

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 constructs 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	Syllabus reading
Lesson 2	Health and disease in Japan a personal view	Essay writing
Lesson 3	Concepts of health and medicine (1)	Calnan, M., Wainwright, D., O' Neill, Witherbottom, A. and Watkins, C. (2007) Illness action rediscovered: a case study of upper limb pain. <i>Sociology of Health and Illness</i> 29 (3): 321-46
Lesson 4	Concepts of health and medicine (2)	Submission of mindmap 1
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. *Anthropology & Medicine* 14 (2): 197-212

Lesson 6	Medical power and knowledge (2)	Submission of mindmap 2
Lesson 7	Medical power and knowledge (3)	Eyre, R. (2018) The Children Act
Lesson 8	Medical power and knowledge (4)	Submission of mindmap 3
Lesson 9	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 10	Challenging medical dominance (2)	Submission of mindmap 4
Lesson 11	Sociological research on health matters (1)	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 PLWHA men in Japan. <i>International journal of qualitative studies on health and well-being - QHW</i> 1 (2): 78–90.
Lesson 12	Sociological research on health matters (2)	Submission of mindmap 5
Lesson 13	Sociological research on health matters (3)	Hirshbiegel, O. (2001) Das Experiment.
Lesson 14	Sociological research on health matters (4)	Submission of mindmap 6
Lesson 15	Sociological research on health matters (5)	Research project
Lesson 16	Sociological research on health matters (6)	Research project evaluation
Lesson 17	Health, ethnicity and race (1)	Castro-Vázquez, G. (2021) Ethno-Essentialisms of the Self: A critique of the cultural scripting of obesity in Japan. <i>Sociology of Health & Illness</i> 43 (3): 796-811.
Lesson 18	Health, ethnicity and race (2)	Submission of mindmap 7
Lesson 19	Gender and health (1)	Castro-Vázquez, G. (2013) Gender, Pride 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 (1)	Miyakasa, L et al (2002) Mental health of two communities of Japanese-Brazilians: A comparative study in Japan and in Brazil <i>Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences</i> 56: 55–64
Lesson 22	Mental health (2)	Submission of mindmap 9
Lesson 23	Mental health (3)	Mangold, J. (1999) Girl, Interrupted.
Lesson 24	Mental health (4)	Submission of mindmap 10

Lesson 25	Health, chronic illness and disability (1)	Stevens, C. (2007) Living with Disability in Urban Japan. Japanese Studies 27 (3): 263-278
Lesson 26	Health, chronic illness and disability (2)	Submission of mindmap 11
Lesson 27	Health, chronic illness and disability (3)	Akune, T. (2014) Hana chan's miso soup
Lesson 28	Health, chronic illness and disability (4)	Submission of mindmap 12
Lesson 29	Health, chronic illness and disability (5)	Research project
Lesson 30	Health, chronic illness and disability (6)	Research project evaluation
	【Textbooks/Reading Materials】	

Compulsory readings are available to download at the Blackboard

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Final Exam 10%
 Quizzes or Midterm Exam 10%
 Mindmaps 40%
 Class Participation 40%

Students are required to write short essays for the final exam and quizzes, which will last for about 50 minutes
 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 above.

Section 5

【Additional Information】