



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Sociology and Social Policy

SOSC/SPOL 314

Sociology of Health and Illness

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 3 March to 2 July 2014

Teaching dates: 3 March to 6 June 2014

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014

Last assessment item due: 5 June 2014 (in class test)

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lecture: Tuesday 10.00 – 10.50 am, MY632

Thursday 10.00 – 10.50 am, MY632

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator

Josh Barton

Murphy Building, MY 1006

Tel: 04 463 6745

E-mail: josh.barton@vuw.ac.nz

Office Hour: Tuesday 1.00 – 2.00 pm

Communication of additional information

Additional information related to the course will be made available on Blackboard. You will automatically receive all Blackboard announcements as an email sent to your @myvuw.ac.nz email address. If you are not going to use this Victoria email address set up for you, I strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use

Prescription

The course introduces students to sociological approaches to health, illness, medicine and health care. A diversity of topics will be covered including health inequalities, health policy, health professions, the organisation of health care delivery, ethnicity and health, gender and health, mental health and the social construction of medical knowledge.

Course content

4th March: Introduction

6th March: Class and Health

11th March: Gender and Health

13th March: Ethnicity and Health

18th March: Theoretical Perspectives on Health and Illness

20th March: Social Capital and Health

25th March: Foucault and Health

27th March: Medicalization

1st April: Medicine and Public Policy (I)

3rd April: Medicine and Public Policy (II)

8th April: Rationing Health Care

10th April: Regulation of Health Practices (Kevin Dew)

15th April: Alternative Medicine and Demarcation Practices (Kevin Dew)

17th April: Pharmaceuticalisation

6th May: Chronic Illness

8th May: Conversation Analysis: Studying the Consultation (I)

13th May: Conversation Analysis: Studying the Consultation (II)

15th May: Health and the Workplace (Kevin Dew)

20th May: Public Health (Kevin Dew)

22nd May: Health Controversies

27th May: The Sociology of Aging
 29th May: Mental Health
 3rd June: Technologies of Health and Illness
 5th June: In-class test

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

This course aims to introduce you to sociological approaches to the study of health and illness. Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Discuss patterns of health inequalities in Aotearoa/New Zealand
2. Be familiar with a range sociological theories related to health and illness
3. Critically reflect on the place and role of medicine and public health in contemporary society and everyday life
4. Discuss the relationship between social organisation and health outcomes.

Teaching format

Lectures and tutorials.

While attendance at lectures is not compulsory, students are expected to regularly attend them and will be advantaged if they do so. Tutorial attendance is compulsory and students are required to attend 5/9 tutorials. Enrolment for tutorial classes will be done using the S-Cubed system.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- ▲ Submit essay 1 and essay 2
- ▲ Sit the in-class test.
- ▲ Attend at least 5 tutorials

Workload

The expectations are that students will work 10 hours per point, therefore a 20 point course equates to 200 hours over the trimester. This includes scheduled contact time, individual or group study, and work on assessment tasks.

Students are recommended to spend a minimum of 50 hours on each of the essay assignments (including reading, research, diary production and writing) and 25 hours revision prior to the in-class test.

The remaining time should be spent reading the course materials and more widely in the subject of sociology of health and illness.

Assessment

| Assessment items and workload per item | | % | CLO(s) | Due date |
|--|----------------------------|----|---------|----------|
| 1 | 3000 word essay | 40 | 1, 2, 4 | 11 April |
| 2 | 3000 word essay | 40 | 2, 3 | 16 May |
| 3 | In-Class test (50 minutes) | 20 | 2, 3, 4 | 5 June |

Essay 1

Weighting: 40%

Due: 4 pm, Thursday, 11 April 2014

Write a 3000 word essay on one of the following (the starting point of your essay will be lectures 1-4 and readings 1-3 in the Student Notes).

1. Take an aspect of health inequalities (for example gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic differences) and discuss how this can be understood sociologically. To do this you should draw on a theoretical tradition such as Marxism, feminism, Foucault, constructionism, colonialism etc.
2. Michael Marmot has argued that the relationship between class and health is the major unsolved public health problem in the industrialised world. Critically assess explanations for the relationship between social class and health outcomes.
3. Māori and Pacific children have higher hospitalisation rates for pneumonia than NZ Europeans and the pneumonia is more severe. Discuss how such an outcome could relate to discrimination or other social factors. (If you like – you can choose a different condition where there are disparities between ethnic groups to discuss)
4. It has been argued that women are more likely to be 'patients' than men but women live longer. Discuss the explanations for this?

Essay 2

Weighting: 40%

Due: 4 pm, Friday, 16 May 2014

For this assignment you are required to do one of the following:

Either: Produce a diary for a one-week period. In this diary you are to write on health and medical-related events, activities and representations that you encounter. These can include conversations, television programmes, advertising, purchases of health-related products and visits to health professionals. At the completion of the week you are to write a 3000 essay relating diary entries to a sociological understanding of health and illness. You can consider a wide range of concepts and approaches to this essay, for example, the sick role, medicalisation and demedicalisation, consumerism, stigma and medical dominance.

