



ANTH224

Mad, Bad, Sad: Cross Cultural Perspectives

S1 Online 2019

Dept of Anthropology

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

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Credit points

3

Prerequisites

(12cp at 100 level or above) or ANTH106 or ANTH150 or admission to GDipArts

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

How do cultures in different parts of the world determine and understand who is mad, bad or sad? Madness, deviance and other forms of social difference are cultural constructs that vary considerably across both historical period and cultural context. Moreover, these ideas have profound moral implications that become dramatically entwined with people's lived experience, as well as broader socio-political structures. In this unit, we examine the cultural and social construction of normality, with a focus on what happens when people find themselves outside these bounds. Working from both a comparative perspective and an analytic position moving between social structures and individual experience and meaning, examining themes such as 'sanity', mental illness and culture, melancholy and depression, emotions, sexuality, gender norms, and their transgressions. Throughout, we will focus on the social processes of labeling, representation, medicalisation, and stigmatisation associated with these experiences.

Ultimately, students will come to understand how difference is constructed and embodied, and become aware of how deviance is surveilled, managed, and constrained in a variety of cultural contexts.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

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

To understand and reflect on how normality, abnormality, and difference are constructed and managed within particular social, cultural, political, and environmental contexts.

To analyse a selection of comparative ethnographic perspectives on themes related to culture and madness, disorder, deviance, addictions, and mental health.

To identify the social and cultural factors that make madness a powerful metaphor and site of surveillance within societies.

To apply critical analytic skills to discover the ways in which desire and deviance transcend individual bodies and are incited, monitored and regulated within the social body and the body politic.

To understand the significance and impact of medicalization, labelling and stigmatization.

To understand the cultural and socio-political dynamics present within sorcery and witchcraft practices and related accusations of socially deviant behaviour.

Critically evaluate our assumptions about other cultures and cultural differences and what is considered 'natural' or 'normal' human experience.

Analyse the cultural construction of abnormality and difference within media representations of culture, madness and deviance.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Participation	20%	No	Weekly
Midterm Exam	25%	No	See Unit Handbook
Essay	30%	No	See Unit Handbook
Final Exam	25%	No	See Unit Handbook

Participation

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **20%**

Online Tutorials: In lieu of attending a weekly tutorial, external students will participate in an online tutorial discussion on iLearn (there will be a dedicated discussion forum for each week's tutorial). Each week, Dr. Kevin Groark will create a discussion topic around that week's readings. Each external student is responsible for submitting at least 500 words of written discussion on that topic. The 500 words can be spread out as an initial post (say 300 words) and several responses to comments that others have made on discussion board (totalling 200 words). Your contributions will be assessed as acceptable or unacceptable—this will constitute the "Participation" portion of your tutorial grade. The discussion board will only be open for 1

week on each topic and after that will be closed. The forum will generally open soon after the lecture and will close 7 days later (the next Friday)—in other words, the online discussion “tute” happens the week following the lecture. This ensures that all of you will have had time to view the online lecture and read assigned materials prior to participating in the online discussion section.

In your written contributions to discussions, I will be looking for remarks that engage thoughtfully with the readings and lectures. It is also important that you engage respectfully with your peers. Do not mock anyone’s contributions. If you don’t understand or agree with something someone says, ask them to clarify, or explain respectfully why you disagree.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To understand and reflect on how normality, abnormality, and difference are constructed and managed within particular social, cultural, political, and environmental contexts.
- To analyse a selection of comparative ethnographic perspectives on themes related to culture and madness, disorder, deviance, addictions, and mental health.
- To apply critical analytic skills to discover the ways in which desire and deviance transcend individual bodies and are incited, monitored and regulated within the social body and the body politic.
- To understand the significance and impact of medicalization, labelling and stigmatization.
- To understand the cultural and socio-political dynamics present within sorcery and witchcraft practices and related accusations of socially deviant behaviour.
- Analyse the cultural construction of abnormality and difference within media representations of culture, madness and deviance.

Midterm Exam

Due: **See Unit Handbook**

Weighting: **25%**

A midterm exam (multiple choice and/or short answer) that will be completed on-line. The exam will be administered via iLearn, and will cover the first six weeks of course material. It will be “open book,” but bear in mind that I will not be testing your knowledge of simple facts. Rather, I will be asking questions that evaluate your mastery of the conceptual material presented in the course (e.g., ideas, theories, conceptual models, etc.).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To understand and reflect on how normality, abnormality, and difference are constructed and managed within particular social, cultural, political, and environmental contexts.
- To analyse a selection of comparative ethnographic perspectives on themes related to culture and madness, disorder, deviance, addictions, and mental health.

