

Centre for the Study of Social Systems
SS 636N Health, Culture and Society (2011-12)
M.Phil Optional

Duration: One semester

Credits: Four

Teacher: V.Sujatha

This course is a critique of the clinical view of health and it highlights the central importance of the social, cultural, economic and political dimensions of health. This is to pave way for a more grounded understanding of health and the role of sociology in facilitating such an understanding. This course also examines the relation between health and larger structural factors and inequalities. It also looks at the relation between culture/worldview and health by including cross cultural studies on health and medicine. Lectures, guest lectures and fieldtrip will be part of the pedagogy.

Assessment:

- One field based term paper/ about 6000 words due on 30 November (2 credits)
- 2 Presentations (one credit)
- 1 text based written assignment 800-1000 words (one credit)

Course content and essential readings:

1. Sociology and health - Related areas of enquiry: Social epidemiology, public health, medical anthropology, medical sociology, sociology of science and history of medicine.

1. Gupta Dipankar. 1988. For a sociology/Anthropology of health and illness, *International sociology* Vol. 3 (4), (pp 403-413)
2. Aneeta Ahluwalia.1967. 'Sociology of medicine in India: An Approach' *Economic and political weekly* Vol. 2(22), (pp 1007-1012)
3. Turner, Bryan. 1992. *Regulating bodies. Essays in medical sociology.* Routledge, London and New York. (pp125-150)
4. Foucault, Michel. 1980. 'The politics of health in the eighteenth century' in C.Gordon (Ed.) *Power/Knowledge.* Harvester Press; Brighton

2. Society and health: Approaches and debates

Marxist perspective

Functionalism and the sick role

Feminist theories of health and medicine

Civilisational perspective and medical pluralism

7. Kevin, White. 1991. 'The sociology of health and illness. Trend report,' *Current Sociology* Special issue Vol. 39 (2).
8. Doyal, Leslie and Imogen Pennell. 1979. *The political economy of health.* Pluto Press; London. (11-46, 96-137)

9. Clarke, Adele and Virginia Olesen. 1999. *Revisioning women, health and healing*, Routledge: New York (pp155-165)
10. Illich Ivan. 1975. *Medical nemesis*. Rupa and Company; Delhi. (15-28)
11. Nandy Ashis and Shiv Visvanathan. 1990. 'Modern medicine and its non-modern critics: A study in discourse' in Stephen Marglin and Frederique Apffel Marglin (Ed.). *Dominating knowledge*. OUP: New Delhi.

3. Health, culture and morality: Anthropological approaches

12. Good, Byron. 1994. *Medicine, rationality and experience* Cambridge University Press: Cambridge (65-87)
13. Addlakha Renu. 2008. *Deconstructing mental illness. An ethnography of psychiatry, women and the family*. Zubaan; New Delhi.
14. Klienman, Arthur. 1980. *Patients and healers in the context of culture*. University of California Press; Berkeley. (pp 119-178)
15. Baer, Hans. 2001. 'Anglo-American religious and metaphysical healing systems' in *Biomedicine and alternative healing systems in America. Issues of class, race, ethnicity and gender*. The University of Wisconsin Press; US. (Pp 121-143)
16. Khare.R.S and M.S.A Rao.(Ed.). 1986. *Food Society and culture. Aspects of south Asian food systems*. Carolina Academic Press; US. (Pages 185-222)
17. Katz Pearl.1985. 'How surgeons take decisions' in Robert Hahn and Atwood Haines (Ed.) *Physicians of western medicine*, Reidel Publishing Company; The Netherlands (pp 155-176)

4. Health and development: Substantive and methodological perspectives

18. Dreze Jean and Amartya Sen. 2002. India. Development and participation. OUP; Delhi. (pp112-142, 189-228)
19. Chen, Lincoln, Arthur Kleinman and Norma Ware (Ed.). 1994. *Health and social change in international perspective*. Harvard school of Public Health; Boston. (pp 87-114).
20. Farmer, Paul. 1999. *Infections and inequalities. The modern plagues*. University of California Press; California. (pp 262-282)
21. Das Veena, R.K.Das and Lester Coutinho. 2000. 'Disease control and immunisation. A sociological enquiry' *Economic and political weekly*, Vol. XXXV (8,9), (pp 625 -632, , 684-696)

22. Chaplin, Susan. 1999. 'Cities, sewers and poverty: India's politics of sanitation', *Environment and sanitation*, Vol.11 (1), pp 145-158

Optional readings:

1. Conrad, P and R. Kern. (Ed.) 1981. *The sociology of health and illness: Critical perspectives*. St Martins Press; New York
2. Purdy Michael and David Banks. 2001. *The sociology and politics of health. A Reader*. Routledge; London. (chapters 1, 19, 20, 21, 31)
3. Banerji, Debabar. 1986. *Social sciences and the health services in India. Sociology of formation of an alternative paradigm*. Lok Prakash; New Delhi (pp 29-46, 95-105)
4. Saillant Francine and Serge Genest, (ed.) 2007. *Medical Anthropology: Regional Perspectives and Shared Concerns*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
5. Somekh Bridget and Cathy Lewin. 2005. *Research methods in the social sciences*, Sage; London
6. Jishnu Das and Jeffery Hammer. 2004. 'Strained mercy. Quality of medical care in Delhi,' *Economic and Political Weekly*, February 28, (pp 951-961)
7. Sujatha.V. 2014. *Sociology of health and medicine. New Perspectives*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press
8. Sujatha,V and Abraham, Leena.(Ed.) 2009. 'Introduction', 'Medicine state and society', Special section of *Economic and political weekly*, Vol. XLIV (16) April 18-24, (pp 35-43)
9. Csordas, Thomas. 2002. *Body/ meaning/ healing*. Palgrave; New York (60-87, 165-218, 241-259)
10. Phadke Anand. 1998. 'Drugs and health in India' in *Drug supply and use*, Sage Publications; New Delhi (pp 19-21, 41-47)
11. Baru Rama. 1998. *Private health care in India. Social characteristics and trends*. Sage Publications; New Delhi
12. Samson, Collin (Ed.) 1999. *Health studies. A critical and cross cultural reader*. Blackwell Publishers; UK.
13. Shirley, Lindenbaum and Margaret Lock (Ed.). 1993. *Knowledge, power and practice. The anthropology of medicine of everyday life*. University of California Press; Berkeley. (Chap 1, 2 and 4)