



SUBJECT OUTLINE

Subject Name:

Sociology for Complementary Medicine

Subject Code:

SOCS221

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

Award/s:

Bachelor of Complementary Medicine

Total Course Credit Points:

48

Level:

2nd Year

Duration:

1 Semester

Subject is:

Core

Subject Credit Points:

2

Student Workload:

No. timetabled hours per week:

3

No. personal study hours per week:

2

Total hours per week:

5

Delivery Mode*:

☐ On campus

☒ Online / Digital

☐ Blended

☐ Intensive

Weekly Session^ Format/s - 1 session per week:

☒ eLearning modules:

Lectures: Interactive adaptive online learning modules

Tutorials: can include asynchronous tutor moderated discussion forum and activities, learning journal activities or other web-based resources

*All modes are supported by the online learning management system which will include subject documents such as handouts, readings and assessment guides.

^A 'session' is made up of 3 hours of timetabled / online study time per week unless otherwise specified. Each subject has a set number of sessions as outlined above.

Study Pattern:

☒ Full Time

☒ Part Time

Pre-requisites:

Nil

Co-requisites:

SOCQ121

SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS

Subject Rationale

This subject is foundational to understanding health and illness within the context of society. The subject will promote dialogue and critical thinking that embraces a holistic perspective on the individual in society. The subject provides a forum for the development of a new paradigm of health based on the inclusion of the social, cultural, political, and economic dynamics of how people view their world and the impact of living in society with others. It will focus on the impact of globalisation on the individual in society, addressing in particular, the environmental effects of globalisation in the 21st Century.



Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and critique sociological theory in the context of complementary medicine.
2. Develop an understanding of the impact of a globalised society on the management of health and illness.
3. Critique and review the medicalisation of illness.
4. Develop an understanding of the history, philosophy and uses of epidemiology.
5. Identify human rights, legal and ethical issues of cultural, social and economic inequality.

Assessment Tasks

Type	Learning Outcomes Assessed	Session Content Delivered	Due	Weighting
Discussion Forum Participation (minimum 50 words per weekly post)	1-5	1-6	Weeks 2-6	20%
Research Paper Review (1000 words)	1-3	1-5	Week 6	35%
Written Assignment sociological analysis of an issue relevant to complementary medicine (1500 words)	1-5	1-10	Week 11	45%
All written assessments and online quizzes are due at 11:55 p.m. Sunday and submitted through the LMS				

Prescribed Readings:

1. Germov, J. (2013). *Second opinion: An introduction to health sociology* (5th ed.). Oxford University Press.
[ebook available]

Recommended Readings:

1. Banyard, K. (2011). *The equality illusion*. Allen & Unwin.
2. Ferrante, J. (2015). *Sociology: A global perspective* (9th ed.). Cengage Learning.
3. Germov, J., & Poole, M. (2015). *Public sociology: An introduction into Australian society* (3rd ed.). Allen & Unwin.
4. Kornblum, W., & Smith, C. D. (2011). *Sociology in a changing world* (9th ed.). Cengage Learning.
5. Willis, E. (2011). *The sociological quest* (5th ed.). Allen & Unwin.



Subject Content

Week	Lectures	Tutorials / Practicals
1.	Introduction (Subject Outline / Subject Aims / Assessment / Teaching Resources) Introduction to Sociology of Complementary Medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is sociology? What is the relationship between existing social paradigms and illness? Cultural, religious, political and economic influences on the individual in society, Marxism 	<p>Activities are developed to allow the students to explore relevant concepts, expand on ideas and have peer and lecturer interaction. Activities also allow for formative assessment and feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to set text Questions and discussion about assessment Engage with Libguides for this subject Prescribed reading - Germov (2013) Chapter 1
2.	Sociological Theory and Function of Medicine in Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historical origins of sociological modelling The sociological gaze Structural functionalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise: The Sociological Imagination – What is it? How can it be applied in the context of health? Discussion topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the function of medicine in modern society? What is the function of complementary medicine? How does it promote 'social consensus'? Prescribed reading - Germov (2013) Chapter 2 How might any of these theories be useful in understanding Complementary Medicine and your topic for your Research Paper Review?
3.	New Social Movements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complementary medicine in the context of new social movements Weberianism The politics of change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What new social movements related with health do you know? How can the concept of 'social closure' be utilised to understand the modern health care system and health related social movements? Prescribed reading – Germov (2013) Chapter 5
4.	Global Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symbolic interactionism Human impact Environmental influences on health Ecologically sustainable principles in practice Food and nutrition in developing and developed worlds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion and analysis of articles on environmental influences on health Prescribed reading – Germov (2013) Chapter 4



