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Course title: MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY

ECTS credit allocation (and other scores): 1

Semester: autumn

Level of study: ISCED-6 - first-cycle programmes (EQF-6)

Branch of science: Medical and health sciences

Language: English

Number of hours per semester: 15

Course coordinator/ Department and e-mail: Stanisław Maksymowicz PhD, Department of Psychology and Sociology of Health and Public Health School of Public Health Collegium Medicum, University of Warmia - Mazury in Olsztyn, E-mail: Stanislaw.maksymowicz@uwm.edu.pl

Type of classes: classes and lectures

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#### Substantive content

**SEMINAR:** The seminars will be devoted to issues of health behaviors and quality of life. In the practical part of the course, students will conduct their own quality of life survey and prepare a report, which will be the basis for passing seminars.

**LECTURES:** The lectures aim to familiarize students with the issues of sociology of health and medicine, with particular emphasis on the analysis of the function of treatment institutions, the roles of medical personnel and their mutual relationship as well as communication with the patient. The most important trends of social analyzes related to medicine, basic categories - health and disease - in a social context, medicalization, social exclusion and the role of social groups in the functioning of medical institutions will be presented. Participants of the course will learn about the various relationships between the state of health, causes of diseases and cultural determinants of behavior in health and disease as well as social interactions that occur on the basis of medical and social institutions

**Learning purpose:** The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the issues that sociology of health and medicine deal with, by critically analyzing the functions that the doctor performs in the health system. The course will present the most important trends in social analyzes related to medicine, basic categories - health and disease - in a social context, medicalization, social exclusion and the role of social groups in the functioning of medicine. Course participants will learn about the various relationships between health status, causes of disease, and cultural determinants of behavior in health and disease, as well as social interactions that occur within medical and social institutions. The course will show the impact of culture, the socialization process and the economy on the functioning of the health care system and behavior in health and disease. Course participants will be able to critically use this knowledge in their professional activities, understanding social attitudes towards specific diseases and excluded groups, social barriers conditioning adaptation to chronic illness, disability, and old age. They will also understand the existing mechanisms of various models of interaction between doctor and patient and their social roles.

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On completion of the study programme the graduate will gain:

**Knowledge:** Knows the current state of knowledge about the social dimension of health and illness, the impact of the social environment (family, social networks) and social inequalities on health, as well as about socio-cultural differences and the role of social stress in health and self-destructive behavior. Understands the importance of health, illness, disability and old age in relation to social attitudes, social consequences of illness and disability, and socio-cultural barriers, and knows the current concept of quality of life conditioned by health. Understands the importance of verbal and non-verbal communication in the process of communication with patients and the concept of trust in interaction with the patient. He understands the psychosocial consequences of hospitalization and chronic

disease, the functioning of medical institutions and the social role of a doctor, the role of the family in the treatment process, cultural, ethnic and national determinants of human behavior, knows the

**Skills:** - It takes into account the patient's subjective needs and expectations arising from socio-cultural conditions in the therapeutic process. He notices signs of anti-health and self-destructive behavior and reacts properly to them. He chooses such treatment that minimizes the social consequences for the patient. It builds an atmosphere of trust throughout the treatment process.

**Social Competencies:** - In his interactions with the patient he acts in accordance with the requirements of procedural justice, including treats patients in an subjective way, wherever possible creates the opportunity for them to present their own opinions and questions about diagnosis and treatment. He can establish and maintain deep respectful contact with the sick. He is guided by the good of the patient, putting them first.

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**Basic literature:** 1) Rose Weitz, , The Sociology of Health, Illness and Healthcare, , wyd. -, - ; 2) Bernice A. Pescosolido et al., , Handbook of the Sociology of Health, Illness and Healing, , wyd. -, - ; 3) A. Papanikitas,, Crash Course Medical Ethics and Sociology, , wyd. -, - ; 4) E. Goffman,, Characteristics of total institutions,, wyd. -, - ; 5) S. Goold, M. Lipkin, The Doctor–Patient Relationship. Challenges, Opportunities, and Strategies, , wyd. -, -

**Supplementary literature:**

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The allocated number of ECTS points consists of:

Contact hours with an academic teacher: 15

Student's independent work: 2