Or: Using a camera, take photos of medications, supplements and health-related paraphernalia in your household (without intruding on anyone's privacy). Also, construct a map of your household identifying where the photos were taken. At the completion of the photo-taking and map drawing you are to write a 3000 essay relating the photos and map to sociological understandings of health and illness. You can consider a wide range of concepts and approaches to this essay, for example, the sick role, medicalisation and demedicalisation, consumerism, stigma and medical dominance.

For this exercise you may need to obtain consent from householders. Information sheets and consent forms will be provided to you if this is the case.

Or: Select a health issue and consider the ways in which this issue can be understood sociologically and/or what policy responses can be made in relation to that issue.

Note: If you choose this latter option you are strongly advised to discuss this with Josh Barton first.

Marking Criteria

The marking criteria for the assessments (Essay 1 and Essay 2) will be posted on blackboard once the course commences.

In-class test (50 minutes)

Weighting: 20%

10.00 – 10.50, Thursday, 5 June

A guidance statement on the test will be handed out at least two weeks before the date of the test.

Submission and return of work

Assignments must be placed in the assignment box on level 9, Murphy Building, to the side of the lifts. The Assignment Box is cleared at 4pm on the due date, all work is date-stamped, its receipt recorded, and then handed on to the appropriate markers. Every effort will be made to return marked assignments within two-weeks of the due date. Marked assignments not collected in lectures or tutorials can be collected at the Murphy 9th floor reception desk, between **2.00 and 4.00 pm only** from Monday to Friday

The in-class test will be submitted at the end of the class on Thursday, June 5.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Extensions of three days or less (such as over a weekend) will be granted automatically to students who request it with an email prior to the scheduled deadline.

Longer extensions need to be negotiated with the course coordinator (Josh Barton) and may require supporting evidence.

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. 1 mark will be deducted each day for an assignment worth 20% of the total course mark.

Note: assessment work will not be accepted for marking more than 7 days after the due date or 7 days after an approved extension date. Work must still, however, be submitted to meet the mandatory course requirements.

Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

There are no additional materials required for this course with the exception of the course readings.

Practicum/placement/field trip/internship arrangements

There are no other arrangements for this course.

Set text

Each student should buy the prepared book of Student Notes from VicBooks since ready access to and familiarity with its contents will be required throughout the course. Students can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

Recommended reading

There are a number of excellent journals you can consult including:

Sociology of Health and Illness

International Journal of Health Services

Social Science and Medicine

Critical Public Health
Health
Health Sociology Review
Health Policy

Additionally I recommend using article databases that Victoria University has access to such as Jstor (<http://www.jstor.org/>) or Web of Knowledge/Science (<http://apps.webofknowledge.com/>). These databases provide excellent access to a wide range of readings in all fields and familiarising yourself with them will greatly assist you both in the completion of this course as well as any further study that you undertake. D can be accessed through the 'Online resources' link on the library's webpage.

The following readings provide an overview of New Zealand material:

Bryder, L. (ed.) 1991. *In a healthy country: essays on the social history of medicine in New Zealand*. Bridget Williams Books, Wellington

Dew, K. & Kirkman, A. 2002. *Sociology of health in New Zealand*. Oxford University Press: Melbourne.

Dew, K. & Davis, P. (eds.) 2005. *Health and society in Aotearoa New Zealand (2nd edition)*. Oxford University Press: Melbourne.

Laugesen, M. & Gauld, R. 2012. *Democratic governance and health: hospitals, politics and health policy in New Zealand*. Otago University Press: Dunedin

The following are more general readings in sociology of health and medical sociology:

Barry, A. & Yuill, C. (2012) *Understanding the sociology of health*. Sage: London.

Blaxter, M. (2010) *Health*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Cockerham, W.(ed) (2010) *The new Blackwell companion to medical sociology*. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell.

De Maio, F. (2010) *Health and social theory*. Palgrave: Basingstoke.

Dew, K. (2012) *The Cult and science of public health: A Sociological Investigation*. Berghahn, New York.

Germov, J. (ed.). (2005) *Second opinion (3rd edition)*. Oxford University Press: Melbourne.

Nettleton, S. (1995). *The sociology of health and illness*. Polity Press, Cambridge, UK.

Petersen, A. & Wilkinson, I. (2008) *Health, risk and vulnerability*. London: Routledge.

White, K. (2009) *An introduction to the sociology of health and illness*. Sage: London. Class representative

Note that an extensive list of readings related to the course and assignments will be available on blackboard

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

| |
|-------------------------------------|
| Class Rep name and contact details: |
|-------------------------------------|

Student feedback

In response to student feedback the essays topics have been written to give students more guidance and also to allow for more flexibility for students with a particular interest in a topic area to follow that up.

You will have an opportunity to participate in the evaluation of this course.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

School Contact Information

Head of School: Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013

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