



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Sociology of Health

2122-2-E3901N074

---

#### Learning objectives

##### *Knowledge and understanding*

Knowing health and healthcare system dimensions

Understanding the social and environmental changes in health conditions of people over the last decades

##### *Applying knowledge and understanding*

Being able to identify common trends of health concept change and healthcare system functioning.

Developing skills to evaluate policies to combat health inequalities and promote individual and social well-being

#### Contents

- The social construction of illness
- The doctor-patient relationship

- The patient's experience of illness
- Determinants and health inequalities
- Healthcare system functioning
- Health promotion policies
- The impact of Covid-19 on health

## **Detailed program**

The course sets out to provide knowledge of the main dimensions concerning sociology of health and health care.

In a micro sociological perspective, our attention will focus on the social construction of illness, on the doctor-patient relationship and on the patient's experience of illness.

In a macro-sociological perspective, it intends to provide students with tools to understand the persistent health inequities in our society. Moreover, we provide knowledge on the determinants of health and risk factors.

The course will reflect on increasingly pervasive medicalization / pharmacologization processes.

In addition to health issues, we will provide knowledge on the evolution of the health system and in particular, on the principles and functioning of the Italian health system.

Finally, we will analyze policies to combat health inequities and access to and use of health services.

On the methodological level, the course will allow the acquisition of the tools necessary to correctly describe a health event in a population

The course will give specific attention to Covid-19 pandemic issue, evaluating the impact on health and healthcare system.

## **Prerequisites**

Sufficient educational skills in logic, social culture and reasonable capacities in learning, writing and communication

## **Teaching methods**

Frontal lectures, seminars, group work and practice exercises.

Students must register for the course on the e-learning platform, where they will find support materials for the

lessons.

---

---

These conditions may vary according to the evolution of the health situation.

## **Assessment methods**

6 pages or more individual essay. 2000 pages characters (with the exclusion of graphs, tables, figures, etc.). The essay will contribute to 30% of final grade. The essay will have to be sent to [marco.terraneo@unimib.it](mailto:marco.terraneo@unimib.it). The deadline to deliver the essay will be indicated in class.

Examples of topics of essay:

- Patient's experience of illness
- Patient interaction with health personnel
- Health inequalities
- Health and risk factors
- Impact of healthcare system on individual and societal wellbeing

The essay will have to be organized as follows:

- A theoretical framework of analysed topic (what scientific literature says about)
- A paragraph with quantitative and /or qualitative data concerning the topic.
- A paragraph discussing the topic of the essay.
- A final paragraph with a discussion of results.
- References

*Attending students*

Written examination test (1 hour) -> Two open questions on attending students programme and topic discussed in

class. Final test will contribute to 70% of final grade.

To overcome the exam, it is necessary to obtain a positive result (18 or more) in essay and final test. The final grade will be the weighted sum of the two tests. If the essay will obtain a negative result, students must take exam as Non-attending. If essay will obtain a positive result but the exam will obtain a negative result, students could take exam as Attending students in the two followings exam session, after that must take exam as Non-attending.

*Non-attending students*

---

These conditions may vary according to the evolution of the health situation.

## **Textbooks and Reading Materials**

*Material for attending students:*

Terraneo M. 2018. La salute negata. Le sfide dell'equità in prospettiva sociologica, Milano, FrancoAngeli.

Toth F. 2014. La sanità in Italia, Bologna, il Mulino (capitoli 1-2-3-5-Conclusioni)

Contributi della dispensa curata dal docente: "Salute, sanità, società", dispensa resa disponibile sul sito e-learning del corso

*Material for non-attending students:*

Terraneo M. 2018. La salute negata. Le sfide dell'equità in prospettiva sociologica, Milano, FrancoAngeli.

Toth F. 2014. La sanità in Italia, Bologna, il Mulino (capitoli 1-2-3-5-Conclusioni)

Contributi della dispensa curata dal docente: Salute, sanità, società, dispensa resa disponibile sul sito e-learning del corso

Tognetti Bordogna M. 2017. Nuovi scenari di salute. Per una sociologia della salute e della malattia, Milano, FrancoAngeli.

---

