

## **MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY**

### **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**Course Coordinator: Maria. A**

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**Credits: 3**

**Duration: 60hrs**

**Course Fee: Rs. 3500 INR**

**Objectives:** This course is intended to provide students with an overview of the sociology of health, illness and medicine in different social and cultural settings. It aims to offer the students basic orientation in major theoretical perspectives in medical sociology that examine the construction of medical knowledge, cross-cultural comparisons of notions of body, health/illness and practices of health care. It seeks to familiarize the students with key issues and debates around methodologies, ethics and politics of health in a global context.

#### **Learning Outcome:**

- Learn to view health and illness as two sides of the same coin
- Learn the different kinds of medicines
- Learn the social and cultural construct of medicine

#### **Unit1: Introduction to Medical Sociology**

- a) Definition, objectives, scope and its importance
- b) Difference between sociology of medicine and sociology in medicine
- c) Sociological perspective on health and illness
- d) Historical development of medical sociology

#### **Unit2: Body, Medicine and Society: Theoretical Perspectives**

- a) Cultural Construction of Medical Reality
- b) Experience of Body, Health and Illness
- c) Governing Bodies and Bio Power

#### **Unit3: Narrating Health and Illness**

- a) Patients, Practitioners, Media
- b) Representation
- c) Narrative as evidence

#### **Unit4: Culture, Medicine and Medical Practice**

- a) Biomedicine in cross-cultural context
- b) Pharmaceutical Practices
- c) Syncretic Medical Reality

## **Unit5: Politics of Global Health and Health Policies**

- a) State and Medicine
- b) Health, Politics and Ethics: Global debates
- c) Death and Dying: Debates around Euthanasia
- d) Organ Donations and Transplant
- e) Chosen Bodies: Debate around abortions

### **Suggested Readings:**

- Kleinman, Arthur 1981. Patients and healers in the Context of Culture : An Exploration of the Borderland between Anthropology and Medicine. Berkeley : University of California Press
- Good, B. 1994 .Medicine, Rationality and Experience: An Anthropological Perspective. Cambridge : Cambridge University Press
- Scheper Huges, Nancy and Margret Lock 1986. The Mindful Body : a Prolegomenon to Future work in medical Anthropological , Medical Anthropology Quarterly
- Inhorn, Marcia 2000. Defining Women's Health : Lessons from a Dozen Ethnographies , Medical Anthropology Quarterly , vol. 20(3): 354-378
- Foucault, M. 1975. the Birth of the Clinic : Archaeology of medical perception . New York : Vintage Books
- Lindenbaum, S . and Margret Lock Eds . 1993 Knowledge, Power and practice: The Anthropology of medicine and Everyday Life. Berkeley, University of California Press. (Selected Chapters)
- Mattingly, Cheryl and Linda C. Garro 2001. eds. Narrative and Cultural Construction of Illness and healing. Berkeley : University of California Press(Selected Chapters)
- Desjarlais, Robert 1995. Struggling Along: The Possibilities for Experience among the homeless mentally ill. American Anthropologist 96:886-901
- Gordon, Deborah and Margaret Lock eds. 1998 Biomedicine examined. Dordrecht: Kulwer Academic Publishers
- Bode, Maarten 2008 Taking Traditional Knowledge to the Market: The Modern Image of the Ayurvedic and Unani Industry, 1980-200. Delhi: Orient Blackswan
- Nichter, Mark 2008. Global Health: Why cultural perception, social representations and biopolitics matter. Tucson: University of Arizona Press
- Sharp, Lesley 2007 Bodies, Commodities and Biotechnologies: Death, Mourning and Scientific Desire in the Realm of Human Organ Transfer. New York: Columbia University Press.