

CONTENTS

List of Boxes, Case Studies and Tables	x
About the Author	xii
Acknowledgements	xiii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
Sociology, Genetics, Social Mobility and Lifestyle	2
The Sociological Perspective	4
Postmodernity and Sociology	5
Sociological Approaches to Health and Illness	6
Political Economy and Marxist Approaches	7
Parsonian Sociology of Health	8
Foucault's Sociology of Health	8
Feminist Approaches	9
Bringing the Approaches Together	10
Conclusion	12
Summary	12
Discussion Questions	13
Further Reading	13
2 THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE	14
Making Reality Problematic: The Problem of the Medical Model of Disease	17
Medical Knowledge Mediates Social Relations	20
Masturbatory Insanity	20
Hysteria	21
The Technical Realm of Medical Practice	22
Medical Technology and Social Relations	23
The Sociology of Medical Knowledge	24
Fleck and Representations	25
Fleck's Sociology of Medical Knowledge	26
Syphilis	27
Anatomical Drawings	28
Thought Styles After Fleck	28
Fleck, Foucault and Kuhn	31

Applying Fleck	32
Conclusion	33
Summary	34
Discussion Questions	34
Further Reading	35
3 THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH	36
The Relationship Between Sociology and Medicine	36
Medical Bias in the Sociology of Health	38
Challenging Medicine	39
Social Aspects of Disease – The Critique of the Medical Model	41
Key Concepts in the Sociology of Health	44
The Concept of Medicalization	45
Disease: Nature or Society?	46
Medicalization and Women	47
The Social Functions of Medical Knowledge and Practice	48
The Development of Medicalization	48
Case Study: Gambling	49
Case Study: Alcoholism	51
Developments in the Medical Profession	53
Paediatrics	53
Psychiatry	53
Gerontology	53
General Practice	54
Characteristics of the Medicalization of Society	54
Case Study: Learning Disabilities, Dyslexia and the Medicalization of the Classroom	55
Assessing Medicalization	56
Conclusion	57
Summary	58
Discussion Questions	58
Further Reading	58
4 POSTMODERNITY, EPIDEMIOLOGY AND NEO-LIBERALISM	59
Postmodernity	61
Liberalism and the Development of Neo-Liberalism in Health Policy	64
The Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries	64
The Dismantling of Welfare and the Resurgence of Neo-Liberalism	65
Epidemiology: The Early Foundations	67

Limitations of the Risk Factor and Lifestyle Explanations	68
Developing a Sociological Model of Disease:	
Disease Classified by Social Cause	69
Epidemiology and Statistics	71
Psychosocial Perspectives on Social Inequalities in Health	72
Stress	73
Social Support	74
The Social Drift Hypothesis	75
Talking About the Diseased Self	76
Community, Social Capital and Inequality	78
Social Capital	80
Social Capital or Income Inequality?	82
Conclusion	83
Summary	84
Discussion Questions	84
Further Reading	85
5 MATERIALIST APPROACHES TO THE SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH	86
What Causes Disease: The Materialist Explanation	87
Occupation	89
Diet	90
Housing	90
Case Study: Transformations in the Social Structure of Eastern Europe	91
Class as Occupational Position	93
Untangling Class and Socio-economic Status	95
Structural Position as Socio-economic Status	96
The Classical Marxist Approach	98
The Political and Economic Functions of Medicine	99
The Medical Profession in a Marxist Analysis	101
Modifications of Classical Marxism and Changes in Capitalism	102
Changes in Class Theory and the Sociology of Health	103
Transformations of the Medical Profession	104
Technological Change	106
Commodification	107
Corporate Medicine	108
The Body, Social Structures and Bourdieu	109
Conclusion	112
Summary	113
Discussion Questions	114
Further Reading	114

6 PARSONS, AMERICAN SOCIOLOGY OF MEDICINE AND THE SICK ROLE	115
Parsons and the Professions	117
Diagnostic Variations	119
Prescribing Activities	120
Parsons: People Act Rather Than Behave	121
The Sick Role	123
In Defence of the Sick Role	125
Sickness and American Values	127
The End of the Golden Age of Doctoring	127
Conclusion	128
Summary	129
Discussion Questions	129
Further Reading	130
7 FOUCAULT AND THE SOCIOLOGY OF MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE	131
Foucault: The Most General Picture	132
Foucault's Sociology of Health	133
Disciplines of Knowledge, Disciplines of Power: Power/Knowledge	134
Foucault's History of Medicine	135
The Body	136
Historical and Metaphorical Representations of the Body	137
Foucault's Body	139
The Anatomico-Metaphysical Register of the Body	140
Technico-Political Register of the Body	140
Conclusion	142
Summary	143
Discussion Questions	144
Further Reading	144
8 HEALTH, GENDER AND FEMINISM	145
Why are there More Women Patients?	147
Medicalization	151
Are Women More Depressed than Men?	152
Different Forms of Feminism	153
Liberal Feminism	153
Radical Feminism	154
Marxist Feminism	155
Patriarchal Science and Medicine	155
Feminism and the Critique of Technology	157
Case Study: Foucault and Feminism and the Body	159

Bringing Out the Foucauldian-Feminist Position: Screening	161
Men, Gender and Health	164
Conclusion	167
Summary	168
Discussion Questions	169
Further Reading	169
9 RACE, ETHNICITY AND HEALTH	170
Race	171
Ethnicity	173
Aboriginality, 'Race' and Disease	174
Racist Bias in Drug Trials	176
Problems with the Appropriation of Ethnicity in	
Medical Explanations	177
The Genetic Explanation	178
The Appeal of the Genetic Explanation	179
The Sociological Critique of Genetics	182
Conclusion	184
Summary	184
Discussion Questions	185
Further Reading	185
10 CONCLUSION	186
Discussion Questions	189
Bibliography	190
Index	221