BA (H) Sociology

Discipline Specific Elective 05

Sociology of Health and Medicine

Course Objectives:

The course introduces students to the sociology and anthropology of health, illness and medical practice by highlighting the significance of socio-cultural dimensions in the construction of illness and medical knowledge. Individual and group experiences and negotiations of health and illness are explored through case studies and health policies. Theoretical perspectives examine the dynamics of local, regional and global knowledge that shapee these constructions.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. To be able to use the key concepts developed in sociology and anthropology to understand biomedical practices of health and illness

2. To critique biomedicine and have an understanding of medicine as a plurality

3. To analyse the everyday experiences of health and illness as produced through social, economic, political and cultural forces

4. To gain insights on issues of public health in India and arrive at independent analysis

Course Content:

Unit 1. Origins and Development of Health and Medicine

       1.1. Conceptualizing Disease, Sickness and Illness

       1.2. Social and Cultural Dimensions of Illness and Medicine

Unit 2. Theoretical Orientations on Health & Illness

       2.1. Political Economy of Health

       2.2. Systems Approach

       2.3. Health as a Power Discourse

       2.4. Feminist Approach

Unit 3. Negotiating Health and Illness

       3.1. Health Behaviours

       3.2. Health Systems and Health Policies

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Unit 1. Origins and Development of Health and Medicine

1.1. Conceptualising Disease, Sickness and Illness

Turner, Bryan, S. (1995) *Medical Power and Social Knowledge.* London, Sage, Chapters 1 and 2 Pages (1-17, 24-43).

Fruend, Peter E.S., McGuire, Meredith B. and Podthurst, Linda S. (2003) *Health, Illness and the Social Body*, New Jersey: Prentice Hall. Chapter 9 (Pages 195-223)

1.2. Social and Cultural Dimensions of Illness and Medicine

Kleinman, Arthur (1988) *The Illness Narratives: Suffering, Healing and the Human Condition*. New York : Basic Books Inc. Publishers. Chapter 1. (Pages 3-30).

Baer, Hans A., Singer, Merrill and Susser, Ida (1994) *Medical Anthropology and the World System*, Westport: Praeger. Chapter 10 Pages (307-328)

Unit 2. Theoretical Orientations in Health and Illness

2.1. Political Economy of Health

Morgan, Lynn. Morgan (1987) Dependency Theory and the Political Economy of Health: An Anthropological Critique. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, New Series, Vol.1, No.2 (June, 1987) pp. 131-154.

2.2. Systems Approach

Parsons, Talcott. 1951. "Social Structure and Dynamic Process: The Case of Modern Medical Practice." Pp. 428-478 *The Social System.* Glencoe, IL: Free Press.

Turner, Bryan, S. (1995) *Medical Power and Social Knowledge*. London, Sage, Chapter 3 Pages (44-54).

2.3. Health as a Power Discourse

Michel Foucault. 1980. "The Politics of Health in the Eighteenth Century," pp. 166-182 in *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings* 1972/1977. Edited by Colin Gordon. New York: Pantheon

Turner, Bryan, S. (1995) *Medical Power and Social Knowledge*. London, Sage, Chapters 1 Pages (17-24).

2.4. Feminist Approach

Turner, Bryan, S. (1995) *Medical Power and Social Knowledge*. London, Sage, Chapter 5 Pages (86-108).

Inhorn, Marcia (2000). Defining Women's health: Lessons from a Dozen Ethnographies, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, Vol. 20(3): 345-378.

Unit 3. Negotiating Health and Illness

3.1. Health Behaviours

Patel, Tulsi (2012) Global Standards in Childbirth Practices. In (eds.) V. Sujatha and Leena Abraham *Medical Pluralism in Contemporary India*. New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan. (Pages 232-254)

Nichter, Mark and Mimi Nichter (1996) *Popular Perceptions of Medicine: A South Indian Case Study. In Anthropology and International Health*. Amsterdam : OPA. Chapter7 (Pages 203-237)

Davar, Bhargavi and Madhu Lohokhare 2009. Recovering from Psychological Traumas: The Place of Dargahs in Maharasthra, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol 18. No. 24. (Apr 18-24) 2009 pp 60-67

3.2. Health Systems and Health Policies

.Leslie, Charles (1976) *Asian Medical Systems: A Comparative Study*, London: University of California Press, Introduction. (Pages 1-12)

Minocha, Aneeta(1980) Medical Pluralism and Health Services. *Social Science and Medicine*. 14B:217-23.

Bhardwaj, Ruby (2010) 'Medical Pluralism in India: The Interface of Contemporary and Alternative Therapies with Allopathy' in Arima Mishra (ed.) Health, Illness and Medicine: Ethnographic Redings. Delhi: Orient Black Swan.

