

Medicine and Health care in East Asia

Section 1

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【Course Outline / Description】

In this course students are invited to think about one of the more serious issues affecting contemporary East Asian societies: the provision of health care for an ageing population. Grounded in a sociological view point, the first part of the module provides a general and succinct review of concepts and theories that have been used to explain medicine and health care-related issues in society. The second part of the course explores how the concepts of social class, gender, race and ethnicity can help understand the provision of health care in East Asia, where the economic and social impact of an ageing population is becoming increasingly apparent. The last part of the course draws on mental health-related issues to shed some critical light on how depression, dementia, schizophrenia and anxiety disorders affect East Asian societies and enlarge social inequality among ageing populations.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

1. To demonstrate that medical knowledge is not disinterested, objective, scientific knowledge.
2. To show that medical knowledge is both shaped by and shapes the social structures within which it is embedded.
3. To introduce the principles of the sociology of health.
4. To examine the social and political climate that shapes the understanding of the causes of health and disease.
5. To review Marxist, Functionalist, Interactionist, Phenomenologist, Feminist and Foucauldian approaches to health.
6. To examine the impact of ethnicity, gender, social class, stigma, and age on health and illness.

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

Lesson 1	Introduction	
Lesson 2	Health and disease in Japan a personal view	Essay writing
Lesson 3	Concepts of health and medicine (1)	Calnan, M., Wainwright, A. and Wetherbottom, A. and Wainwright, A. (1997) Illness action rediscovered: the case of upper limb pain. <i>Social Science and Illness</i> 29 (3): 321-4
Lesson 4	Concepts of health and medicine (2)	Submission of mindmap

Lesson 5	Medical power and knowledge (1)	Castro-Vázquez, G. and Tarui, M (2007) A service or a right: Informed consent for HIV-positive Latin American men in Japan. <i>Anthropology & Medicine</i> 14 (2): 197-212
Lesson 6	Medical power and knowledge (2)	Submission of mindmap 2
Lesson 7	Challenging medical dominance (1)	Yu, F. et al (2006) Traditional Chinese Medicine and Kampo: A Review from the Distant Past for the Future. <i>The Journal of International Medical Research</i> 34 (3): 231 – 239
Lesson 8	Challenging medical dominance (2)	Submission of mindmap 3
Lesson 9	Sociological research on health matters (1a)	Castro-Vázquez, G. and Tarui, M (2006) 'I am not a guinea pig': Quality of Life and methodological issues in the research with Latin American PLWH men in Japan. <i>International journal of qualitative studies on health and well-being – QHW</i> 1 (2): 78 - 90.
Lesson 10	Sociological research on health matters (1b)	Submission of mindmap 4
Lesson 11	Sociological research on health matters (2a)	Hirshbiegel, O. (2001) <i>Das Experiment.</i>
Lesson 12	Sociological research on health matters (2b)	Submission of mindmap 5
Lesson 13	Class and health (1)	Castro-Vázquez, G. (2016) Childbirth and social class in contemporary Japan. <i>Asian Studies Review</i> 40 (2): 268-286
Lesson 14	Class and health (2)	Submission of mindmap 6
Lesson 15	Quiz 1	
Lesson 16	Quiz 1 Review	
Lesson 17	Health, ethnicity and race (1)	McCracken, M et al (2007) Cancer Incidence, Mortality, and Associated Risk Factors Among Asian Americans of Chinese, Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean, and Japanese Ethnicities. <i>CA Cancer Clin</i> 57:190–205
Lesson 18	Health, ethnicity and race (2)	Submission of mindmap 7
Lesson 19	Gender and health (1)	Castro-Vázquez, G. (2013) Gender, Privacy and Medical Circumcision in Contemporary Japan. <i>Culture, Health & Sexuality</i> 15 (2): 101-113.

Lesson 20	Gender and health (2)	Submission of mindmap 8
Lesson 21	Mental health (1a)	Miyakasa, L et al (2002) Mental health in two communities of Japanese- Brazilians: A comparative study in Japan and in Brazil Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences 56: 55-64
Lesson 22	Mental health (1b)	Submission of mindmap 9
Lesson 23	Mental health (2a)	Mangold, J. (1999) Girl, Interrupted.
Lesson 24	Mental health (2b)	Submission of mindmap 10
Lesson 25	Health, chronic illness and disability (1a)	Stevens, C. (2007) Living with Disability in Urban Japan. Japanese Studies 27 (3): 263-278,
Lesson 26	Health, chronic illness and disability (1b)	Submission of mindmap 11
Lesson 27	Health, chronic illness and disability (2a)	Akune, T. (2014) Hana chan's miso soup
Lesson 28	Health, chronic illness and disability (2b)	Submission of mindmap 12
Lesson 29	Quiz 2	
Lesson 30	Quiz 2 Review	

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

Compulsory readings are available to download at the Blackboard

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Final Exam	20	%
Quizzes or Midterm Exam	20	%
Mindmaps	30	%
(Class Participation)	30	%

Section 5

【Additional Information】

Students are expected to have read the assigned readings prior to lecture and should participate actively in class discussions. Based on the required readings, a mind-map MUST be produced. A total of 12 mindmaps MUST be handed in as indicated.