



SC300: SC300 Sociology of Health and Illness

Module Details

Title:	SC300 Sociology of Health and Illness DRAFT
Long Title:	SC300 Sociology of Health and Illness
Module Code:	SC300
Credits:	15
NFQ Level:	8
Field of Study:	Humanities
Valid From:	2018/19 (Sep 2018)
Module Delivered In	no programmes
Administrator:	Orna Farrell
Module Coordinator:	Orna Farrell
Module Department:	93 - DISTANCE EDUCATION
Module Description:	Health and illness are vitally important issues for everybody in society and thus evoke intense interest, debate and sometimes controversy among citizens. This module draws on classical and contemporary sociological theories to gain an understanding of the power relations which lie behind mortality and morbidity rates, health care delivery and inequalities relating to socio-economic position, gender, age, ethnicity and disability. Narrative research is introduced in order to give recognition to the reality of living with illness or disability in contrast to the medical discourse which has traditionally been given hegemonic status in western societies. Health and ill-health are firmly placed in the social context.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module the learner will be able to:

LO1	Critique how sociological theories have been used to reach an understanding of health and illness in society
LO2	Discuss the key issues in the development of the Irish Health Care System.
LO3	Assess the connection between how people experience illness and disease and how society is organised and structured.
LO4	Critically evaluate the arguments between orthodox medicine and medical power and those who challenge it - including those in the field of mental illness.
LO5	Conduct a short narrative research project in order to understand how illness or disability is seen from the point of view of the 'patient' or 'expert by experience'.
LO6	Outline the concepts regarding ageing, death and dying and their importance in contemporary society.

Pre-requisite learning

Module Recommendations

This is prior learning (or a practical skill) that is mandatory before enrolment in this module is allowed. You may not enrol on this module if you have not acquired the learning specified in this section.

No recommendations listed

Co-requisite Modules

No Co-requisite modules listed

Pre-Requisite

This is prior learning (or a practical skill) that is mandatory before enrolment in this module is allowed. You may not enrol on this module if you have not acquired the learning specified in this section.

No Pre-Requisites listed

Module Content & Assessment

Indicative Content and Learning Activities

Part 1: Classical theories of health and illness and the Irish Health Care System.

Parsons, the 'sick role', compliance, public acceptance of medical knowledge and the altruism of medical professionals. Foucault – discourse, power and control, surveillance of the person. Marxism – Engels and 'The condition of the working class in England' (1974), capitalism and medicine, the commodification of health and health care . The Irish Health Care System – A short introduction to a complex behemoth. The intertwining of medicine, religion and politics.

Part 2: Professionalisation.

The development of the orthodox medical profession. The sequestration of knowledge, ownership of training and education, regulation. Medical Power- arising from the professionalisation: the power to dictate policy, to decide who practices, the power to bring ordinary life events under the medical umbrella e.g. childbirth, obesity, alcohol and drug consumption, menopause, ageing, problematic childhood behavior, bodily aesthetics. The power over ancillary professions – nursing, physiotherapists etc. Challenges to medical power- increasing educational levels in society, 'Dr. Google', increasing bureaucracy, robotics, 'big pharma', complementary and alternative medicine.

Part 3: Inequalities in Health Care and the social context.

Differences in life expectancy, mortality and morbidity between and within societies. Gender and health. The Social Context. The inequalities in this section cannot be fully explained by genetics, climate, or lifestyle. The socio-economic situation into which a person is born has a huge effect on health during the life-time and on life-expectancy. The inequality in a particular country is more influential than that between countries. The Social Context of Suicide.

Part 4. Mental Illness. The Sociology of the Body. Narrative Research in Health Care.

Why mental health care is the Cinderella of the health-care system. Changes in attitudes to mental health over time – from 'duine le Dia' to psychiatric disorders. The debate between the anti-psychiatry movement and the DSM V. The view of Thomas Szasz. The sociology of the body – the expectation around the 'body beautiful' both male and female. Stigma. Ageing – a medical condition? Death and dying – medical debates about prolonging life, assisted dying. Narrative research – the voice of the client/patient.

Continuous Assessment

<i>Assessment Type</i>	<i>Assessment Description</i>	<i>Outcome Addressed</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>Assessment Date</i>
Assignment	Case study	1,2,3,4,5,6	20.00	n/a
Essay	Essay assignment	1,2,3,4,5,6	40.00	n/a
Project	Project based assignment	1,2,3,4,5,6	40.00	n/a

No End of Module Formal Examination

DCU reserves the right to alter the nature and timings of assessment



SC300: SC300 Sociology of Health and Illness

Module Workload

This module has no Full Time workload.

Part Time hours per semester

<i>WorkLoad Type</i>	<i>WorkLoad Description</i>	<i>Hours</i>
Tutorial	No Description	15
Online activity	No Description	60
Independent Study	No Description	300
	Total Hours	375.00

Module Resources

Essential Book Resources

Barry, A., Yuill, C. 2016, *Understanding the Sociology of Health*, 4th Ed., Sage London

Hyde, A, M. Lohan, O. McDonnell 2004, *Sociology for Health Professionals in Ireland*, IPA Dublin

This module does not have any article/paper resources

This module does not have any other resources

Module Managers & Teachers

Module Managers		
<i>Semester</i>	<i>Staff Member</i>	<i>Staff Number</i>
Semester 1	Orna Farrell	80358725
Semester 2	Orna Farrell	80358725
Autumn	Orna Farrell	80358725

Module Teachers	
<i>Staff Member</i>	<i>Staff Email</i>
No Teacher Staff Assigned	