Farmer Paul 2001 *Infections and Inequalities: The modern palgues.* University of California. Berkeley. Chapter 10 pages (262-282)

Baru, Rama 2003 Privatisation of Health Services: A South Asian Perspective *Economic and Political Weekly* Vol 38. No. 42 (Oct-18-24) 2003 pp 4433-4437

Qadeer, Imrana 2013 Universal Health Care in India: Panacea for whom? Indian *Journal of Public Health* Volume 57 Issue 4 October-December 2013 pp 225-229

References

Compulsory Readings

Baer, Hans A., Singer, Merrill and Susser, Ida (1994) *Medical Anthropology and the World System*, Westport: Praeger. Chapter 10 Pages (307-328)

Baru, Rama 2003 Privatisation of Health Services: A South Asian Perspective *Economic and Political Weekly* Vol 38. No. 42 (Oct-18-24) 2003 pp 4433-4437

Bhardwaj, Ruby (2010) 'Medical Pluralism in India: The Interface of Contemporary and Alternative Therapies with Allopathy' in Arima Mishra (ed.) Health, Illness and Medicine: Ethnographic Redings. Delhi: Orient Black Swan.

Davar, Bhargavi and Madhu Lohokhare 2009. Recovering from Psychological Traumas: The Place of Dargahs in Maharasthra, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol 18. No. 24. (Apr 18-24) 2009 pp 60-67

Farmer Paul 2001 *Infections and Inequalities: The modern palgues*. University of California. Berkeley. Chapter 10 pages (262-282)

Fruend, Peter E.S., McGuire, Meredith B. and Podthurst, Linda S. (2003) *Health, Illness and the Social Body*, New Jersey: Prentice Hall. Chapter 9 (Pages 195-223)

Inhorn, Marcia (2000). Defining Women's health: Lessons from a Dozen Ethnographies, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, Vol. 20(3): 345-378.

Kleinman, Arthur (1988) *The Illness Narratives: Suffering, Healing and the Human Condition*. New York : Basic Books Inc. Publishers. Chapter 1. (Pages 3-30).

Leslie, Charles (1976) *Asian Medical Systems: A Comparative Study*, London: University of California Press, Introduction. (Pages 1-12)

Michel Foucault. 1980. "The Politics of Health in the Eighteenth Century," pp. 166-182 in *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings* 1972/1977. Edited by Colin Gordon. New York: Pantheon

Minocha, Aneeta(1980) *Medical Pluralism and Health Services. Social Science and Medicine*. 14B:217-23.

Morgan, Lynn. Morgan (1987) Dependency Theory and the Political Economy of Health: An Anthropological Critique. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, New Series, Vol.1, No.2 (June, 1987) pp. 131-154.

Nichter, Mark and Mimi Nichter (1996) Popular Perceptions of Medicine: A South Indian Case Study. *In Anthropology and International Health*. Amsterdam : OPA. Chapter7 (Pages 203-237)

Parsons, Talcott. 1951. "Social Structure and Dynamic Process: The Case of Modern Medical Practice." Pp. 428-478 The *Social System*. Glencoe, IL: Free Press.

Patel, Tulsi (2012) Global Standards in Childbirth Practices. In (eds.) V. Sujatha and Leena Abraham *Medical Pluralism in Contemporary India*. New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan. (Pages 232-254)

Qadeer, Imrana 2013 Universal Health Care in India: Panacea for whom? Indian Journal

Turner, Bryan, S. (1995) Medical Power and Social Knowledge. London, Sage, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5 (PP. 1-17, 24-43, 44-54, 86-108).

Additional Resources

Teaching Aids

Unit 1.

Fruend, Peter E.S., McGuire, Meredith B. and Podthurst, Linda S. (2003) *Health, Illness and the Social Body*, New Jersey: Prentice Hall. Chapter 1

Unit 2.

Comanor, William S. 1986 The Political Economy of Pharmaceutical Industry, *Journal of Economic Literature* Vol 4. No. 3 (Sep 1986) pp 1178-1217

Unit 3.

Baer, Hans A., Singer, Merrill and Susser, Ida (1994) *Medical Anthropology and the World System*, Westport: Praeger. Chapter 11

Gangolli Leena, Ravi Duggal, Abhay Shukla 2005 *Review of Health Care in India* CEHAT Mumbai

Films for Screening and Discussion

Euthanasia-Aurelia's Story. BBC Documentary

Ancient Enemy. Documentary on Leprosy.

Teaching Learning Process

Experiences of health and illness are very intense at the personal level and yet requires a certain detachment from which one can interrogate health systems. Hence classroom discussions should start by way of storytelling/experiences of episodes of illness and encounters with health system(s) whereby we bring in discussions of social constructions of health and illness. Theoretical perspectives to be delivered through intensive lectures. Discussions on health seeking behaviours to be done through case study presentations by students. Additional inputs may be given in the form of sessions/lectures with invited speakers like health activists, exposure visits to PHCs to ensure a more grounded understanding of politics of health. Tutorials are a must to encourage students' engagement in the course through debates and discussion on emerging issues of health and illness.

Assessment methods:

Classroom Participation, Tutorial Discussion, One take home assignment for e.g., Reflection paper on encounters with health system/s, or Review of National Health Policy/National Mental Health Policy, One class assignment, One Term paper, End semester examination

Key words:

Illness, sickness, disease, social construction, medical pluralism, health policies, health services