

TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI



VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Sociology and Social Policy

SOSC 314

Body, Health and Illness

Course Outline

CRN 4662 : 24 points :Trimester 2, 2006

COURSE COORDINATOR: DR MIKE LLOYD

Room 1015, Murphy Building

Tel: (04) 463 5678

Email: mike.lloyd@vuw.ac.nz

LECTURES: MON 10AM-12NOON & WED 10-11AM HM LT104

COURSE COORDINATOR

Mike Lloyd
Murphy Building, MY 1015
Tel: 04 463 5678
E-mail: Mike.Lloyd@vuw.ac.nz

OFFICE HOURS

Monday 1–3pm

LECTURE & CLASSROOMS

Monday	HM LT104	10am – 12noon
Wednesday	HM LT104	10 – 11am

COURSE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES

The sociology of health and illness deals with the very basis of our social existence: our bodies, our health, and how they are regulated and organised within society. It is a very large field of inquiry, consequently this course must be seen as introductory, giving students a **sample** of the theoretical debates and empirical research in this area.

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the various theoretical stances sociologists take towards medical science and human embodiment.
2. Understand the social dimensions of health and illness.
3. Formulate their own sociological stance and illustrate this by a basic examination of a health topic of their own choice.

LECTURE PROGRAMME

July 10	Introduction to the course
July 12	Overview of the field
July 17	Workshop 1: Ch 1 & 9
July 19	The medicalisation thesis
July 24	Workshop 2: Ch 2 & 17
July 26	Social constructionism
July 31	Workshop 3: Ch 3 & 6
Aug 2	The body
Aug 7	Workshop 4: Ch 7 & 15
Aug 9	Communication, complexity and complication
Aug 14	Workshop 5: Ch 8 & 16
Aug 16	TEST

Aug 21 – Sep 3 Mid Trimester Break

Sep 4	Occupational Health and Safety I
Sep 6	Occupational Health and Safety II
Sep 11	The epidemiological imagination
Sep 13	Popular epidemiology
Sept 14	Assignment ONE due
Sep 18	Constructing AIDS
Sep 20	Mental illness
Sep 25	Cohort culture: a critique of child development studies
Sep 27	The unfortunate experiment
Oct 2	Planning session for student seminars
Oct 4	Student seminars
Oct 9	Student seminars
Oct 11	Course conclusion
Oct 17	Assignment TWO due

TEXTBOOK REQUIREMENTS

The required text for the course is:

Sarah Nettleton & Ulla Gustaffson (Eds.) (2002), *The Sociology of Health and Illness Reader*, Cambridge: Polity.

This is available from the university bookshop at a cost of \$82.

One copy has been placed on three day loan with the library.

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

There are no compulsory tutorials for this course but five of the Monday class times will be used as workshops, i.e. something more like tutorial sessions. These workshops require students to prepare by reading the appropriate chapters of the textbook as follows:

July 17	chapter 1 & 9
July 24	chapter 2 & 17
July 31	chapter 3 & 6
Aug 7	chapter 7 & 15
Aug 14	chapter 8 & 16

WORKLOAD AND MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Mandatory course requirement is completion of the test and two assignments. While attendance at lectures is not compulsory, students are expected to regularly attend lectures. University guidelines stipulate that a 300-level course requires 18 hours per week of student work (this includes class time).

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is internal and involves three pieces of work. The first is a test, the second is an essay based on the course textbook, and for the third students can choose between a written essay or a seminar presentation. The assessment links up with the course aims in the following way: the test and the second assignment familiarise you with contemporary work and major theoretical developments in the sociology of health and illness; while the third assignment gives you the choice of pursuing your own interests and thus developing your sociological thinking on health and illness topics.

1. In Class Test, 30%, Wednesday Aug 16

The test is based on the material covered in the first 11 class sessions, ie. both lectures and chapters from the course textbook. A guidance statement on the test will be handed out at least two weeks before the date of the test.

2. Assignment One, 35%, due 4pm Thursday Sep 14

The intention in this assignment is to get students to make the most of the course textbook by writing a 2500 word essay based on some aspect of the textbook. Based on reading either one, or several of the chapters, you are asked to write an essay on the basis of that reading. The way you approach this assignment is flexible, but an obvious way to start is by finding a chapter (or chapters) that you find particularly interesting. It is then a matter of working that interest into an essay: detailing exactly how your sociological thinking has been stimulated, perhaps reflecting on local similarities or differences, and perhaps developing a critical discussion – are there any weaknesses in the material? Class time will be used to clarify ways of approaching this assignment.

3. Assignment Two, 35%, due 4pm Tuesday Oct 17

Either a 2500 word essay **Or** a seminar presentation on a topic of your own choice.

Points to note:

– you may pursue any relevant health and illness topic that interests you, but you should check with the course coordinator before proceeding beyond the initial stages;

– a good way to work up a topic is to make use of material in the course textbook, including your reading covered in the test, or to use topical health and illness events.

