

Sociology of Health and Illness (K001287)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 6.0

Study time 180 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2024-2025

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

excursion

lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Bracke, Piet

PS04

lecturer-in-charge

Ceuterick, Melissa

PS04

co-lecturer

Delaruelle, Katrijn

PS04

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

[Master of Science in Sociology](#)

crdts

offering

6

A

[Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences](#)

6

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

sociology, health, health care, social disparities in (mental) health

Position of the course

This educational component is part of the Major in Social Demography within the degree program for Master of Science in Sociology. The objective of the course is to gain insights into the fundamental social causes of health and illness. Extensive attention is devoted to the repercussions of social change for health and illness. Illustrative examples particularly draw on cross-national comparative research. This course targets competences in sociology and cognate disciplines, more specifically M.1.1, M.1.2 and M.1.3. The following competences are also part of the objectives: the scientific competence M.2.3., the intellectual competence M.3.5. and the competence in cooperation and communication M.4.5.

Contents

The students are introduced to a number of important concepts, theories and findings from the sociology of health and illness. In doing so, light is shed on the specificity of the sociological perspective. Social processes are studied as fundamental causes of health and illness.

The topics addressed are:

- 1 Introduction: sociology of health and illness and medical sociology; defining health and illness.
- 2 Disease, illness and sickness models
- 3 Epidemiological transitions, social change and the repercussions for health
- 4 Social inequality in health
- 5 Gender and (reproductive) health
- 6 Migration and (mental) health
- 7 Health from a life course perspective
- 8 Preventive health
- 9 End of life research
- 10 Mental health and (de)stigmatization

The students who follow the course within the English-language program receive an extra assignment, related to the class on 'Health from a life course perspective'

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the educational component 'Sociology', or to have acquired the competences targeted in this component in another way.

Final competences

To have insight into the social conditions that constitute fundamental causes of health and illness.

To have knowledge about the relation between social organization and health and illness.

To be able to critically analyze tendencies in current health care.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Excursion, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures, exercises and guest lectures by practical experts.

Study material

None

References

Examples of references (annually updated list):

- Barrett, R., Kuzawa, C. W., McDade, T., and Armelagos, G. J. (1998). Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases: The third epidemiologic transition. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 27, 247-271.
- Link, B.G. & Phelan, J.C. (2001). Conceptualizing stigma. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 27, 363-385.
- Deaton, A. (2002). Policy implications of the gradient of health and wealth. *Health Affairs*, 21, 48-59
- Parsons, T. (1964). *Social structure and personality*. Collier Macmillan, London.
- Bracke, P., Delaruelle, K., Dereuddre, R., & Van de Velde, S. (2020). Depression in women and men, cumulative disadvantage and gender inequality in 29 European countries. *Social Science & Medicine*, 267, 113354.
- De Prez, V., Jolidon, V., Willems, B., Cullati, S., Burton-Jeangros, C., & Bracke, P. (2020). Cervical cancer (over) screening in Belgium and Switzerland: trends and social inequalities. *European journal of public health*, 30(3), 552-557.
- Burton-Jeangros, C. (2020). Life Course Approaches in Global Health. In Haring, R. et al. (Ed.) *Handbook of Global Health* (pp. 1-28). Cham: Springer.

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive support through Ufora

By appointment

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment, Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment, Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Presentation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Written with extra oral

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodic assessment (90%), continuous assessment (10%)

