



**Hawler Medical University**

**College of Medicine**

**Department of Community Medicine**

**Introduction to Social Medicine**

## Course Plan

### 1. Course Details:

**Course title: Introduction to Social Medicine**

**Study level: Postgraduate Students**

**Instructors: Nazar Shabila**

**Semester: 2nd**

**Year: 2016-2017**

### 2. Teaching Activities

**15 hours theory**

### 3. Introduction:

Health and disease are not only shaped by medical matters, but also by different social, cultural, behavioral, religious and political forces. Issues concerned with health and disease are also related to issues of science, modernity, religion, capitalism, racism, globalization, humanitarianism and the state. This course introduces the social study of medicine to students. The course introduces students to the nature of social medicine and offers them the insights into the emergence and evolution of social medicine and its key actors and institutions as well as discourses and practices. It provides the students with an understanding of the social, cultural, political, and technological forces that are shaping modern medicine. The course will specifically focus on concepts such as the healthy body, medicalization, social construction, subjectivity, and biopolitics. The aim is to make the students familiar with the way individuals and communities experience life and health and the way biotechnological developments have fundamentally transformed the health and disease. Students will also be introduced to the bioethical implications of these ongoing cultural shifts. The principles and the concepts of enhancing life are integrated into this study course. The role of human being's aspirations to move the Kurdish community to a better future and the use of cultural, traditional and religious values and norms in a positive way to improve the life of the society and prevent harmful practices will be particularly emphasized.

### 4. Course participants

The course is appropriate and available to all postgraduate students from the relevant departments at Hawler Medical University. These departments include community medicine and family medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, maternity and community nursing and midwifery in addition to the departments of sociology and social work at the University of Salahaddin-Erbil.

### 5. Course objectives:

By the end of this module students are expected to acquire:

- An understanding of how social medicine emerged and evolved
- An understanding of the value of social approaches to medicine
- Insights into the empirical, methodological, and epistemological debates in the social study of medicine
- An understanding of how aspiration potentials in the population could move the community into a better future; the Kurdish community as an example
- An understanding of the multifaceted theories and concepts used in social studies of science, health, and medicine
- Ability to recognize the key forces that are influencing modern medicine

- An awareness of how the notion of the normal body operates in medical beliefs and practices
- An understanding of the association of the harmful practices in the society with the cultural, traditional and religious values
- An understanding of how cultural, traditional and religious values and norms can be used to enhance the life of the society
- Knowledge of the changing nature of today's governance of health and disease

## **6. Course Format:**

### **Teaching pattern**

This is primarily a lecture course. We will also devote some time to seminar-style class discussions.

### **Assessment**

Coursework and written essays

## **7. Course Readings**

Students will be provided with copies of course readings, a copy of the syllabus, copies of course lecture slides. Since the lectures build upon assigned readings, it is important to pace your reading to keep up with the lectures.

## **8. Course Schedule:**

<b>SN</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>No. of hours</b>
1	Introduction – Defining social medicine	1
2	Historical underpinnings of social medicine	1
3	Health and human rights	1
4	The right to health	1
5	Race and disparities in health	1
6	Spiritual health and well-being	1
7	Poverty, equity, human rights and health	1
8	The role of social epidemiology	1
9	Interpersonal violence	1
10	False beliefs and habits in the culture: e.g. female genital mutilation	2
11	Role of law and legislation in enhancing the life of community	2
12	Social structure and social organization in health	1

13	Culture and behavior related to health and disease	1
Total		15

## **9. Course syllabus**

### **1. Introduction – Defining social medicine**

- Social Origins of Disease
- From Social Structure to Social Behavior
- The Rise of Lifestyle Medicine
- Association of social and economic conditions with the health, disease and the practice of medicine
- How to have a healthier society?

Readings:

- Anderson MR, Smith L, Sidel VW. What is Social Medicine? Monthly Review 2005; 56(8).
- Porter D. How Did Social Medicine Evolve, and Where Is It Heading? PLoS Med. 2006; 3(10):e399.