- To identify the social and cultural factors that make madness a powerful metaphor and site of surveillance within societies.
- To apply critical analytic skills to discover the ways in which desire and deviance transcend individual bodies and are incited, monitored and regulated within the social body and the body politic.
- To understand the significance and impact of medicalization, labelling and stigmatization.
- Critically evaluate our assumptions about other cultures and cultural differences and what is considered 'natural' or 'normal' human experience.

Essay

Due: **See Unit Handbook**

Weighting: **30%**

"Online Community Ethnography" essay of no more than 1200 words (exact word count will be indicated in essay prompt) presenting and analyzing the experience deviancy within an online community. The essay will integrate primary data derived from online communities with ideas from the course. See Unit Handbook for more details.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To understand and reflect on how normality, abnormality, and difference are constructed and managed within particular social, cultural, political, and environmental contexts.
- To apply critical analytic skills to discover the ways in which desire and deviance transcend individual bodies and are incited, monitored and regulated within the social body and the body politic.
- To understand the significance and impact of medicalization, labelling and stigmatization.
- Critically evaluate our assumptions about other cultures and cultural differences and what is considered 'natural' or 'normal' human experience.
- Analyse the cultural construction of abnormality and difference within media representations of culture, madness and deviance.

Final Exam

Due: **See Unit Handbook**

Weighting: **25%**

A final exam (multiple choice and/or short answer) that will be completed on-line. The exam will be administered via iLearn, and will cover the final six weeks of course material. It will be "open book," but bear in mind that I will not be testing your knowledge of simple facts. Rather, I will be asking questions that evaluate your mastery of the conceptual material presented in the course (e.g., ideas, theories, conceptual models, etc.).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To understand and reflect on how normality, abnormality, and difference are constructed and managed within particular social, cultural, political, and environmental contexts.
- To analyse a selection of comparative ethnographic perspectives on themes related to culture and madness, disorder, deviance, addictions, and mental health.
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- To understand the significance and impact of medicalization, labelling and stigmatization.
- To understand the cultural and socio-political dynamics present within sorcery and witchcraft practices and related accusations of socially deviant behaviour.
- Critically evaluate our assumptions about other cultures and cultural differences and what is considered 'natural' or 'normal' human experience.

Delivery and Resources

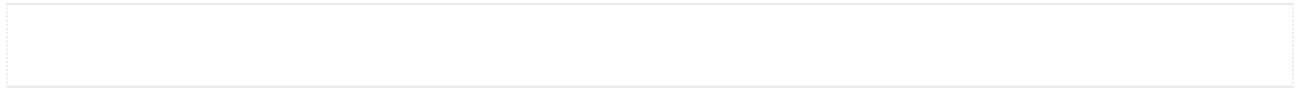
The unit guide that is available in iLearn will be the final and best version. Do not rely on this unit guide.

For lecture and tutorial times and classrooms please consult the MQ Timetable website: <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au>. This website will display up-to-date information on your classes and classroom locations. Tutorial locations sometimes change in the weeks before class. Be sure to check. Tutorials start on week 2.

Tutorial attendance is mandatory. The lectures will be one of your primary sources of material for this unit. I bring together a range of concepts from a variety of sources, present the central theories and ideas, model anthropological thinking, adapt the material to your background, integrate contemporary events, and provide a framework to help make sense of the readings. It is unlikely that you will pass this class if you focus on the readings and tutorials alone.

Physical attendance is not required in lecture. While the ECHO system records most lectures, I strongly encourage everyone to attend the lectures in person. ECHO has been known to fail and I have a tenuous (at best) relationship with the system. I will not offer notes or repeat lectures due to a system failure. The best approach is to attend lecture in person. Use the ECHO system only when unavoidable circumstances arise. I attempt to make lectures as dynamic as possible and interact with students. You will also have the opportunity to share experiences and ask questions during and after the lecture. Attending in person is a unique and engaging experience. Moreover, honestly, the lectures are much more engaging for everyone if people are actually present.

Unit Schedule



Learning and Teaching Activities

1

Lecture Attendance and Participation

2

Tutorial Attendance and Participation

3

Fieldwork Experiences

4

Essay Writing

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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) 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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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/.

