Course Description
Since when did baldness become a medical issue? Should we also put Internet addiction as a medical issue? Why homosexuality was firstly considered as a disorder but not now? What is the value of the medical innovations if they only benefit people who could afford it? How to develop a better medical system?

This module is to answer questions like above. As a comprehensive introduction to medical sociology, this module illustrates that medicine is also a social science through a range of topics, including basics of epidemiology, social determinants of diseases, experience of illness, social construction of health, medical professions, medical organizations, and healthcare systems. People with no sociological background should not be worried, as basic sociological knowledge will be covered in the lectures for lay persons of this discipline. At the end of this module, you will be able to apply the sociological perspectives to understand diseases, illness, and sickness, and make sense of health professions and healthcare systems. All themes will be examined "sociologically" in a constant contrast with biological and medical views. Concrete examples are always provided from different countries and regions, especially Asia.

Prerequisite
Nil

Assessment (CA=100%)
Participation (10%): You need to participate all lectures and tutorials.
Final essay (30%): You will submit a literature review of about 800 words.
Three in-class tests (20% each): There will be three mini tests.

Textbook & Readings
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Theme and Readings</th>
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| **1**   | *Introduction: Medicine as Social Science*  
Engel, GL (1997) The Need for A New Medical Model  
| **2**   | *Perspective, Model, and Theory in Medical Sociology*  
Textbook Ch 1 Medical Sociology  
| **3**   | *Social Epidemiology*  
Textbook Ch 2 Epidemiology  
| **4**   | *Social Causes of Disease*  
Textbook Ch 3 The Social Demography of Health: Social Class  
Textbook Ch 4 The Social Demography of Health: Gender, Age and Race |
| **5**   | *Experience of Illness*  
Textbook Ch 7 Illness Behavior  
Fioretti, C et al. (2016). Research Studies on Patients' Illness Experience |
| **6**   | *Social Construction of Health*  
Textbook Ch 8 The Sick Role  
Napier, AD et al. (2014) Culture and Health |
| **7**   | *Physicians*  
Textbook Ch 10 Physicians  
Textbook Ch 11 The Physician in a Changing Society |
| **8**   | *Nurses*  
Textbook Ch 12 Nurses, Physical Assistants, Pharmacists and Midwives  
| **9**   | *Hospitals*  
Textbook Ch 14 Hospitals  
| **10**  | *Healthcare Systems*  
Textbook Ch 15 Health Care Reform and Health Policy in the United States  
Goh, LG (2011) Integrated Eldercare Course in Singapore |
| **11**  | *Global Health*  
Textbook Ch 16 Global Health Care  
Textbook Ch 6 Health Behavior and Lifestyle |
| **12**  | *Special Topics*  
Textbook Ch 13 Complementary and Alternative Medicine  
WHO (2013) WHO traditional medicine strategy: 2014-2023 |