SOC 40310-201000

Module Description:
Course content: This module introduces medical sociology and seeks to explore sociological factors which impinge on health status, health chances and health care. It will look at concepts of health and illness, the social context of health and illness as well as changing patterns of health and illness, and the social organisation of both formal and informal health care. Theoretical issues addressed will include a critical analysis of formal Western medical approaches to health and health care. These theories will be applied to a number of substantive areas.

Indicative content: Historical, sociological and cross-cultural concepts of health and illness. The relationship between health cultural beliefs and practices; Lay and professional interpretations of health and illness in contemporary society; Problems in measuring health and illness; The social character of health and illness; The relationship between health beliefs and health behaviour; Disability, labelling and social stigma; Death dying and bereavement; The professionalisation of treatment and care; Interactions between health consumers and health professionals; Changing patterns of morbidity and mortality in the western and developing worlds.

Learning Outcomes:
Objectives: By the end of the course students should be able to demonstrate an awareness of the problems of conceptualising health and illness and the implications of such problems, show an appreciation of key theoretical approaches within sociology to the study of health, illness and health care, understand the relationship between states of health and social forces, appreciate the relationship between professional, health, disease and society and compare and contrast historical, sociological and anthropological perspectives of health and illness.

Lectures:

Suggested reading

Weeks
1) Sociology of health and illness (History and context)
2) Concepts of health and illness
3) Medical knowledge and the rise of modern medicine
4) Changing patterns of health and illness
5) Inequalities in health and health care
6) The medical encounter or Mental illness
7) Identity, health and illness or The sociology of ageing and organisational responses to the end of life
8) Reading week
9) Social and Health Capital
10) Health, Realism and Critical Realism
11) Biomedicine, CAMs and Folk Medicine.
12) Tutorials.

1) The sociology of health and illness: The historical context.


2) Concepts of Health and Illness
Ch 1 B. Turner.


Morgan M., Calnan M and Manning N (1985) ‘Illness as a social state’, CH 2 and 3 Sociological Approaches to Health and Medicine Beckenham: Croom Helm. UGC.


3) Medical knowledge and modern medicine.
B. Turner Ch 2, 7&9.


4) Changing patterns of Health and illness.


5) Health inequalities.


6) The Medical Encounter
B Turner Ch 3


6) or Sociology of mental illness and the Changing organisational response to mental illness.
B Turner Ch 4


7) Identity, health and illness.
Kelleher D and G Leavey, Identity and Health Routledge, London.

Or

7) The sociology of ageing and organisational responses to the end of life
B Turner Ch 6


Henwood N (1991) ‘Age discrimination in health care’ Critical Public Health 2, 4-14 OP.


Carver V and Liddiard P An Ageing Population (1978) Hong Kong, OUP.

or The Sociology of Death and Dying
B Turner Ch 6


8) Reading week

9) Social and Health Capital


10) Health, Realism and Critical Realism.


11) Biomedicine, CAMs and Folk Medicine.


Seminar Presentations 2008.

1. Week Discuss the rise and development of the sociology of health and illness as a subfield of sociology.

2. Week Discuss concepts of health and the sociological distinction between ‘disease’ and ‘illness’.

3. Week Critically examine how health trends have changed over the past century.

4. Week Critically discuss the view that ‘health chances’ are related to social class or income.

Break

5. Week Compare Asian medical systems with Western Biomedicine.

6. Week Discuss the relevance of the concept of social capital for health and health care.

7. Week Discuss the relevance of social theory (critical realism or postmodern theory) for health and health care.

8. Week Discuss the resurgence of Complimentary and Alternative Medicine in contemporary society.

9. Week Discuss the significance of folk healing in contemporary society.

10.

NOTE: Please note that the written summary counts for 50% of your final mark.
Students are to provide a written summary of their presentation (no more than 1000 words). I would encourage you to use material from multiple sources. In addition to readings and texts you could include photographs, statistical information from official or unofficial documents, etc.
You are expected to use overheads. Keep these simple with no more than 5 bullet points per page (these should be headings that you might talk around). This will need to be handed in to the tutor with the final essay. Date to be confirmed. MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED IF THIS IS HANDED IN OR LATE WITHOUT GOOD REASON.

Wednesday, 14 April 2010

Sociology of Health and Health Care

PART A

Seminar and Presentation 1000 word (maximum)

Students are to provide a written summary of their presentation (excluding appendices). I would encourage you to use material from multiple sources. In addition to readings and texts you could include diagrammes, photographs, statistical information from official or unofficial documents, etc. NOTE: Please note that your written seminar summary counts for 50% of your final mark.

You are expected to use overheads. Keep these simple with no more than 5 bullet points per page (these should be headings that you might talk around). This will need to be handed in to the tutor with the final essay.

PART B

Examination Essay 3000 word (maximum)

Students may not answer a question that they have already completed as a PART A assignment. 50% of total Mark

Part A and B need to be fully referenced. Wikipedia references are unacceptable

MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED IF WORK IS HANDED IN LATE WITHOUT GOOD REASON.