INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL MEDICINE 2

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, HEALTH AND MEDICINE

Our Introductory modules on Social Medicine introduce students to the changing nature of modern medicine in Europe and the United States. They examine the emergence and evolution of modern medicine and its key actors and institutions as well as discourses and practices. They show how health and disease are shaped by social, cultural, political, and technological forces and inextricably linked with questions of science, technology, modernity, religion, colonialism, capitalism, racism, globalization, humanitarianism, and the state.

Our focus in this module - INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL MEDICINE 2 - is on recent developments towards the pharmaceuticalization of health, the molecularization of life, the commodification of the body, the privatization of medical care, and the securitization of public health. These developments have fundamentally transformed today’s landscape of therapeutic governance in fundamental ways.

Aims

• To introduce students to the social study of medicine
• To provide students with an understanding of the most important actors and institutions as well as discourses and practices that are characteristic of modern medicine
• To provide students with an understanding of the social, cultural, political, and technological forces that are shaping modern medicine
• To offer students the possibility to explore how questions health and disease are linked with questions of science, technology, modernity, capitalism, and globalization
• To demonstrate the value of social scientific approaches to medicine
• To provide insights into the empirical, methodological, and epistemological debates in the social study of medicine

Key recommended text books


**Useful websites**

http://historical.medicine.yale.edu/

http://images.wellcome.ac.uk/

http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/

http://www.intute.ac.uk/medhist/


**Course outline (Second Semester)**

1. Introduction – The Changing Landscape of Therapeutic Governance
2. The Pharmaceuticalization of Health I: Drugs and the Definition of Disease
3. The Pharmaceuticalization of Health II: Capitalism and Consumerism
4. The Molecularization of Life I: From Genetics to Molecular Biology
5. The Molecularization of Life II: The Human Genome and the Dream of Personalized Medicine
6. The Commodification of the Body I: Fragmentation and the Boundaries of the Body
8. The Privatization of Medical Care
9. The Securitization of Public Health
10. Revision Lecture