

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Winter Semester (Jan-May 2018)

School:	Undergraduate Studies
Programme with title:	BA
Semester to which offered: (I/ III/ V)	II
Course Title:	Health and Society
Credits:	4 Credits
Course Code (new):	SUS1SC832
Course Code (old):	SC19
Type of Course:	Elective Yes Cohort NA
Course Coordinator and Team:	Dr Oinam Hemlata Devi (CC) and Dr Rinju Rasaily
Email of course coordinator:	hemlata@aud.ac.in
Pre-requisites:	None

Aim:

Health remains a largely unexplored and neglected domain of society(ies) due to various reasons and “Medicine” alone cannot resolve the issues of health as it is very much complex and intricate in nature. This course is meant to provide a conceptual and general understanding of **health through an interdisciplinary approach** with a focus on society(ies). It will discuss the historical and anthropological perspectives of health and medicine, dimensions of health, determinants of health, and health care systems across time and space in order to explore the underlying socio-cultural systems and values of contemporary health issues and challenges. It will enable students gaining ethical, political, and sociological perspectives underpinning structures and functions of health in societal contexts, health practices, lifestyles and health behaviour, health services and systems, etc. In addition to this, contribution of social sciences to public health and **analysis of the narratives and experiences of people** from different parts of the world will provide a blueprint to develop, engage, and communicate with others for a better livelihood. This course will also provide a familiarisation to various **hands on activities**.

Rationale: The emerging health issues and challenges has realised us to the high time of studying health from a holistic approach. This will enable to provide the basic ideas of day to day health and health issues to the beginners of social science studies for a strong orientation of understanding human health. Discussions and interpretations of everyday phenomena which is very much connected with human health but always relegated at the backseat would provide a blue print of understanding emerging health issues, surrounding environment etc. helping at the individual as well as societal level. It can also mould the students toward community studies and research for a better society.

Objectives:

- To introduce students to the complex nature of health and health care system
- To study health within societies from multidisciplinary approach
- To examine health issues to various socio-cultural and political context like ‘drugs in society’, ‘nutrition and health’ and ‘environment and health’.
- To enable students to critical thinking and developing strategies for health care policy and delivery.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

S. No.	Module
1	Introduction to the concept of health and society
2	Historical perspectives of Medicine and health
3	Dimensions of Health
4	Determinants of Health
5	Perspectives of health and society
6	Health Care systems
7	Diet, Nutrition and social sanctions
8	Lifestyle changes and health
9	Socio-economic status and Environmental Health
10	Cross cultural studies of health
11	Global Health and emerging issues
12	Health care policies

References:

1. Carr, S., Unwin, N., & Pless-Mullooli, T. (2007).The determinants of health and disease. In *An Introduction to Public health and epidemiology* (83-96pp). New York: OUP.
2. Davey, B. (2003). Evolution and human disease: Bridging the biology/cultural gap. In Williams,S.L., Birke,L. & Bendelow, G.A. (Eds.). *Debating Biology: Sociological reflections on health, medicine and society* (15-26pp.). New York: Routledge.
3. Donatelle, R.J. & Davis, L.G. (1996). *Access to Health* (Unit 13& 14) 4th Edn. London: Allyn and Bacon.

4. Evans G.W., and E. Kantrowitz. (2002). "Socioeconomic Status and Health: The Potential Role of Environmental Risk Exposure." *Annual Review of Public Health* 23:303–31.
5. Foster, G.M., & Anderson, B.G. (1978). *Medical Anthropology*. (Unit 3 & 4) New York: John Wiley and Sons.
6. Helman, C.G. (2001). Diet and Nutrition. In *Culture, Health and Illness* (32-49pp.). London: Arnold
7. Hyma, B. & Ramesh, A. (1994). Traditional medicine: its extent and potential for incorporation into modern national health systems. In Phillips, D.R., & Verhasselt, Y. (Eds.). *Health and Development* (65-82pp.) New York: Routledge.
8. Last, J.M. (1998). Human health in a changing world. In *Public health and human ecology* (395-426pp.). Ottawa: Prentice Hall International, Inc.
9. Magner, L.N. (2005). *A history of Medicine*. New York: Taylor and Francis.
10. Park, K. (2002). Man and Medicine: Towards Health for All. In *Preventive and Social medicine* (1-10 pp.) New Delhi: B Jain Publishers.
11. Park, K. (2002). *Preventive and Social medicine* (11-17pp.) New Delhi: B Jain Publishers.
12. Trostle, J. A. (2005). *Epidemiology and Culture* (Unit 1). New York: Cambridge University Press.

Assessment Design:

The students will be assessed on the basis of field report (2 days field-work in Delhi) and end-term examination.

S.No	Assessment	Date/period in which Assessment will take place	Weightage
1	Class test/In-class activities	1 st week of February	30%
2	In-class activities	1 st week of March	30%
3	End term examination	End term week	40%