WHSP 302-SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH & ILLNESS

Course Objective:

After studying this course, you should be able to:

i. Discuss the social contexts of wellness and illness

ii. Explain the patient"s perspective on the experience of illness including meaning making and interaction with care providers

iii. Examine the social-historical transformation of the medical system in the U.S., including the changing role of physicians and other health care providers

iv. Interpret visual and written depictions of indicators and trends in population health over time

v. Identify the socio-cultural aspects of health and illness, particularly as relating to the definitions of health, illness behavior and social epidemiology

vi. Investigate the social causes of disease and illness related to disparities due to social stratification and unequal access

vii. Describe the historical role of women in the medical system as patients, practitioners and health care providers

viii. Differentiate the current ethical issues and debates about new medical technologies and their impact on doctor-patient relationships and on access to health care

Course Contents:

i. Evolution of Health & Healing,

ii. Body, Mind, Illness and Environment

iii. Theories, research and debates of medical sociology.

iv. Social, environmental and occupational factors in health and illness;

v. The meaning of health and illness from the patient"s perspective;

vi. The historical transformation of the health professions and the health work force;

vii. The social and cultural factors surrounding the creation and labeling of diseases;

viii. Disparities in health, access to healthcare, and the quality of healthcare received;

ix. Organizational and ethical issues in medicine including rising costs and medical technology; and health care reform.

Recommended Books:

1. Dania, K., Rachel, C., Rebecca, H., Marcus, R., & Ben-Shlomo, Y. (2014). A life course approach to healthy ageing edited by Oxford press.
2. Link, B., & Jo, P. (2010). "Social Conditions as Fundamental Causes of Health Inequalities." Pp. 3-17 in Handbook of Medical Sociology, Sixth Edition,