### **2. Historical underpinnings of social medicine**

- Neglect of social factors in health and training of doctors in early 1990s
- Organizations that promoted social medicine
- Development of academic social medicine
- From epidemiological research to non-communicable disease

Readings:

- Eisenberg L. Does social medicine still matter in an era of molecular medicine? Journal of Urban Health: Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine 1999; 76(2):164-175.
- Anderson MR, Smith L, Sidel VW. What is Social Medicine? Monthly Review 2005; 56(8).
- Pemberton J. Origins and early history of the Society for Social Medicine in the UK and Ireland. J Epidemiol Community Health 2002; 56:342-346.

### **3. Health and human rights**

- Health as a fundamental right of every human being
- Health care expenditure and poverty
- Vulnerable groups bear an undue proportion of health problems.
- Universal health coverage as a means to promote the right to health.

Readings:

- WHO. Health and human rights. 2015.  
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs323/en/>
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In: Mann JM, Gruskin S, Grodin MA, Annas GJ, eds. Health and Human Rights – A Reader. New York: Routledge Press; 1999:453-457.

- Mann JM, Gostin L, Gruskin S, Brennan T, Lazzarini Z, Feinberg H. Health and human rights. In: Mann JM, Gruskin S, Grodin MA, Annas GJ, eds. Health and Human Rights – A Reader. New York: Routledge Press; 1999.

#### **4. The right to health**

- The right to health: access to timely, acceptable, and affordable health care of appropriate quality.

##### Readings:

- Kasper J, Gupta S, Tran P, Cook JT, Meyers AF. Hunger in legal immigrants in California, Texas, and Illinois. *American Journal of Public Health* 2000; 90:1629-1633.
- Physicians' Working Group. Proposal of the physicians' working group for single-payer national health insurance. *JAMA* 2003; 290:798-805.
- WHO. Health and human rights. 2015.  
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs323/en/>

#### **5. Race and disparities in health**

- Racial, ethnic and socioeconomic variation in health
- Social determinants of health
- How race, ethnicity and socio-economic class influence public health interventions, policies, and medical practice?
- Confronting institutionalized racism

##### Readings:

- Disparities in healthcare quality among racial and ethnic minority groups: Selected findings from the 2010 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Reports. October 2014. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD.  
<http://archive.ahrq.gov/research/findings/nhqrdr/nhqrdr10/minority.html>
- Egede LE. Race, Ethnicity, culture, and disparities in health care. *J Gen Intern Med* 2006; 21(6):667–669.

#### **6. Spiritual health and well-being**

- Nature of Spirituality
- Dimensions of Health
- Spiritual Health and Well-Being
- A Model of Spiritual Health
- Domains of spiritual well-being:
  - o Personal, Communal, Environmental, Transcendental
- Role in enhancing the life of community

##### Readings:

- Fisher J. The four domains model: Connecting spirituality, health and well-being. *Religions* 2011; 2:17-28.
- Walsh F, Price J. The spiritual dimension of family life. *Normal Family Processes: Growing Diversity and Complexity*. (3rd ed). New York: Guilford Press; 2012.

#### **7. Poverty, equity, human rights and health**

- Poverty and health
- Equity and health

- Human rights and health
- Poverty, equity, human rights and health: the links

Readings:

- Braveman P, Gruskin S. Poverty, equity, human rights and health. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 2003; 81(7):539-545.

### **8. The role of social epidemiology**

- What is social epidemiology?
- History of social epidemiology
- Social factors:
  - Theoretical considerations and impact on health
- Significant concepts of social epidemiology
- Sociostructural factors in the field of social epidemiology

Readings:

- Honjo K. Social epidemiology: Definition, history, and research examples. *Environ Health Prev Med* 2004; 9(5):193-199.
- von dem Knesebeck O. Concepts of social epidemiology in health services research. *BMC Health Serv Res* 2015; 15:357.

