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 lecture 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

Lecturer: A/P Feng Qiushi

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Assessment (CA=100%)

Class attendance and participation (10%): You need to participate all lectures and tutorials, and actively participate in the class discussion.

Three in-class tests (20% X 3 = 60%): There will be three tests in classes at the Lecture 4, 7 and 10, examining learning outcomes for the three lectures of the previous week. The tests contain multiple choices and short-answered questions. Each test takes about 30 minutes.

Final essay (30%): You need to turn in a final essay of about 1000 words, which is to discuss about the ideal medical systems based on lectures #10 and #11 of the last week.

Textbook & Readings
## Lecture Topic and 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       | **The in-class test for Week 1-3**  
**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       | **The in-class test for Week 4-6**  
**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  
Lim, J (2010) Stress and Coping in Singaporean Nurses |
| 9       | **Hospitals**  
Textbook Ch 14 Hospitals  
| 10      | **The in-class test for Week 7-9**  
**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 Behaviour and Lifestyle |
| 12      | **The Final essay submission**  
**Special Topics**  
Textbook Ch 13 Complementary and Alternative Medicine  
WHO (2013) WHO traditional medicine strategy: 2014-2023 |