

SOCIOLOGY OF ILLNESS

01.ב.286.4321

University of Haifa
School of Public Health
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Thursdays, 12.00-14.00
Semester B

Course description:

In this course, we begin with the idea that we cannot understand the topics of health and illness simply by looking at biological phenomena and medical knowledge, but, instead, we must also consider a variety of social, political, economic, and cultural forces. Sociologists of health and illness (also known as “medical sociologists”) use sociological perspectives and methods to understand topics such as: social meanings of illness and health; health related stigma; and social movements surrounding health, including the ways some socially controversial behaviors are “medicalized” (e.g. illicit substance use, same sex intercourse) while others are not (legal substance use, unhealthy diet). As a society, how do our labels for “medical problems” change over time so that medical jurisdiction over a problem can expand or recede?

This course is designed to provide a broad overview of the field of medical sociology, and, to this end, we will address the topics listed above and others. We will discuss different sociological theories and examine how these contribute to a better understanding of specific contemporary issues related to health and illness.

The objectives of this course are for the students to:

- To provide students with a broad overview of the field of sociology of illness.
- To enable students to understand links between the subfield and sociology more generally.
- To highlight health policy implications of medical sociology.
- Provide students with the tools to be creative and critical in analysis of readings on health and illness.
- Rate local cultural systems as important for impacting a community’s health practices and outcomes.
- Demonstrate awareness of one’s own cultural assumptions about health and behavior
- Recognize cultural humility as a practice that applies the sociocultural model.

Course evaluation:

- In-class presentation of final project, counting 20% of your grade
- In class exercises, counting 20% of your grade
- Final exam: counting 60% of your grade

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Lecture 1: 3.03.2016

Introduction to medical sociology:

- Structure of the course
- Your course work:
 - Class participation
 - Student presentation
 - Student GROUP PROJECT presentation

Lecture 2: 10.03.2016

Theories in sociology and how they relate to health

Readings:

1. Germov, J., Theorizing Health: Major theoretical perspectives in health sociology, in Germov, J., (2009) *Second Opinion: an introduction to health sociology*, pp: 25-44
2. Rose, G. (2001). "Sick individuals and sick populations." *International Journal of Epidemiology* 30(3): 427-432.

Lecture 3: 17.03.2016

Social construction of reality

1. Conrad P, Barker KK. (2010) The social construction of illness: key insights and policy implications. *J Health Soc Behav*;51 Suppl:S67-79. Review. PubMed PMID: 20943584.

Lecture 4: 31.03.2016

Social construction of medical knowledge

2. White, K., (2009), The social construction of medical knowledge (pp. 14-32), in *An introduction to the sociology of health and illness*, second edition, Sage publication: London.

Lecture 5: 7.04.2016

Medicalization

3. Anleu, S.L.R., The medicalization of deviance, in Germov, J., *The class origins of health inequality*, in Germov, J., (2009) *Second Opinion: an introduction to health sociology*, pp: 242-268
4. Conrad, Peter. 1992. "Medicalization and Social Control." *Annual Review of Sociology*, 18: 209-32
5. Rieber, R. W., Takooshian, H., & Iglesias, H. (2002). The case of Sybil in the teaching of psychology. *Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless*, 11(4), 355-360.

EXTRA READING:

6. Barker KK. (1998) A ship upon a stormy sea: the medicalization of pregnancy. *Soc Sci Med*. Oct;47(8):1067-76. PubMed PMID: 9723852.

7. Conrad, Peter. (1975). "The Discovery of Hyperkinesis: Notes on the Medicalization of Deviant Behavior." *Social Problems* 23:12–21.

Lecture 6: 14.04.2016

Medicalization case study: ADHD

- Movie: the drugging of our children
<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/the-drugging-of-our-children/>

Lecture 7: 19.05.2015

Social construction of disease case study part 1: AIDS

Readings:

1. Conrad, Peter. (1990). The Social Meaning of AIDS. Pp. 285-292 in *Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives, Third Edition*, edited by Peter Conrad and Rochelle Kern. New York: St. Martin's Press.

EXTRA READING:

2. Ian Robertson. (1987). *Sociology*, pages 160-161, Third Edition. New York: Worth Publishers, Inc.
3. Gottlieb, M.S. (2006) *Pneumocystis* Pneumonia, *Am J Public Health*, June; 96(6): 980–981.
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1470612/>
4. Karposi's Sarcoma and Pneumocystis Pneumonia Among Homosexual Men -- New York City and California, *MMWR*, July 4, 1981, <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/reports/mmwr/pdf/mmwr04jul81.pdf>
5. Epidemiologic Notes and Reports *Pneumocystis carinii* Pneumonia among Persons with Hemophilia A, *MMWR*, July 16, 1982, p. 365, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00001126.htm>

Lecture 8: 26.05.2015

Send final project title and outline by EMAIL to: sznitman@research.haifa.ac.il Social construction of disease case study part 2: AIDS

- Video: Spottiswoode, And the band played on [videorecording] [S.l.] : Home Box Office, 1992 VCV-3741 000209418, 141 min

Lecture 9: 2.06.2016

Durkheim and suicide

Readings:

1. Cuff, E. C., W. W. Sharrock and D. W. Francis, (2001) Emilie Durkheim, in *Perspectives in Sociology*, 4th edition, London, Routledge, pp: 71-75.
2. Black A Jr. Jonestown--two faces of suicide: a Durkheimian analysis. *Suicide Life Threat Behav.* 1990 Winter;20(4):285-306.
3. Ritzer, George, Emilie Durkheim, (1996) in *Sociological Theory*, 4th edition, New York, McGraw-Hill, Pp: 75-91.

EXTRA READING:

4. Marson, Stephen, and Rasby Marlene Powell. (2011) "Suicide among elders: a Durkheimian proposal." *International Journal of Ageing and Later Life* 6(1):59-79.
5. Willis, Leigh A, David W Coombs, William C Cockerham, and Sonja L Frison. (2002) "Ready to die: a postmodern interpretation of the increase of African-American adolescent male suicide." *Social Science & Medicine*, 55(6):907-920.

Lecture 10: 9.06.2016 Durkheim and suicide Student presentations

- **Movie:** Jonestown: The Life and Death of Peoples Temple, Directed and produced by Stanley Nelson, Distributed by Firelight Media American Experience
- Student presentations

Lecture 11: 16.06.2016 Goffman, stigma and health Student presentations Reading:

- Williams, S., (1987) Goffman, interactionism, and the management of stigma in everyday life, in Scambler G (ed), *Sociological Theory and Medical Sociology*, Tavistock Publications: London, pp. 134-164.
- Scambler, G. and Hopkins, A. (1986) 'Being epileptic': coming to terms with stigma, *Sociology of Health and Illness*, 8, 1, 26-43.
- Dickerson, FB., Sommerville, J, Origoni, AE., Ringel, NB., Parente, (2002) Experiences of Stigma Among Outpatients With Schizophrenia, *Schizophr Bull* , 28 (1): 143-155.