

I. Module /Course Objectives

This module aims to equip students with the necessary information related to the understanding of health and illness (disease or sickness) from different perspectives. It also allows students to grasp the existing inequalities in the distribution of illness and health care and understand how socioeconomic variables like gender, socioeconomic status, ethnicity/race, etc., act as determinant of health, and profoundly shape the lived experience of illness both within and outside the health care systems.

II. Mode of Delivery and Study Hour

The mode of delivery for this course is interactive teaching and learning, independent learning and collaborative learning. The total study hours allocated for this course is 135 hours. Of this time, 30 hours is allocated for lectures, 19 hours for assignments, 15 hours for presentation, 20 hours for tutorials and problem solving sessions, 16 hours for assessment and 35 hours for independent study.

III. Competency

Up on completion of the module students will:

- Understand and differentiate health and sickness apart from the accepted layman perspective
- Apply the theories to assess the social aspect of health related problem/challenge
- Use what they have learned to examine their community's social structures and ways of living in relation to the society's health and that of their own
- Develop new ways of tackling health related challenges brought not only by disease causing organisms but also that of factors like the environment and lifestyle changes

IV. Course//module Contents

- **Section one: Introduction to Medical Sociology:** *Definition of medical sociology, development of medical sociology*
- **Section two: Theoretical perspectives in Medical Sociology:** *Structural functionalism, conflict theory, symbolic interactionist and Post- modernist*
- **Section three: Prominent Figures in Medical Sociology:** *Max Weber, Talcott Parson, Erving Goffman and Michel Foucault*
- **Section four: Key concepts in Medical Sociology:** *Health, Sickness, Illness and Disease, and Medicalization*
- **Section five: The Social Context of Health:** *Age and Health, Health, Gender and Feminism and, Race, Ethnicity and Health*

- **Section six: Health Behavior, Illness Behavior and Sick role:** *Health behavior, Health lifestyles, Preventive care, Illness behavior, Self-care, Socio-demographic variables and Recognizing and coping with illness symptoms*
- **Section seven:** *Urbanization and Health*

V. Mode of Assessment

A combination of exams and term paper works will be counted out of 100% in assessing students' performance and achievement in the module. Hence, **tests** will be given to students that account for 20% the total mark for the course. Students will also be oriented to select topics pertinent to Medical sociology and produces a **research paper** that will be rated out of 20 % and **presentation** of the paper will account 10%. The final exam will be out of 50%.

VI. Reading Materials

Cockerham, C. William (ed.)(2005). The Blackwell Companion to Medical Sociology. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing

Cockerham, C. William (2007) Medical Sociology (10th edition). New Jersey: Pearson Prentice hall

Helman, C. G (2007).Culture, Health and Illness (5th edition) London: Hodder Arnold.