



# ANTX202

## Illness and Healing

SP1 OUA 2017

*Dept of Anthropology*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Timothy Lynch

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Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The unit offers an introduction to medical anthropology and cross-cultural beliefs relating to illness and healing. Different notions about disease causality are examined, as well as the way in which disease has social as well as biological origins. Healing practices, including Western biomedicine, are treated as being inevitably predicated on cultural systems of understanding. Specific topics include the abnormal, culture bound syndromes, body techniques, witchcraft, shamanism, placebos and the 'meaning effect', discipline, social suffering, illness narratives, the relationship between illness and social experience, clinical encounters and changing concepts of mental health. All enrolment queries should be directed to Open Universities Australia (OUA): see [www.open.edu.au](http://www.open.edu.au)

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.open.edu.au/student-admin-and-support/key-dates/>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- To acquire an understanding of medical anthropology and develop an understanding of cross-cultural beliefs relating to illness and healing.
- To gain familiarity with ethnographic approaches to illness and healing
- To appreciate the ways in which class, gender and ethnicity shape medical systems and outcomes.
- To critically evaluate Western biomedicine.
- To apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues.

## General Assessment Information

This unit will use Turnitin for the essay and exam.

Unless otherwise stated in your iLearn unit, late submission of written work will result in a deduction of 10% of the mark awarded for each week or part of a week beyond the due date, or date to which an extension has been granted.

**Extensions** The granting of extensions of up to one week are at the discretion of the unit convener. Any requests for extensions must be made in writing before the due date for the submission of the assessment task. Extensions beyond one week is subject to the university's Disruptions Policy (Read the policy [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html)). **Disruption to Studies** If you require an extension of longer than seven (7) days you will be required to submit a 'Disruption to Studies' Notification. Please follow the procedure below: Visit <https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/forms/display/disruptions> and use your OneID to log in. Select your OUA unit code from the drop down list and fill in your relevant details. Note: A notification needs to be submitted for each unit you believe is affected by the disruption. Click "Submit form". Attach supporting documents by clicking 'Add a note/attachment', click 'browse' and navigating to the files you want to attach, then click 'submit note' to send your notification and supporting documents Please keep copies of your original documents, as they may be requested in the future as part of the assessment process Please ensure that supporting documentation is included with your request. Notify your lecturer via your iLearn dialogue box if you are submitting a 'Disruption to Studies' Notification. Your request will be considered once all the documentation has been received. If you have issues, please contact your convenor via the dialogue tool immediately. Extensions are granted only on grounds of illness or misadventure, and appropriate supporting documentation must be submitted. Work submitted after 3 weeks beyond the due date, or the date after which an extension has been given, will not be accepted. If you are having problems completing an assignment, please contact the tutor as early as possible.

**OUA Special Circumstances Process** Special Circumstances refers to late withdrawal from a unit and your request to have your circumstances taken into account for a possible refund of fees and removal of a "fail" result. Applications for Special Circumstances are to be submitted to Open Universities Australia directly. <https://www.open.edu.au/public/student-admin-and-support/student-support-services/special-circumstances>

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#"><u>Essay</u></a>	40%	No	Sunday Week 8
<a href="#"><u>Book Review</u></a>	10%	No	Sunday Week 11
<a href="#"><u>Exam</u></a>	40%	No	Sunday 'Week 14'
<a href="#"><u>Weekly Participation</u></a>	10%	No	Weekly

## Essay

Due: **Sunday Week 8**

Weighting: **40%**

Essay length: 2000 words. Topics will be distributed early in the semester. Selected bibliographies will be provided with each question but because there is so much literature on cross-cultural issues of health, students are also encouraged to utilise material of their own finding. Any use of internet sources must be referenced accordingly.

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- To critically evaluate Western biomedicine.
- To apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues.

## Book Review

Due: **Sunday Week 11**

Weighting: **10%**

Students are required to write a summary of the key insights gained from two chapters from the assigned text *And The Spirit Catches You*. Summaries will be graded from 0-10 but will not be returned with comments. Minimum length is 250 words, maximum is 500 words.

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## Exam

Due: **Sunday 'Week 14'**

Weighting: **40%**

Exam questions will be posted on the MONDAY of 'Week 14' (that is the week FOLLOWING WEEK 13, and your exam answers must be submitted by 5pm on the SUNDAY of that week. The exam will consist of a choice of questions that link together topics and themes covered in lectures and online forum discussions throughout the course. Each student will be required to write 2 short essays (maximum 1000 words each) answering questions that address themes covered in the class. The final exam is in essay format and it is open-book. You must reference your exam as you would reference any academic essay.

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## Weekly Participation

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **10%**

Students will participate in weekly discussions and complete other activities related to relevant topics.

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## Delivery and Resources

The required readings for each week, as well as many other relevant readings, are available on Macquarie University Library's eReserve for ANTX202.