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Social policy 	
5.	Health Promotion, Wellbeing and Wellness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Modernism and reflexive modernity ➤ Public health promotion 20th and 21st century: Success and failure ➤ The United Nations ➤ The future of health promotion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discussion topic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ Find an effective documentary of health promotion campaign on the internet ⌚ Post a link and describe why you think it works ➤ Prescribed reading – Germov (2013) Chapters 3 and 24
6.	Modernism and Risk Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lifestyle ➤ Modernisation ➤ The impact of modern science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Modelling: Case study using scenario/s to tease out lifestyle issues in relation to health, medical pluralism ➤ Recommended reading – Germov & Poole (2015) Chapter 20
7.	The Social Production of Health and Illness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Poststructuralism/postmodernism: Foucault 'The Clinical Gaze' ➤ Medicalisation of the individual ➤ The social organisation of health care ➤ The social basis of health and fitness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discussion topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ How might Michael Foucault explain complementary medicine? ⌚ What might Foucault have to say about the issue you intend to research for your Research Paper Review assessment ⌚ Medicalisation and the social control of illness. How does complementary medicine fit with the medicalisation of society? ➤ Prescribed reading – Germov (2013) Chapter 20
NON-TEACHING WEEK (note that make-up classes may be scheduled in this week) Semester 1 – This aligns with the week after Easter so it may fall between Weeks 6 to 8 Semester 2 & Online students – The non-teaching week falls between Weeks 7 and 8		
8.	The History, Philosophy and Uses of Epidemiology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ From epidemiology to evidence based medicine ➤ Methods and uses of epidemiology ➤ Public health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ Environment ⌚ Communicable disease ➤ The ethics of public health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Exercise: Develop a scenario to include epidemiology from a complementary medicine perspective ➤ Discussion Topic: Epidemiology and decision making in health care: benefits and problems
9.	Society and Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Legal rights and responsibilities in complementary medicine ➤ Law reform for complementary medicine ➤ Human rights – in context ➤ Philosophy of the right to wellness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Case study: The role of the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) ➤ Prescribed reading – Germov (2013) Chapter 19



10.	Social Determinants of Inequality in Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Demographics ➤ 'Deviance' ➤ Social construction of inequality ➤ The social determinants of difference in Australian culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Critique: The medical model of health provision in the context of the provision for difference in Australia ➤ Choose a topic from Germov (2013) Chapters 7- 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ How is this particular health issue produced in Australian society?
11.	Social Determinants of Inequality in Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The population ratio and the future of health care in Australia ➤ Feminist perspective on medicine ➤ Culture and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, rural health, disability and chronic illness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Choose a second topic from Germov (2013) Chapters 7- 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ How is this particular health issue produced in Australian society? ➤ Scenario building: Incorporating theory, modality and principles from each preceding session's topics
12.	The Economics of Illness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Learn/earn equation ➤ The commodification of illness ➤ The Economics of development ➤ Public health models of modernity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discussion and analysis of provided case studies: Cost effectiveness of complementary medicines in Australia
13.	Subject Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Moral panics ➤ Health literacy and dissemination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Contentious issues in Australian society (e.g., asylum seekers and mental health or the obesity epidemic) ➤ Prescribed reading – Germov (2013) Chapter 18
14.	Non-Teaching Week/Practical Examination Week 1 Note that make-up classes may be scheduled in this week	
15.	Non-Teaching Week/Practical Examination Week 2 Note that make-up classes may be scheduled in this week	
16.	Final Examination Week 1 There is no final exam for this subject	
17.	Final Examination Week 2 There is no final exam for this subject	