COURSE DETAIL

SOCIOLOGY OF MEDICINE

Country
United Kingdom - Scotland

Host Institution
University of Edinburgh

Program(s)
University of Edinburgh

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Sociology Health Sciences

UCEAP Course Number
147

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
SOCIOLOGY OF MEDICINE

UCEAP Transcript Title
SOC OF MEDICINE

UCEAP Quarter Units
8.00

UCEAP Semester Units
5.30

Course Description

Medicine is so pervasive in the modern Western world it seems difficult sometimes to understand what it is. This course explores the complex ways medicine is shaped by, and in turn, shapes us and the world we live in; whether medicine can be conceived as a system of knowledge, a form of power or an example of professional practice. The course focuses on some of the core theoretical insights that have emerged from the sociological studies of medicine, health, disease, and illness and is divided into two sections. In the first part, students look at the nature of medical professions, the relationships between clinicians and patients, biomedical power and knowledge, the rise of information communication and technology, empowered patient subjectivity and patient activism. In the second half of the course, students discuss the rise and status of public health (including some reflections on the social consequences of the coronavirus) and key contemporary issues in biomedicine (such as geneticization, pharmaceuticalization and cyborgization). We discuss the social and ethical consequences of these new medical (bio)technologies that may go 'beyond therapy' to enhancement. The question that runs throughout the course is whether, there is occurring a wider transformation from medicalization to biomedicalization that has changed what medicine was.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
STIS10013

Host Institution Course Title
SOCIOLOGY OF MEDICINE

Host Institution Campus
University of Edinburgh

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

School of Social and Political Science