

Health and Society – Health Policies

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Course description

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the definitions, meanings and experiences regarding health, disease and organization of health care services, and to help them understand that these issues have social, cultural, political and economic dimensions. These dimensions go beyond the confines of the traditional biomedical approach which is based on the Cartesian dualism of body and spirit, the positivist epistemological deterministic model and the dominance of the medical profession. Under this prism, in the context of the present course, students are introduced to the multi-dimensional perspective adopted by social sciences and critical discourse. The scope is to understand the various manifestations of health, illness and health policy, by using sociological theories, concepts and methods of analysis, in order to investigate health issues and to explore the alternatives to the biomedical paradigm.

Required reading

- Economou Ch., (2005), *Sociology of health. Volume A': Basic theoretical approaches*. Athens: Dionikos.
- Economou Ch., (2013), *Health, society and economy. Unequal relations - welfare gaps*. Athens: Alexandria.
- Economou Ch., Spyridakis M., (eds), (2012), *Anthropological and sociological approaches in health*. Athens: Sideris.