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:

Assessment task

- Participation

Learning and teaching activity

- Tutorial Attendance and Participation
- Fieldwork Experiences

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 analyse a selection of comparative ethnographic perspectives on themes related to culture and madness, disorder, deviance, addictions, and mental health.
- To understand the significance and impact of medicalization, labelling and stigmatization.
- Critically evaluate our assumptions about other cultures and cultural differences and what is considered 'natural' or 'normal' human experience.
- Analyse the cultural construction of abnormality and difference within media representations of culture, madness and deviance.

Assessment task

- Participation

Learning and teaching activity

- Fieldwork Experiences

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 and teaching activities

- Lecture Attendance and Participation
- Fieldwork Experiences

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 understand and reflect on how normality, abnormality, and difference are constructed and managed within particular social, cultural, political, and environmental contexts.
- To identify the social and cultural factors that make madness a powerful metaphor and site of surveillance within societies.
- To apply critical analytic skills to discover the ways in which desire and deviance transcend individual bodies and are incited, monitored and regulated within the social body and the body politic.
- To understand the significance and impact of medicalization, labelling and stigmatization.
- To understand the cultural and socio-political dynamics present within sorcery and witchcraft practices and related accusations of socially deviant behaviour.
- Critically evaluate our assumptions about other cultures and cultural differences and what is considered 'natural' or 'normal' human experience.
- Analyse the cultural construction of abnormality and difference within media representations of culture, madness and deviance.

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Midterm Exam
- Essay
- Final Exam

Learning and teaching activities

- Lecture Attendance and Participation
- Tutorial Attendance and Participation
- Essay Writing

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 understand and reflect on how normality, abnormality, and difference are constructed and managed within particular social, cultural, political, and environmental contexts.
- To analyse a selection of comparative ethnographic perspectives on themes related to culture and madness, disorder, deviance, addictions, and mental health.
- To identify the social and cultural factors that make madness a powerful metaphor and site of surveillance within societies.
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- Critically evaluate our assumptions about other cultures and cultural differences and what is considered 'natural' or 'normal' human experience.
- Analyse the cultural construction of abnormality and difference within media representations of culture, madness and deviance.

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Midterm Exam
- Essay
- Final Exam

Learning and teaching activities

- Lecture Attendance and Participation
- Tutorial Attendance and Participation
- Fieldwork Experiences
- Essay Writing

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 analyse a selection of comparative ethnographic perspectives on themes related to culture and madness, disorder, deviance, addictions, and mental health.
- To identify the social and cultural factors that make madness a powerful metaphor and site of surveillance within societies.
- To apply critical analytic skills to discover the ways in which desire and deviance transcend individual bodies and are incited, monitored and regulated within the social body and the body politic.
- Analyse the cultural construction of abnormality and difference within media representations of culture, madness and deviance.

Assessment tasks

- Midterm Exam
- Essay

Learning and teaching activities

- Tutorial Attendance and Participation
- Fieldwork Experiences
- Essay Writing

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

- Analyse the cultural construction of abnormality and difference within media representations of culture, madness and deviance.

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Essay

Learning and teaching activities

- Tutorial Attendance and Participation
- Fieldwork Experiences

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 understand and reflect on how normality, abnormality, and difference are constructed and managed within particular social, cultural, political, and environmental contexts.
- To identify the social and cultural factors that make madness a powerful metaphor and site of surveillance within societies.
- To apply critical analytic skills to discover the ways in which desire and deviance transcend individual bodies and are incited, monitored and regulated within the social body and the body politic.
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- Critically evaluate our assumptions about other cultures and cultural differences and what is considered 'natural' or 'normal' human experience.
- Analyse the cultural construction of abnormality and difference within media representations of culture, madness and deviance.

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Midterm Exam
- Essay
- Final Exam

Learning and teaching activities

- Lecture Attendance and Participation
- Tutorial Attendance and Participation
- Essay Writing

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 understand and reflect on how normality, abnormality, and difference are constructed and managed within particular social, cultural, political, and environmental contexts.
- To analyse a selection of comparative ethnographic perspectives on themes related to culture and madness, disorder, deviance, addictions, and mental health.
- To identify the social and cultural factors that make madness a powerful metaphor and site of surveillance within societies.
- To apply critical analytic skills to discover the ways in which desire and deviance transcend individual bodies and are incited, monitored and regulated within the social body and the body politic.
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- Critically evaluate our assumptions about other cultures and cultural differences and what is considered 'natural' or 'normal' human experience.
- Analyse the cultural construction of abnormality and difference within media representations of culture, madness and deviance.

Assessment task

- Essay

Learning and teaching activity

- Lecture Attendance and Participation
- Tutorial Attendance and Participation
- Fieldwork Experiences
- Essay Writing