

## **OVERVIEW: ENVIRONMENTS, HEALTH AND SOCIETY (A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE)**

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### **AIMS:**

To understand how health and development may be related, in order to promote health.

To understand key differences between some influential management, academic and professional perspectives on personal and community health and how it may be produced and developed.

To apply these or related learned perspectives to the self or to self-selected others in a range of relevant communities, through the production of artistic or alternative forms of personal expression and evidence-based judgment.

### **CONTENT**

- 1. A SOCIOLOGICAL VIEW OF HEALTH, THE ENVIRONMENT AND OURSELVES**
- 2. SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIETY AND HEALTH**
- 3. FROM TRADITIONAL METHODS TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS**
- 4. FAMILY IN AN AGE OF ANXIETY: HAVEN IN A HEARTLESS WORLD NO MORE?**
- 5. THE CHANGING WORK ENVIRONMENT (AUSTRALIAN EXAMPLE)**
- 6. BEYOND BUREAUCRATIC AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION**
- 7. CREATING HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY**
- 8. SICK, DEVIANT OR JUST LOOKING FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY?**
- 9. COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT**
- 10. COMMUNICATION AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
- 11. TOWARDS QUALITY MANAGEMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION**
- 12. PREVENTING WORK INJURY THROUGH RISK MANAGEMENT**
- 13. OVERVIEW**

## **ASSESSMENT:**

### **ASSESSMENT EXERCISES IN ANALYSIS AND REPORT ON THE PERSON AND THEIR COMMUNITY AND WORK ENVIRONMENT**

#### **THE FIRST PROJECT (1000 words):**

On the basis of closely reading the learning discussion for:

#### **1. A SOCIOLOGICAL VIEW OF HEALTH, THE ENVIRONMENT AND OURSELVES**

Undertake a sociological analysis of your own life, or of the life of another person. Explain yourself (or perhaps a parent) in the context of the environmental forces which you think have been most life formative. In regard to the analysis you might logically consider issues such as:

1. your gender
2. the key influences upon you from your family
3. their level of wealth or social status
4. their cultural, ethnic and religious background
5. key events or actions which shaped their/your personal history
6. key cultural, economic, and political forces or changes which shaped their/your environment

#### **THE SECOND PROJECT:**

**The second project is due at the end of week 12 (3000 words; a 7 minute film, website or another approved form of creative product)**

Produce an analytical report or a creative product related to yourself and/or others, which shows an awareness of the importance of a variety of different forms of evidence gathering, prior to coming to primary judgment or conclusion about a health related matter in dispute or of broader, more general concern.

Your essays/projects will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria unless an alternative and more creative approach seems more appropriate:

1. Clear structure, including an introduction, clearly organised body of discussion and conclusion
2. Level of sophistication in regard to understanding of the issues addressed
3. Clear and thoughtful expression of knowledge, analysis and ideas
4. Evidence of appropriate and sufficient reading, consultation and related good evidence gathering

5. Appropriate bibliographic technique, sentence grammar and spelling  
**BASIC REFERENCE TEXTS WHICH ARE USEFUL**

Use of relevant websites, books and scholarly articles is a vital research tool. The following are key references and sites for Australians because that is the cultural community, historical background and related environment that I inhabit. You may think about and choose related books and sites which are more suitable for your own particular culture. Also study what is available from the World Health Organization and from other United Nations organizations or other cultural leaders.

Haralambos, M. Van Krieken, R., Smith P and Holborn, M. (1996) *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives* (Aust. Edition). South Melbourne: Addison Wesley Longman.

Tiffen R. and Gittins, R. (2004) *How Australia Compares*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

[www.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.nsw.gov.au/) Access to all New South Wales (NSW) government information

[www.commonwealth.gov.au/](http://www.commonwealth.gov.au/) Access to all Commonwealth government information

[www.austlii.edu.au](http://www.austlii.edu.au) Access all Australian legislation in full, up to date text

[www.justice.vic.gov.au/disputeinfo](http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/disputeinfo) Helps you resolve neighbourhood disputes

[www.ausdispute.unisa.edu.au](http://www.ausdispute.unisa.edu.au) The Australian dispute resolution website provides broader information

**OTHER READING (WHAT TO READ DEPENDS ON WHERE YOU WANT TO GO)**

Beasley, R. (2001) *Hell has Harbour Views*, Sydney: Pan Macmillan.

