

Lingnan University
Department of Sociology and Social Policy

Course Title : Health, Illness and Behaviour
Course Code : SOC333
Recommended Study Year : Years 2 and 3
No. of credits/semester : 3
Mode of Tuition : Lecture, Tutorial and Service-Learning
Class Contact Hours : 3 hours a week
Category of Major Prog. : Elective
Discipline: : Sociology
Prerequisite: : Nil
Co-requisite: : Nil
Brief Course Description : **COURSE OUTLINE**

This course provides a social psychological and medical sociology perspective to health and illness and human behaviour in reaction to health and illness. The course introduces Chinese and Western conceptualizations of health and illness; social epidemiology – how people and the human and physical environments are associated with health and disease and key current issues and debates in health and medical fields including the doctor-patient relationship, medicalization of illnesses, professionalization of the medical and para-medical professions, patient behaviour and rights and principles of diagnostic criteria.

Aims : **COURSE AIMS**

The aim of the course is, within a social science/sociological framework, to equip students with basic understanding of the concepts of health and illnesses, environments(s) and health/illness, Hong Kong and some Western health care systems, doctor-patient relationships and measures which have been adopted to improve health and quality of life.

Learning Outcomes : **WHAT YOU WILL LEARN FROM THIS COURSE**

Upon completion of the course Health, Illness and Behaviour, you

1. will be able to define health, illness and behaviour in this context.
2. will be able to identify and explain the basic principles of looking at health and illness and socio-cultural factors in health care systems, and factors influencing health behaviour, especially in

Hong Kong and the Asia-Pacific region.

3. will be able to identify the major implications of health for populations and provision of services, and explain the organizational factors and features of health services at various levels: family, community and institutions such as hospitals.
4. will be able to identify and explain the major conceptualizations of health and illness such as the “medical/bio-medical model” and social approaches to health and the sick role.
5. will be able to explain the main epidemiological and social principles underpinning the relationships between the environment (social and physical) and infectious diseases (such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, SARS and dengue fever) and non-communicable diseases such as cancers and heart disease and how such understanding can help in prevention and treatment of such diseases
6. will be able to explain how concepts such as health beliefs and practices and cultural differences can be identified and how these can affect how health services are delivered and received.
7. will be able to explain and discuss modern issues such as the role of the consumer in health services and the main models and concepts that have emerged to understand health services consumer behaviour and expectations.
8. will be able to summarise and evaluate the major debates on health, illness and healthcare in society and how healthcare can and might be delivered in a changing world.

Teaching and learning effectiveness will be monitored by means such as:

- Use of formal channels (such as CTEs) and informal communication and interaction with students
- Continuous assessment (outlines, presentations) and feedback given to students for preparation of presentation outlines and after presentations
- Co-ordination and communication between instructors and tutors
- Tutorials will provide opportunities for informal discussion with tutors as well as for presentations and discussions in the group
- Revision tutorials and review sessions will be held in lectures when appropriate

Indicative Content	<p>: 1. Introduction: Defining health and illness: physical, psychological and sociological perspectives</p> <p>2. Behaviour as diagnostic indicators and the medical model</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The curative process: diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation ● Primary, secondary and tertiary preventions in healthcare <p>3. Social epidemiology – health, disease and the environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● epidemiological triad: diseases and environment ● illustrations: various conditions / diseases with environmental associations (e.g. Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Avian ‘flu, SARS, etc) <p>4. Organization of community healthcare and hospital services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● healthcare provision at the community levels (primary health care) ● hospital services (secondary, tertiary health care) ● Community care, hospital care or what combinations? <p>5. Health & illness behaviour: the sick role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● doctor-patient relationships ● empowering the patients through health promotion <p>6. Health beliefs and practices: cultural differences?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concepts of health and illness: examples of pregnancy & depression ● The healthcare system: policy and service delivery ● Setting priorities at a time of limited resources ● Reasons for the importance of family care givers in community care; the working relationships between family and formal care givers ● Controversies: creating lives to save lives – PGD and tissue typing <p>7. Consumer behaviour in healthcare services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consumption and utilization of health services; accessibility and utilization ● What do consumers want? Quality, choice, affordable price, access
Teaching Method	: Weekly lectures, tutorials or seminar presentations/discussions
Measurement of Learning Outcomes	: Learning outcomes will be assessed by a term paper, tutorial presentation and participation (for tutorial mode only), service learning performance (for Service-Learning mode only) and a final examination.

