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Title: The Medicalised Body: The Sociology of Health and Illness  
 Status: Definitive  
 Code: **5107SOC** (124467)  
 Version Start Date: 01-08-2021  
 Owing School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science  
 Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
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**Academic Level:** FHEQ5      **Credit Value:** 20      **Total Delivered Hours:** 46  
**Total Learning Hours:** 200      **Private Study:** 154

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	22
Seminar	11
Tutorial	11

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Presentation	AS1	2000 (word equivalent) Presentation	50	
Exam	AS2	2 Hour Seen Exam	50	2

### Aims

1. Demonstrate the contribution sociologists have made to the understanding of health and illness
2. Explore key areas in the sociology of health, focusing on different theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches

3. *Facilitate an examination and understanding of power and inequality as they relate to medicalisation*
4. *Obtain the theoretical and analytical skills to deconstruct experiences of the medicalised body using relevant critical theories.*

## **Learning Outcomes**

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate an understanding of the social context of health and illness
- 2 Analyse competing theoretical perspectives in the sociology of health and illness
- 3 Evaluate the process of medicalization and its impact on everyday life
- 4 Analyse the ways that different bodies are medicalised, surveilled, controlled and differently valued through a variety of cultural processes.

## **Learning Outcomes of Assessments**

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Presentation	1	2
Seen Exam	3	4

## **Outline Syllabus**

- *The social context of health*
- *Sociological perspectives on health and illness*
- *Medicine as social control*
- *Medicalisation of everyday life*
- *Power and patriarchy*
- *Healthism and normalisation*

## **Learning Activities**

Integrated and flexible sessions including: lectures, tutorials and student-led seminars.

## **Notes**

The first section of this module introduces the key areas in the sociology of health and illness, bringing together the contribution of different perspectives and methodological approaches which characterise sociological research in this area. It will allow you to understand the dominance of the biomedical model and how it has come to attempt to define wholly, experiences of health and illness. A sociological orientation will allow you to understand the importance of the social context in shaping the health of the nation.

The second section will introduce the concept of medicalisation and use this lens to interrogate the ways in which bodies are 'othered', compartmentalized and differently treated. The related field of 'healthism' will further be explored and you will be challenged to consider the potential advantages and disadvantages of such processes in relation to the perceptions and treatment of certain bodies. We will use case studies of particular embodied experiences which will uncover the relationship some bodies have with nature, technology, society and structures that expose regimes of discipline, regulation, normalisation and surveillance.

Students will have the opportunity to build on some of these themes at level 6 in modules Body Politics and Disability Studies.