Duckett, S.J. (2004) *The Australian Health Care System*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Feuerstein, M.T. (1997) *Poverty and Health*, London: Macmillan.

Florida, R. (2003) *The Rise of the Creative Class*, Melbourne: Pluto Press.

Folbre, N. (2001) *The Invisible Heart*. New York: The New York Press.

Freud, S. (1930) *Civilization and its Discontents*, London, Hogarth Press.

Garner, H. (1995) *The First Stone*, Sydney: Pan Macmillan.

Garner, H. (2004) *Joe Cinque's Consolation: A True Story of Death, Grief and the Law*, Sydney: Picador.

Gay, P. (1988) *Freud: A Life for Our Time*. London: Macmillan.

Germov, J. (ed.) (1998) *The Body: Social Process and Cultural Theory*. London: Sage Publications.

Gerth, H. and Wright Mills, C. (eds) *From Max Weber*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Greer, G. (1991) *The Change: Women, Ageing and the Menopause*, London: Hamish Hamilton.

Harrison, J.H. (1984) *Love Your Disease: It's Keeping You Healthy*. Sydney: Angus and Robertson.

Habermas, J. (1971) *Towards a Rational Society*, London: Heinemann.

Hull, R.F. and DeLazlo, V.S. (eds) (1990) *Basic Writings of C.G. Jung*, Princeton: Princeton Uni Press.

Ivey A.E. and Simek-Downing L. (1980) *Counselling and Psychotherapy: Skills, Theories and Practice*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall Inc., Englewood Cliffs.

Jennings, K. (2002) *Moral Hazard*, New York: Picador.

Jung, C.G. (1958) *The Undiscovered Self*, Victoria: Mentor Books.

Jung, C.G. (1993) *Memories, Dreams, Reflections*, London: Fontana Press.

Lasch, C. (1979) *The Culture of Narcissism*, London: Abacus.

Le Carre J. (2001) *The Constant Gardener*, Australia: Hodder Headline.

- Lupton, D. (1994) *Medicine as Culture: Illness, Disease and the Body in Western Societies*. London: Sage Publications.
- McMurray A. (1999) *Community Health and Wellness: A Sociological Approach*. Artarmon: Mosby.
- Murray C. and Lopez, A. (eds) (1996) *The Global Burden of Disease*. Harvard School of Public Health in conjunction with WHO and the World Bank. Harvard: Harvard University Press.
- Popper, K. (1972) 'The Bucket and the Searchlight: Two Theories of Knowledge', *Objective Knowledge and Evolutionary Approach*, Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Robertson, G. (2000) *Crimes Against Humanity*, London: Penguin.
- Sontag, S. (1978) *Illness as Metaphor*, New York: Farrer and Giroux.
- Tanner, S. and Ball, J. (2000) *Beating the Blues*, Sydney: Doubleday.
- Turner, B. (1989) 'The Body and Society: Explorations in Social Theory'. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.
- Walton, M. (1998) *The Trouble with Medicine: Preserving the Trust Between Patients and Doctors*, Allen and Unwin.
- Wass, A. (1994) *Promoting Health*. Marrickville: Harcourt Brace & Co.
- Weatherburn, D. (2004) *Law and Order in Australia*, Sydney: The Federation Press.
- Willis E. (1995) *The Sociological Quest: An Introduction to the Study of the Social Life*. 2nd ed. Sydney: Allen and Unwin.
- Wolinsky, F. (1988) *The Sociology of Health: Principles, Practitioners and Issues*. California: Wadsworth Publishing Co.
- Wright Mills C. (1959) *The Sociological Imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Winter, I. (ed) (2000) *Social Capital and Public Policy in Australia*. Melbourne: Australian Institute of Family Studies.