

**Welcome** to the online Medical Sociology course, comprising a series of online interactive multimedia modules. This is the equivalent of what was originally ten hour-long lectures. Each module features a narration, and like a lecture, should be worked through at one sitting. Unlike a lecture, you'll find interactive portions where you can move the cursor to reveal more information, animations, QuickTime videos, a navigation button so you don't get lost and a pause button. There are lecture notes in printable format to accompany each module.

## Set books and supervisions

In addition to the online course, you will also be expected to learn from books and supervisions.

The current set books are:

*Sociology as applied to medicine* edited by Graham Scambler, 4th ed. W. B. Saunders, 1997

*Health and wellbeing: a reader* edited by Alan Beattie, Basingstoke: Macmillan in assoc. with the Open University, 1993

Scambler forms the core text, Beattie a resource you are advised to read as fully as you can.

The lecture notes for each module contain additional references for further reading specific to that module.

The absence of lectures mean that you lack the formal structure and timetable that a lecture series imposes. The advantage is that you can work through the material at a time that suits you - you are no longer tied to a timetable. The disadvantage is that it is now entirely your responsibility to make sure you do indeed work through the material, to pace yourself appropriately, and to recognise that the lecture notes are not a substitute for the module. Last years' students had mixed views about this - some much preferred the freedom of choosing their own time and space - and others resented the additional burden of responsibility this imposed on them. We suggest you might try working in pairs if you find timetabling difficult - at least this commits you to a certain timeslot - and many students seemed to enjoy working in this way this last year.

In any event, supervisors may well choose to impose some kind of timetable and suggest that you complete certain modules before a particular date. You should have a recommended minimum of four college supervisions. Your supervisors have agreed a structure which means that you and they will examine a certain portion of the material, have read the relevant chapters in Scambler and Beattie, and will be prepared to discuss topics aided by your lecture notes.

## Examination

There will be a one hour examination at the end of the lent term. It will be a paper examination although computer marked. You will be required to answer ten multiple choice questions by entering the missing words from a list.

## The modules

There are 13 modules in total, grouped into three broad areas:

### SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO ILLNESS

- Society & social classification by Tom Davies
- Social class & disease by Tom Davies
- Social aspects of reproduction by Tom Davies
- Social aspects of mental health by Damian Robinson
- Ethnicity & health by Mala Rao
- Family & health by Tom Davies

### SOCIAL RESPONSE TO ILLNESS

- Lay beliefs by Tom Shakespeare
- Stigma by John Benson & Tom Davies
- Illness behaviour by Tom Shakespeare

### PROFESSIONAL RESPONSE TO ILLNESS

- Doctor/patient relationship by John Benson
- Professionalism & medicine by Tom Davies
- The role and limits of medicine by Tom Davies

## Registration

You will be required to register for the course. Follow the 'Register' link at the bottom off the main page. Registration is compulsory and also means you join the email list to be kept informed of any new developments, instructions, exam times etc.

# Interactive Medical Sociology - How to use it

Medical Sociology Interactives - a multimedia lecture series © Tom Daxter & Dana Leader, University of Cambridge

Welcome to Interactive Medical Sociology

This online course replaces a traditional 10 hour-long lecture course.

The course consists of a series of modules. You'll see all the modules in the menu bar to the left. All you have to do is follow these simple steps:

- To begin, simply select a module and you will see a screen of information about that module - who it's by, what duration, an overview of content, whether it contains any QuickTime movies etc.
- Click on the lecture notes download link to open a new window and print out the notes. The notes contain stills from the module, a bibliography, and where necessary, a glossary. There's space for your own annotation.
- Close the lecture notes window. Click on the Go link at the bottom right of the information page to start the module. Enjoy!

**Modules**

**LAY BELIEFS by Tom Shakespeare**

**Overview:**

This module

- shows how clinical knowledge is complemented by a sociology of health
- explains the importance of understanding lay beliefs
- illustrates why health and illness are cultural concepts
- explores the metaphors lay people use when discussing their bodies
- explores the ways in which people try to make sense of illness and disease
- outlines a number of different conclusions that may be drawn from this

Duration: 25 - 30 minutes

Linear sections: 19

Branching sections: 13

Total sections: 32

QuickTime videos: -

Lecture notes: 3 pages. [Download to print](#)

**Links to journals (from Cambridge only)**

**GO >** launches the module. Enjoy!

## System requirements

Refer to this if you're performing your own installations. Colleges/PWF should be compliant. Note: this course is *not* designed to be accessed via a modem.

## How to move around

See "Navigation Panel" opposite

## Known issues:

### Pause/play

Pause/play button works - but is not immediate like a video - it takes effect at the end of a section of narration. Press once and be patient!

### QuickTime movies

Don't always load correctly. They can be accessed separately from a link on this page.

### Out of memory message

Will cause module to stop playing. Quit out of browser and relaunch.

## The Navigation Panel 'maps' the module.

Each section is represented as a square. Move the cursor over each square to see the text description in the box below. The current square is coloured pink. Visited squares are green. All are hyperlinked making it easy to jump around the module. It is not recommended that you do this the first time around as this would be confusing, but the feature is useful if you wish to review any sections in case you missed something. The Navigation Panel resets whenever you reload the web page: each module is designed to work through in one sitting, just like a lecture.

If you have any **difficulties** accessing the material from the colleges, see your college Computer Officer first.

