Presentation (5%) Midterm Exam (30%) and Final Exam (60%). Assessment is by Single Best Answers (SBAs) and Short Answer Questions (SAQs).

Required Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Scambler Graham	Sociology as applied to medicine (6 th edition)	Saunders Elsevier	2008	0702029017

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Constantinou S Costas	Applied sociology of health and illness: a problem based learning approach	Radcliffe	2014	97819089 11940
Nettleton Sarah	The sociology of health and illness (3 rd edition)	Polity Press	2013	97807456 46015