

Putting the course in context:

Sociology is a social science.

What is "science"?

The development of knowledge, ultimately presented in the form of laws and theories and gained through a systematic examination of facts (research methods).

## Social Research Methods for Medical Sociology

Can you name a few?

### Survey Research

(includes random samples, large data sets such as NHANES)

### Qualitative Research

(e.g., observation, focus groups, participant observation)

### Statistical Analysis

So, as a social science,  
what is the purpose of  
medical sociology?

1. To generate theories (i.e., understanding) about health and its relationship to human interactions from small group behavior to societies and
2. To test them to determine their accuracy using scientific research methods.

The sociological perspective focuses on social patterns rather than individual behaviors

There is an American belief that individuals create their own fates and that anyone can succeed if he or she tries hard enough.

Do you agree? How might the sociological perspective differ from this American belief?

Sociology in Medicine

vs

Sociology of Medicine

Any idea of the differences between the two?

The study of social issues of importance to the medical field; (e.g., important to MDs, for example, why don't patients follow doctor's orders)

VS

The broader sociological study of the health care system

Sociology of Medicine:

What is the  
Epidemiological Transition?

Hint: the transition is  
between primitive and  
advanced societies

A move from **acute** concerns when  
the society is undeveloped  
(acute=typically infectious diseases  
that strike quickly and can be  
deadly, e.g., influenza, measles)  
to  
**chronic** diseases as the society  
develops and learns to cure acute  
diseases so people live longer  
(chronic=those that last for years,  
e.g., muscular dystrophy, asthma,  
arthritis)

The medical profession has  
been accused of seeking cures  
for a patient's symptoms but  
not looking for the underlying  
causes.

Why would this be?

- Too many patients too little  
time
- Capitalist health care  
system—the goal is to make  
money (the more procedures  
the MD does the more \$ the  
MD makes)

How might medical  
professionals practice  
medicine differently in a  
national (or universal) health  
care system?

(e.g., Great Britain, France,  
Germany, Ukraine, Spain, Italy,  
all advanced nations other than  
the U.S.)

An "illness" is considered a  
social phenomenon.

How can it be seen that way?

How are illnesses related to  
social situations?

Social situations cause the  
spreading of diseases/illness  
and  
illnesses have  
social consequences

Illnesses affect one's sense of  
identity, relationships w/family

■ YouTube on health care,  
ranked 37 (5 minutes)

■ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVgOI3cETb4>

Mike I. in search of knowledge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqO7-jK3qs0&feature=share>

YouTube on health care, ranked 37 (5 minutes)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVgOI3cETb4>

How to make diseases disappear | Rangan Chatterjee |  
TEDxLiverpool (medicine needs to address the cause  
not just the symptoms) (18 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqY4m00wXpw>

**Social Determinants of Health - an introduction  
(9 mins)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PH4JYfF4Ns>

**Sir Michael Marmot: Social Determinants of Health  
(2014 WORLD.MINDS) (compares U.S. to other  
countries (22 mins; first 3 mins make point)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-2bf205upQ>

**Social Determinants of Health: Claire Pomeroy at  
TEDxUCDavis (speaker experienced low status and  
how it affects people: start at 6:20 – 15:00))**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qykD-2AXKIU>