

PUCMM
Health and Science Department
Medicine Department
Syllabus
Medical Sociology (specialized)
MED-231

PUBH 3001 DRSU
Pre-Professional Health Care Issues
3 Credits
Language of Instruction: Spanish

Description:

Students will address different topics in medical sociology with emphasis on its particular manifestations in the Dominican Republic, the Caribbean and Latin America.

Students will employ an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to various categories and concepts within social and medical sciences and how these concepts and categories converge in the scientific analysis of the local health sector. Students will utilize health status measurements of the population and incorporate a population-level analysis of health problems, among other issues in this area.

Objectives:

At the end of the course students will be able to:

- Analyze different basic concepts of medical sociology and its expression in the health of individuals and groups.
- Identify social and biological factors related to health and disease.
- Make use of different theoretical tools for the implementation of interventions in the community towards the solution of health problems.
- Analyze the health system and health status of the population in the Dominican Republic, the Caribbean and Latin America.
- Highlight the socio-historical determinants of health practices in Dominican Republic.

Core Generic Skills:

- Ability to analyze and synthesize.
- Ability to learn.
- Ability to work in an interdisciplinary team.

Specific aptitudes.

(Cognitive):

Understand and manage some of the sociological concepts as well as various sociological perspectives on the study of health and disease.

Understand the factors and actors involved in the process of the sociological construction of health and illness.

Understand the implications of living conditions on health as an aspect of inequality.

Identify the consequences of cultural diversity in the health field, disease, and the health system.

Recognize the importance of family and informal support networks in disease processes.

Know how to:

Distinguish social issues affecting the community and how they affect the health of the individual, family and community.

Evaluate the concept of the health/disease process as the object of social scientific concern.

Manage approaches to an integrated (socio-biological) doctor-patient relationship.

Teaching methodology.

The teaching methodology for this course includes:

- Presentations with student-teacher dialogue.
- Presentation by students.
- Group discussions.
- Group dynamics on the most important issues of the program.

- Online research on topics related to health and medical sociology, motivating student's interest, and making them aware of these same topics.

Contents:

Unit 1. Introduction to medical sociology as science.

Sociology and Health; its practical significance.

1.1. Brief historical evolution of health sociology, Latin America and the Dominican Republic.

- Present and Future.
- Major studies in our country.

1.2. Humankind: Between nature and culture. The Dominican man and woman.

- Behavior, personality and socialization.
- Behavior and illness according to culture.
- Motivation, interest and social action strategies.

Systems of social stratification.

1.3. Systems of social stratification.

- Classic theories of social stratification.
- Contemporary social stratification: class, status and power.

1.4. Social mobility

- Concept.
- Social mobility and health.

Unit 2. Social construction of health and illness.

2.1. Concepts of health and disease.

- Human development and health
- Natural history of disease
- Controlling the causes and responsibility for the effects
- Disease models and models of care

Unit 3. Social inequalities in health (DSS). The issue of equity.

- Social inequalities in health. Concepts.
- Epidemiological studies and historical reports.

- The report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health; The WHO 2008.
- Intervention strategies on the (DSS).

Unit 4. Lifestyles and healthy behavior.

- Socio-cultural dimensions to practices relating to health.
- Healthy lifestyles.
- Lifestyles and new diseases.
- Healthy spaces.

Unit 5. Diseases Behaviors.

- Self-treatment.
- The patient's role.
- The doctor-patient relationship.
- Social networks support.

Concept and definition of mental illness.

Unit 6. Analysis of health systems. The health system.

- Health systems in the world.
- Dominican health system.

Evaluation:

Exams	Units to be evaluated	Percentages
Midterm	Units I, II, III	25%
Oral presentation	Assigned social topics	10%
Written presentation	Reflective essay on social topic	15%
Homework	Related to places visited	15%
Final exam	Units IV, V, VI	30%
Participation		5%
Total		100%