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 Course Details
http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/22-23/dpt/cxstis10013.htm?code=STIS10013

Host Institution Campus
University of Edinburgh

Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department School of Social and Political Science
Course Last Reviewed 2022-2023

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