Guide for Seminar Presentations:

– There is a planning session on Oct 2 for those taking the seminar option. This will provide fuller details on how to present a seminar. The basic framework is 20 minutes for speaking and 5 to 10 minutes for discussion. All that needs to be handed in are the notes used for the presentation.

– Early notification of intention to take the seminar option would be appreciated, and you should consult the course coordinator about your topic and approach.

HANDING IN ESSAYS AND OTHER WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

It is the policy of Sociology and Social Policy that all written assignments must be handed in by 4 pm. on the due date.

ASSIGNMENT BOX

Assignments must be placed in the assignment box on level 9 of Murphy by 4pm on the due date. They **MUST NOT** be placed in individual staff pigeon-holes, or under staff office doors, or handed to lecturers or tutors. This is to ensure that all work is properly recorded when submitted, and to avoid problems which have arisen in the past, when work has "gone missing". At 4 pm. Administration will empty the box, date-stamp the work and record its receipt, before handing it to the appropriate markers.

STUDENTS MUST KEEP A PHOTOCOPY OF EVERY WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT.

Unless students have followed this procedure, the Department will accept no responsibility for pieces of written work claimed to have been handed in.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means no cheating. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

GRADES

The Department of Sociology and Social Policy has decided to give letter grades for all internally assessed work instead of giving numerical marks. The following table sets out the range of marks within which each letter grade is assigned. Your final grade and marks for the course will be an aggregate of the grades you achieve during the course.

PASS:	A+	85% or over
	A	80% – 84%
	A-	75% – 79%
	B+	70% – 74%
	B	65% – 69%
	B-	60% – 64%
	C+	55% – 59%
FAILURE:	C	50% – 54%
	D	40% – 49%
	E	Below 40%

LATE PENALTIES

Late submissions for student assignments in all Sociology and Social Policy undergraduate courses are subject to a penalty. The exact deduction will be calculated on the basis of one half mark per day late for each 10 marks, i.e.

Mark out of maximum of	Then deduct the following marks for each day it is late
10	½
20	1
30	1½
40	2

Where the due date is a Friday, any written work not handed in by 4 p.m. will be liable to a two-day penalty. To be effective, this policy will be consistently applied in all courses.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hard copy or under 'About Victoria' on the VUW home page at www.vuw.ac.nz.

Student and Staff Conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to the statute on the VUW policy website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct. The Policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct

Academic Grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned; the class representatives may also be able to help you. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean; VUWSA Education Coordinators are available to assist in this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievance Policy which is published on the VUW website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances

Students with Impairments

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the course coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively, you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building: telephone: 463-6070, email: disability@vuw.ac.nz

The School of Social and Cultural Studies' Disability Liaison person is Dr Rhonda Shaw, MY1022, telephone: 463 6134 E-m: Rhonda.Shaw@vuw.ac.nz.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each faculty has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is causing you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. In the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences the support contact is Dr Allison Kirkman, Murphy Building,

MY407, telephone: 463 5676. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Maori, Manaaki Pihipihinga or Victoria International.

In addition, the Student Services Group (email: student-services@vuw.ac.nz) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at: www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/

VUWSA employs Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office (tel. 463-6983 or 463-6984, email at education@vuwsa.org.nz) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

Head of School:	Assoc. Professor Jenny Neale, MY1013 Tel: 463 5827 E-m: Jenny.Neale@vuw.ac.nz
Liaison person for international students:	Professor Mike Hill, MY1001 Tel: 463 6741 E-m: Mike.Hill@vuw.ac.nz
Liaison person for Maori and Pacific students:	Assoc. Professor Jeff Sissons, MY1017 Tel: 463 6131 E-m: Jeff.Sissons@vuw.ac.nz
School Manager:	Kaye McKinlay, MY918 Tel: 463 6546 E-m: Kaye.Mckinlay@vuw.ac.nz
School Administrators:	Monica Lichti, Adam Meers and Catherine Urlich MY921, Tel: 463 5317, 463 5258 and 463 5677 E-m: sacs@vuw.ac.nz

Resource Material

The library has a very good collection of books on the body, health, illness and medicine. The library also holds the following journals:

- *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* R131 B578
- *Health Policy* RA393 H434
- *Journal of Health and Social Behaviour* HN1 J86
- *Medical Anthropology* GN296 M489
- *Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly* RA421 M638 Q
- *New Zealand Medical Journal* R99 N532 M
- *Social Studies of Science* HM38 S416 (from 1998 on)
- *Social Science and Medicine* RA418 S6782
- *Sociology of Health and Illness* HM1 S680 (from 1995 on)

USEFUL WEBSITES

The Health Research Council of New Zealand has a website that includes a useful guide to publications and researchers:

- www.hrc.govt.nz

For the journal *Sociology of Health and Illness*:

- <http://www.blackwellpublishers.co.uk>

British Sociological Association Medical Sociology Group:

- <http://medsocbsa.swan.ac.uk>

Australian Sociological Association, Health Sociology Site:

- <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/department/so/tasa/tasa8.htm>