### **9. Interpersonal violence**

- Violence against women justified by religion and cultural traditions.
- Trends by ethnicity and social class.
- Issues with reporting violence by victims
- Domestic violence legislation

Readings:

- Al-Atrushi HH, Al-Tawil NG, Shabila NP, Al-Hadithi TS. Intimate partner violence against women in the Erbil city of the Kurdistan region, Iraq. *BMC Women's Health* 2013; 13:37.
- Jewkes R. Preventing sexual violence: a rights-based approach. *Lancet* 2002; 360:1092-1093.

### **10. False beliefs and habits in the culture: e.g. female genital mutilation**

- Roots of female genital mutilation practice in the Kurdish community
- Role of religion
- Role of cultural traditions
- False beliefs
- Actionable barriers that have allowed this harmful practice to survive
- Aspiration potentials of the community to combat this practice

Readings:

- Al-Zalmi MI: [Female genital mutilation: Side effects and its banning in Quran]. Erbil: Shahab Press; 2011. Arabic.
- Yasin BA, Al-Tawil NG, Shabila NP, Al-Hadithi TS. Female genital mutilation among Iraqi Kurdish women: a cross-sectional study from Erbil city. *BMC Public health* 2013; 13:809.

### **11. Role of law and legislation in enhancing the life of community**

- Law and Public Health
- Laws indirectly related to the people's health and well-being.
- The impact of legislation on people's lives

Readings:

- Burris S, Wagenaar AC, Swanson J, Ibrahim JK, Wood J, Mello MM. Making the case for laws that improve health: a framework for public health law research. *Milbank Q* 2010; 88(2):169-210.
- Sisterhood and After Research Team. The impact of legislation on women's lives. <http://www.bl.uk/sisterhood/articles/the-impact-of-legislation-on-womens-lives>

## **12. Social structure and social organization in health**

- Concept and significance
- Social structure and medical sociology
- Sociological interpretation and social determinants of health inequalities
- Sociology of Health and Illness
- Going beyond epidemiology
- Historically-informed analysis of the relationships between social structure and health

Readings:

- Williams GH. The determinants of health: structure, context and agency. *Sociol Health Illn* 2003; 25:131-154.

## **13. Culture and behavior related to health and disease**

- Defining the social and cultural environment
- The influence of social and cultural variables on health
  - Socioeconomic status and health
  - Education
  - Income
  - Occupational status
  - Social network, social support and health
- The psychosocial work environment and health
- Aspects of health influenced by the social environment

Readings:

- Institute of Medicine (US) Committee on Assessing Interactions Among Social, Behavioral, and Genetic Factors in Health; Hernandez LM, Blazer DG, editors. *Genes, behavior, and the social environment: Moving beyond the nature/nurture debate*. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 2006. 2, The Impact of Social and Cultural Environment on Health.
- Hyder AA, Morrow RH (2006). Culture, behavior and health. [http://www.jblearning.com/samples/0763729671/chapter\\_02.pdf](http://www.jblearning.com/samples/0763729671/chapter_02.pdf)

## 10. Student Evaluation Questionnaire

**Study Year: 2016-2017**

**Department: Community Medicine**

**Level: Postgraduate students**

**Study Course: Introduction to Social Medicine**

Please answer the questions below, using the following scale.

1 = none/very low

5 = a lot/very high 1.

1. To what extent has the course / class enabled you to see the general importance of the theme of enhancing life?

1      2      3      4      5

2. To what extent has the course / class enabled you to connect your own discipline / field of study with the topic of enhancing life?

1      2      3      4      5

3. After taking this course / class, how would you measure the importance of the topic of enhancing life

- a) for your discipline

1      2      3      4      5

- b) for the academy

1      2      3      4      5

- c) for society, in your specific context and globally

1      2      3      4      5

4. To what extent has the course / class enabled you to see the topic of enhancing life as a bridge between your discipline / field of study and other disciplines / fields of study in the academy?

1      2      3      4      5