Students will need to obtain a copy of *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures* (1997) by Anne Fadiman. These

are widely available, include on-line. Online units can be accessed at: <http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/> PC and Internet access are required. Basic computer skills (e.g., internet browsing) and skills in word processing are also a requirement.

Please contact teaching staff for any further, more specific requirements. Consult the OUA website for more detailed information on technology requirements: <http://www.open.edu.au/public/future-students/getting-started/computer-requirements>

## **Policies and Procedures**

### **Late Submission - applies unless otherwise stated elsewhere in the unit guide**

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

### **Extension Request**

**[Special Consideration Policy and Procedure \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration)**

The University recognises that students may experience events or conditions that adversely affect their academic performance. If you experience serious and unavoidable difficulties at exam time or when assessment tasks are due, you can consider applying for Special Consideration.

You need to show that the circumstances:

1. were serious, unexpected and unavoidable
2. were beyond your control
3. caused substantial disruption to your academic work
4. substantially interfered with your otherwise satisfactory fulfilment of the unit requirements
5. lasted at least three consecutive days or a total of 5 days within the teaching period and prevented completion of an assessment task scheduled for a specific date.

If you feel that your studies have been impacted submit an application as follows:

1. Visit [Ask MQ](#) and use your OneID to log in
2. Fill in your relevant details
3. Attach supporting documents by clicking 'Add a reply', click 'Browse' and navigating to the files you want to attach, then click 'Submit Form' to send your notification and supporting documents
4. Please keep copies of your original documents, as they may be requested in the future as part of the assessment process

### Outcome

Once your submission is assessed, an appropriate outcome will be organised.

## OUA Specific Policies and Procedures

### Withdrawal from a unit after the census date

You can withdraw from your subjects prior to [the census date](#) (last day to withdraw). If you successfully withdraw before the census date, you won't need to apply for Special Circumstances. If you find yourself unable to withdraw from your subjects before the census date - you might be able to [apply for Special Circumstances](#). If you're eligible, we can refund your fees and overturn your fail grade.

If you're studying Single Subjects using FEE-HELP or paying up front, you can [apply online](#).

If you're studying a degree using HECS-HELP, you'll need to [apply directly to Macquarie University](#).

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

Assessment Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy\\_2016.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html)

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint\\_management/procedure.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html)

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration>

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student\\_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

## Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Graduate Capabilities

### Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.



This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- To gain familiarity with ethnographic approaches to illness and healing
- To appreciate the ways in which class, gender and ethnicity shape medical systems and outcomes.
- To critically evaluate Western biomedicine.
- To apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues.

## Assessment tasks

- Essay
- Book Review
- Exam
- Weekly Participation

## Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- To appreciate the ways in which class, gender and ethnicity shape medical systems and outcomes.
- To critically evaluate Western biomedicine.
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## Assessment tasks

- Essay
- Book Review
- Exam
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## Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally

and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### **Learning outcomes**

- To acquire an understanding of medical anthropology and develop an understanding of cross-cultural beliefs relating to illness and healing.
- To gain familiarity with ethnographic approaches to illness and healing
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### **Assessment tasks**

- Essay
- Book Review
- Exam
- Weekly Participation

## **Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills**

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### **Learning outcomes**

- To acquire an understanding of medical anthropology and develop an understanding of cross-cultural beliefs relating to illness and healing.
- To gain familiarity with ethnographic approaches to illness and healing
- To appreciate the ways in which class, gender and ethnicity shape medical systems and outcomes.
- To critically evaluate Western biomedicine.
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### **Assessment tasks**

- Essay
- Book Review
- Exam

- Weekly Participation

## Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- To acquire an understanding of medical anthropology and develop an understanding of cross-cultural beliefs relating to illness and healing.
- To gain familiarity with ethnographic approaches to illness and healing
- To appreciate the ways in which class, gender and ethnicity shape medical systems and outcomes.
- To critically evaluate Western biomedicine.
- To apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues.

### Assessment tasks

- Essay
- Book Review
- Exam
- Weekly Participation

## Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- To gain familiarity with ethnographic approaches to illness and healing
- To appreciate the ways in which class, gender and ethnicity shape medical systems and outcomes.
- To critically evaluate Western biomedicine.
- To apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues.

## Assessment tasks

- Essay
- Book Review
- Exam
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## Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcome

- To apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues.

## Assessment tasks

- Essay
- Book Review
- Exam
- Weekly Participation

## Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- To gain familiarity with ethnographic approaches to illness and healing
- To appreciate the ways in which class, gender and ethnicity shape medical systems and outcomes.
- To critically evaluate Western biomedicine.
- To apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues.

## Assessment tasks

- Essay
- Book Review
- Exam
- Weekly Participation

## Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- To gain familiarity with ethnographic approaches to illness and healing
- To appreciate the ways in which class, gender and ethnicity shape medical systems and outcomes.
- To critically evaluate Western biomedicine.
- To apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues.

## Assessment tasks

- Essay
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