MH903-20 Social Determinants of Health

23/24

Department
Warwick Medical School
Level
Taught Postgraduate Level
Module leader
Philip Anyanwu
Credit value
20
Module duration
11 weeks
Assessment
100% coursework
Study location
University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Module web page

Module aims

The module aims to give students a thorough theoretical grounding in the sociology of health and illness and health policy through analysis of concepts of health and illness, and debates concerning the social determinants of health inequality.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

1. Introduction to sociological perspective in health
2. Social patterns of health and inequalities
3. Social epidemiological theories: Introduction to the social production of disease, lifecourse,

psychosocial, and ecosocial theories
4. Health inequalities and inequities: smoking, alcohol use, physical activity and inequalities in chronic diseases risk
5. Poverty, income, and health
6. Neighbourhood and health: impact of the built environment on physical activity and sedentary lifestyle
7. Addressing inequalities in education: parallels with health
8. The housing crisis and health: homelessness and rough sleeping in the UK
9. Disability and social exclusion
10. Social determinants of ethnic/racial inequalities in health: Understanding COVID-19 risk and the vulnerability of ethnic minorities in the UK.
11. Gender inequalities in health and wellbeing
12. Digital exclusion

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of the current debate on the principal determinants of health and health inequalities
- Demonstrate an advanced and critical understanding of sociological concepts of health and illness
- Demonstrate an ability to use critical appraisal skills
- Demonstrate an ability to evaluate and use different sources of evidence appropriately
- Demonstrate an ability to use different communication methods (visual and written) to clearly explain complex ideas

Indicative reading list

Reading lists can be found in Talis

Subject specific skills

Sound understanding of subject,
Critically evaluate,
Reflection.

Transferable skills

Numeracy,
Thinking and problem solving,
written communication,
oral communication,
Teamwork,
Organisation & time management,
Use of tools and technology,

Commercial awareness,
Independence and initiative,
Adaptability/Flexibility.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	20 sessions of 1 hour (10%)
Seminars	7 sessions of 30 minutes (2%)
Tutorials	7 sessions of 30 minutes (2%)
Private study	153 hours (76%)
Assessment	20 hours (10%)
Total	200 hours

Private study description

150 hours of self-directed learning,
3 hours of private study.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A2

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Academic Poster	30%	7 hours	Yes (extension)

Component 1: Academic poster brief
You are to design an academic poster critically evaluating evidence on the implications of any of

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification

the following social issues on access to health and healthcare:

- Homelessness
- Built environment
- Digital exclusion
- Social exclusion

The poster should cover the following areas:

- An overview of the selected social issue, including its public health context and importance.
- Evaluation of pathways between the selected social issue and dimensions of access to health and healthcare (i.e., approachability, acceptability, availability/ accommodation, affordability, and appropriateness).
- Potential strengths and limitations of evidence in this area (i.e., evidence on the impact of the selected health issue on access to health and healthcare).
- Recommendation of strategies to address the impact of the selected social issue on access to health and healthcare.

Please note that the poster's design should be similar to what is expected in an academic conference.
Instructions

- Your posters should be submitted electronically and as an A1-sized printed copy. If you intend to use the University Print Services for your poster printing, please visit the link below for further instructions. https://warwick.ac.uk/services/warwickprint/printing/printing-posters/. Please consider that the University Printing Services turnaround time is 1-3 working days.
- The online version of your poster should be submitted by the deadline of xxxx.
- The A1-sized printed poster should be handed in between 9:00 and 9:30 am on xxxx.
- The posters will be displayed at a 30 mins poster session on xxx, with some WMS staff and all MPH students expected to attend the session. Please note that this part will not be assessed. You will only be assessed and awarded marks based on your submitted poster.

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Assignment (2000 words)	70%	13 hours	Yes (extension)

Component 2: Essay brief
Using a relevant theoretical framework, critically discuss the equity implications of UK policies/strategies to address any of the following public health problems:

- Tobacco smoking
- Alcohol use

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification

- Physical inactivity
- Unhealthy diets

The essay should cover the following areas:

- Introduction of selected public health problem, including its epidemiology and public health importance.
- Identify and briefly describe existing policies/strategies targeted at addressing the selected public health problem.
- Apply a relevant theoretical framework (for example, psychosocial, social production of disease, ecosocial) in critiquing the equity impact of selected policies/strategies on health outcomes.
- Recommendation of strategies to improve the equity impact of the selected policies/strategies.

Instructions
Word count: 2000 words (+/- 10%)
Electronic submission procedure: Please submit the assignment as a Microsoft or PDF document on the submission link.

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback with the availability of face-to-face personalised feedback

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Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 1 of TMHS-B923 Postgraduate Award in Sociology of Health, Health Policy and the Social Determinants of Health
- Year 1 of TMDS-B9C2 Postgraduate Taught Health Research
- Year 1 of TMHS-B902 Public Health

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of TIMA-L981 Postgraduate Social Science Research