Assessment : Tutorial Mode

- (i) *Continuous assessment (50%):*
 - a. Tutorial presentation (small groups of 3-4 students) (15%)
 - b. Tutorial attendance, in-class discussion and participation (10%)
 - c. Individual written essay*. No more than 3,000 words are expected for the paper (25%)
- (ii) *Examination (50%):*
Examination (50%) containing essay type questions (2 hours)

Service-Learning Mode

- (iii) *Continuous assessment (50%):*
 - a. Individual reflective essay* (15 %);
 - b. Group report* (15 %);
 - c. Report - Back Seminar presentation (10%); and
 - d. Performance rating/Agency evaluation score (10%)
- (iv) *Examination (50%):*
Examination (50%) containing essay type questions (2 hours)

EXAM DATE: 27 April 2009 (Mon) 9:30am - 11:30pm (MBG06)

FINAL DATE FOR ESSAY SUBMISSION: 4 May 2009, Monday, 5pm

** Please submit your essay to General Office, 3/F, Dorothy Y. L. Wong Building.*

Academic Dishonesty : Note that the University imposes severe penalties for academic dishonesty, especially plagiarism. With regard to your coursework in particular, you are reminded: *You must note the sources of quotations, data and general information in the essay.* These sources/references should appear in alphabetical order in your list of references/bibliography.

According to Lingnan University and Social Sciences Programme policy, plagiarism is "presentation of another person's work without proper acknowledgment of the source". *Plagiarism (unattributed copying) will be heavily penalized, and may attract a zero mark and disciplinary action.*

Supplementary Readings : Berkman, L. F. & Kawachi, I. (eds), *Social epidemiology*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Chan, Cecilia Lai-wan, *Social work intervention in health care: the Hong Kong scene*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 1997.

Close, Diana, *Bereavement support in oncology social work: group*

intervention with relatives and friends. Melbourne: Medical Social Work Dept., Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute, St. Andrews Place East Melbourne, 1995.

Dept. of Social Work and Social Administration, University of Hong Kong, Therapeutic groups in medical settings. Department of Social Work and Social Administration, Resource Paper series no. 25., University of Hong Kong, 1996.

Freund, P. E. S., McGuire, M. B. & Podhurst, L. S, Health, illness, and the social body: a critical sociology. 4th ed., NJ: Prentice Hall, 2002.

Gray, A. (ed), World health and disease. Pa.: Open University Press, 2001.

Guyton, Arthur C., Human physiology and mechanisms of disease. Philadelphia : W.B. Saunders. 5th ed, 1992.

Hutcheon, Robin, Beside manner, hospital and health care in Hong Kong. Hong Kong: Chinese University Press, 1999.

Lee, K (ed), Health impacts of globalization: Towards global governance. N.Y.: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003.

Leung, G. M. & Bacon-Shone, J (eds), Hong Kong's health system: Reflections, perspectives and visions. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2006.

McCracken, Kevin and Phillips, David R., International demographic transitions. In G.J. Andrews and D.R. Phillips (eds) Ageing and Place. London: Routledge, 2005, pp. 36-60.

McFalls, Joseph A., Population: a lively introduction. 4th edition or earlier. Population Bulletin, 58, 1, December. Washington, DC: Population Reference Bureau, 2003.

Northen, Helen, Clinical social work: knowledge and skills. New York: Columbia University Press, 1995.

Nettleton, S., The Sociology of health and illness. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2006.

Phillips, D.R. and Verhasselt, Y. (eds.), Health and development. London: Routledge, 1994.

Turner, B., The New Medical Sociology: Social Forms of Health and Illness. New York: W.W. Norton, 2004.

Turner, Francis J., Differential diagnosis and treatment in social work. New York: Free Press, 1995.

Vander, Arthur J., Human physiology: the mechanisms of body function. New York: McGraw-Hill. 6th ed., 1994.

Wang, Cho-ch'i., The role of medical social workers and their relationship with doctors and nurses in Hong Kong hospitals. Occasional paper: Hong Kong: Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 1998.

Whiteside, A. (2008) HIV/AIDS: a very short introduction. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Selected Websites of HK Government, other international health services and the WHO, etc, will be provided in lectures. For background and for examples you could look at sites such as:

HK Centre for Health Protection:

<http://www.chp.gov.hk/index.asp?lang=en>

HK Hospital Authority:

http://www.ha.org.hk/visitor/ha_index.asp

HK Department of Health

<http://www.dh.gov.hk/>

UK National Health Service on primary and secondary health care:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/DH_074339

USA Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCs):

<http://www.cdc.gov/>

Australia Department of Health and Ageing:

<http://www.health.gov.au/>