

## 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:

2<sup>nd</sup> Year

Duration: 1 Semester

Subject Coordinator: Thomas Crooks (Perth campus)

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:

E-Learning

Details:

Narrated Powerpoint presentations

Tutorials - Asynchronous tutor moderated discussion forum and activities

Student handouts, web-based resources

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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	Weeks Content Delivered	Week Due	Weighting
Discussion Forum Participation	1 - 5	1 - 11	2 - 12	10%
Review of a Research Paper (1000 words)	1,2,3	1-5	Sunday following Week 6	30%
Written Assignment: A sociological analysis of an issue relevant to Complementary Medicine (1500 words)	1-5	1-10	Sunday following Week 11	40%
Blog Post on issue identified in Written Assignment (500 words)	1-2	1-10	Sunday following Week 13	20%

#### Prescribed readings:

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

#### Recommended readings:

- Banyard, K. (2010). *The equality illusion*. Sydney, NSW: Allen & Unwin.
- Ferrante, J. (2014). *Sociology: A global perspective* (9th ed.). Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning.
- Germov, J., & Poole, M. (2015). *Public sociology: An introduction into Australian society* (3rd ed.). Sydney, NSW: Allen & Unwin.
- Kornblum, W., & Smith, C. D. (2011). *Sociology in a changing world* (9th ed.). Belmont, CA: Cengage Learning.
- Willis, E. (2011). *The sociological quest* (5th ed.). Sydney, NSW: Allen & Unwin.

Subject Content		
Week	Topics	Tutorials
1.	Introduction to Sociology of Complementary medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is sociology?</li> <li>What is the relationship between existing social paradigms and illness?</li> <li>Cultural, religious, political and economic influences on the individual in society, marxism</li> </ul>	Overview of the subject and introduction to set text. Questions and discussion about assessment. Engage with Libguides for this subject. Read Germov (2013) Chapter 1 - Imagining Health problems as Social Issues
2.	Sociological Theory and Function of Medicine in Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historical Origins of Sociological Modelling</li> <li>The Sociological Gaze</li> <li>Structural functionalism</li> </ul>	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"> <li>What is the function of medicine in modern society?</li> <li>What is the function of complementary medicine?</li> <li>How does it promote ‘social consensus’?</li> </ul> Read Germov (2013) Chapter 2 - Theorising Health How might any of these theories be useful in understanding Complementary Medicine and your

		topic for assignment 2?
3.	New Social Movements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complementary medicine in the context of new social movements</li> <li>• Weberianism</li> <li>• The politics of change</li> </ul>	Discussion topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What new social movements related with health do you know?</li> <li>• How can the concept of 'social closure' be utilised to understand the modern health care system and health related social movements?</li> </ul> Read Germov (2013) Chapter 5 – The Class Origins of Health Inequality
4.	Global Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Symbolic interactionism</li> <li>• Human impact</li> <li>• Environmental influences on health</li> <li>• Ecologically sustainable principles in practice</li> <li>• Food and nutrition in developing and developed worlds</li> <li>• Social Policy</li> </ul>	Discussion and analysis of articles on environmental influences on health. Read Germov (2013) Chapter 4 - Global Public Health
5.	Health Promotion, Wellbeing and Wellness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modernism and reflexive modernity</li> <li>• Public health promotion 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century: Success and failure</li> <li>• The United Nations</li> <li>• The Future of health promotion</li> </ul>	Discussion Topic: Find an effective documentary of health promotion campaign on the internet. Post a link and describe why you think it works. Read Germov (2013) Chapter 3 - Well-being and Wellness and Chapter 24 - A Sociology of Health Promotion
6.	Modernism and Risk Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lifestyle</li> <li>• Modernisation</li> <li>• The impact of modern science</li> </ul>	Modelling: Case Study using scenario/s to tease out lifestyle issues in relation to health, medical pluralism. Read Germov & Poole (2015) Chapter 20 - Global risk and the surveillance state: a sociology of new terrorism
7.	The Social Production of Health and Illness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poststructuralism/postmodernism: Foucault 'The Clinical Gaze'</li> <li>• Medicalisation of the individual</li> <li>• The social organisation of health care</li> <li>• The social basis of health and fitness</li> </ul>	Discussion topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How might Michael Foucault explain Complementary Medicine?</li> <li>• What might Foucault have to say about the issue you intend to research for assignment 2?</li> <li>• Medicalisation and the social control of illness. How does Complementary Medicine fit with the medicalisation of society?</li> </ul> Read Germov (2013) Chapter 20 – Challenges to Medical Dominance
<b>NON-TEACHING WEEK</b> (note that make-up classes may be scheduled in this week) <b>Online students</b> - The break week falls between Weeks 7 and 8.		
8.	The History, Philosophy and uses of Epidemiology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From Epidemiology to Evidence Based Medicine</li> <li>• Methods and uses of epidemiology</li> <li>• Public Health – Environment and communicable disease</li> <li>• The Ethics of Public Health</li> </ul>	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"> <li>• Legal rights and responsibilities in Complementary Medicine</li> </ul>	Case study: The role of the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law reform for Complementary Medicine</li> <li>• Human rights – in context</li> <li>• Philosophy of the right to wellness</li> </ul>	Read Germov (2013) Chapter 19 - Power, Politics and Health care
10.	Social Determinants of Inequality in Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demographics</li> <li>• ‘Deviance’</li> <li>• Social construction of inequality</li> <li>• The social determinants of difference in Australian culture</li> </ul>	Critique: The medical model of health provision in the context of the provision for difference in Australia. Choose a topic from Chapters 7 – 17 of Germov (2013). How is this particular health issue produced in Australian society?
11.	Social Determinants of Inequality in Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The population ratio and the future of health care in Australia</li> <li>• Feminist perspective on medicine</li> <li>• Culture and ethnicity , gender and sexuality, rural health, disability and chronic illness</li> </ul>	Choose a second topic from Chapters 7 – 17 of Germov (2013). 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"> <li>• Learn/earn equation</li> <li>• The commodification of illness</li> <li>• The Economics of development</li> <li>• Public health models of modernity</li> </ul>	Discussion and analysis of provided Case Studies: Cost effectiveness of complementary medicines in Australia.
13.	Subject Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moral Panics</li> <li>• Health Literacy and Dissemination</li> </ul>	Contentious issues in Australian society (e.g. asylum seekers and mental health or the obesity epidemic). Read Germov (2013) Chapter 18 - Media and Health: Moral Panics, Miracles and Medicalisation.
14.	<b>Non-Teaching Week/Practical Exam Week 1. Note that make-up classes may be scheduled in this week.</b>	
15.	<b>Non-Teaching Week/Practical Exam Week 2. Note that make-up classes may be scheduled in this week.</b>	
16.	<b>Final Exam Week 1</b> <b>Online enrolled students:</b> You are required to sit examinations on campus per the <i>Examination Policy - Higher Education</i> . The Exam Week for subjects offered online is identified in the Online Calendar.	
17.	<b>Final Exam Week 2</b> Please refer to the Exam Timetable for your local campus for the exact day and time of exam.	