COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 33524
Name: Health sociology
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 4.5
Academic year: 2026-27

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1311 - Degree in Social Work	Facultat de Ciències Socials	4	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1311 - Degree in Social Work	Sociology of health	ELECTIVES

COORDINATION

LLOPIS GOIG RAMON

SUMMARY

Sociology of Health is one of the six modules comprising the Health Pathway within the Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. It is an optional module delivered during the first semester of the fourth year and carries 4.5 ECTS credits.

The Sociology of Health is a branch of sociology primarily concerned with developing an integrated understanding of health and health-related interventions within a broader framework than that provided by medicine alone. It seeks to demonstrate how the way in which society is organised exerts a significant influence on the nature and distribution of disease, making it essential to analyse illness and healthcare systems in relation to the wider social structure. Consequently, professionals from all disciplines involved in health and social care services (including medicine, nursing, social work, psychology and sociology) must work in an integrated and coordinated manner, ensuring effective collaboration between health and social care interventions while respecting the distinctive roles, responsibilities and professional expertise of each discipline operating within the healthcare sector.

The module provides essential preparation for students intending to pursue professional practice in Social Work within healthcare settings. It also offers valuable complementary knowledge for graduates wishing to work in other areas of social work where health-related issues constitute a significant dimension of professional intervention. Through this module, students engage with concepts, theoretical perspectives, research methods and empirical evidence that facilitate the sociological analysis of society from the

perspectives of health, illness and healthcare systems.

Drawing upon a conception of health as a dynamic and complex set of social relationships, the module examines the conceptual and theoretical foundations of the Sociology of Health, the methodological approaches employed in the sociological analysis of health and illness, the principal health and social indicators used in population health assessments, healthcare systems and the contribution of other agents of care, including families and informal support networks. Particular attention is also given to health inequalities arising from both social class and the sex/gender system.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

There are no prerequisite requirements or prior recommendations.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1311 - Degree in Social Work

Act with autonomy in learning, making informed decisions in different contexts, issuing judgements based on experimentation and analysis, and transferring knowledge to new situations.

Apply intervention strategies in social work with individuals, families, groups, organisations and communities to assist them in making informed decisions about their needs, circumstances, risks, preferred options and resources.

Apply intervention techniques and methods adapted to social and healthcare needs.

Apply the attitudes and skills necessary to integrate a gender perspective into professional practice.

Assess needs and possible options to guide an intervention strategy from a social work perspective.

Contribute to the design, development and implementation of solutions that respond to social demands, taking into account the Sustainable Development Goals as a reference.

Contribute to the preparation of meetings and participate in decision-making in order to better defend the interests of individuals, families, groups, organisations and communities.

Define proposals for resolution in situations of risk after identifying and assessing the nature of the risk.

Demonstrate critical and self-critical thinking in the field of the degree programme, considering aspects such as professional ethics, moral values and the social implications of the different activities carried out.

Develop intervention and research projects in social work in the health field.

Establish professional relationships in order to identify the most appropriate form of intervention.

Identify intervention methodologies in social work for interaction, support and resolution of needs and problem situations with individuals, families, groups and communities.

Identify risk situations inherent to professional practice through the planning, review and monitoring of actions aimed at addressing them.

Know how to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, adapting to the characteristics of the situation and the audience.

Know methods and models of social work for intervention with individuals, families, groups, organisations and communities according to their needs and circumstances.

Reinforce the capacities of individuals, families, groups and communities so that they may act as agents of transformation in the situations in which they live.

Understand the specific realities, needs and specialised resources of the healthcare sector, with emphasis on specialised healthcare, primary care and other areas of specialisation such as care for
the elderly, mental health, addictive behaviours, functional diversity and other groups with specific healthcare needs, situations of dependency and care needs

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. Sociology of Health as an Academic Discipline

1.1 Social Sciences and Health

1.2 Origins and Development of the Sociology of Health

1.3 Concepts of Health

1.4 Theoretical Perspectives on Health and Illness

2. Methodological Issues: Health Indicators

2.1 What Are Health Indicators?

2.2 Sources of Health Information: Health Surveys

2.3 Trends in the Principal Health Indicators in Spain

2.4 Trends in the Principal Health Indicators in the Valencian Community

3. The Social Construction of Illness

3.1 Cultural Order, Illness and Healthcare: Medicine as a Form of Social Control

3.2 Social Support and Health

3.3 Stages of Illness Behaviour: The Sick Role

3.4 The Social Perception of Death

4. Healthcare Services

4.1 Healthcare Models

4.2 The Spanish Healthcare System

4.3 Alternative Strategies for Healthcare Provision

4.4 The Use of Healthcare Services: The Patient Role

5. Social Inequality and Illness

5.1 Social Determinants of Health

5.2 Health Inequalities Across World Regions

5.3 Social Class and Illness

5.4 Gender Inequalities in Health

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theoretical and practical classes	45,00
Total hours	**45,00**

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	0,00
Independent study and work	67,50
Preparation of lessons	0,00
Preparation for assessment activities	0,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	**67,50**

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Teaching and learning within the Health Pathway may be organised through the following approaches:

- Interactive lectures.
- Participatory debates and discussions.
- Presentation-based learning activities, including lectures, seminars and student presentations.
- Practical activities, including role-play, case-study analysis, computer-based applications and workshops.
- Collaborative learning and group work.
- Preparation of concept maps and synoptic diagrams.
- Development and maintenance of blogs and web pages using University of Valencia platforms and/or external applications.
- Individual, group and online tutorials.

EVALUATION

The module will be assessed by means of the following components:

- Written examination (50%). An open-response written examination designed to assess students' written communication skills, organisation of ideas, ability to apply knowledge, analytical skills and creativity.
- Assessment of practical case studies, projects or academic coursework (40%). This component may consist of either short assignments or more extensive and complex pieces of coursework designed to foster research skills, information retrieval and selection, organisational abilities and critical thinking.
- Continuous assessment (10%). Continuous assessment of students' work throughout the semester and/or attendance and participation in classroom sessions, tutorials and complementary learning activities. Assessment will take account of students' work throughout the module, with particular emphasis on individual and collaborative working skills, identification of key concepts and processes, and the preparation and completion of practical exercises and problem-solving activities. Attendance and active participation in classroom sessions, tutorials and complementary activities will also be considered. Owing to its continuous nature, this component is not recoverable during the resit examination period.

To pass the module, students must achieve a pass mark in both the written examination and the research

assignment.

Academic Integrity

Students are reminded that plagiarism is "the dishonest act of substantially copying the work of others and presenting it as one's own" (Reducindo et al., 2017, p. 300). Likewise, cyberplagiarism "occurs when a piece of work is presented as the result of one's own efforts when it actually consists of information copied partially or wholly from another author without acknowledgement or bibliographical reference. This most commonly occurs with online texts" (Sarrià & De Francisco, 2018, p. 4).

Avoiding such practices requires the responsible and ethical use of information in academic work. Compliance with the APA Publication Manual (7th edition) is essential to ensure academic integrity and will be required in all coursework submitted for continuous assessment throughout the semester.

From the second semester of the first year onwards, all modules place particular emphasis, within continuous assessment, on adherence to the principles of academic integrity and respect for the intellectual property rights of others through the appropriate use of citation and academic writing in accordance with APA (7th edition) guidelines.

Accordingly, plagiarism or the improper use of artificial intelligence tools may result in disciplinary action under Article 15 of the Assessment and Grading Regulations of the Universitat de València.

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