



ANTX2002

Illness and Healing

Session 2, Fully online/virtual 2020

Department of Anthropology

Contents

General Information	2
Learning Outcomes	2
Assessment Tasks	3
Delivery and Resources	6
Policies and Procedures	6

Disclaimer

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

Notice

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Timothy Lynch

timothy.lynch@mq.edu.au

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit offers an introduction to medical anthropology and cross-cultural beliefs relating to illness and healing. We will examine health and illness from a multilevel perspective that explores the evolution of human disease, the role of culture in shaping epidemiology, varying cultural notions of disease causality, the individual experience of illness, and the socio-political factors that condition our experience and management of negatively-valued states of health. Throughout, the unit emphasizes that good health - and conversely ill health - is never simply a "fact" about the body. Disease and illness have social and biological origins, which means our understanding of this central fact of human life must incorporate not only biological factors, but also the broader cultural frameworks that transform mere disease into the culturally-specific experience of illness. All enrolment queries should be directed to Open Universities Australia (OUA): see www.open.edu.au

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:

ULO1: understand medical anthropology and develop an understanding of cross-cultural beliefs relating to illness and healing.

ULO2: be familiar with medical anthropological ethnography and ethnographic approaches to the investigation of illness and healing

ULO3: understand how biology, culture, politics, and ecology interact to shape illness and health, health systems, and patterns.

ULO4: appreciate the ways in which class, gender and ethnicity shape medical systems and outcomes.

ULO5: apply the theories and concepts of medical anthropology to critically evaluate one's own culture and determinants of illness and health.

ULO6: critically evaluate Western biomedicine.

ULO7: apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Essay	40%	No	5pm Sunday Week 8
Weekly Participation	10%	No	Weekly
Book Review	10%	No	5pm Sunday Week 11
Exam	40%	No	5pm Sunday Week 14

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **5pm Sunday Week 8**

Weighting: **40%**

Essay length: 2000 words. Essay questions will relate to topics covered in the first half of the semester.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- understand medical anthropology and develop an understanding of cross-cultural beliefs relating to illness and healing.
- be familiar with medical anthropological ethnography and ethnographic approaches to the investigation of illness and healing
- understand how biology, culture, politics, and ecology interact to shape illness and health, health systems, and patterns.
- appreciate the ways in which class, gender and ethnicity shape medical systems and outcomes.
- apply the theories and concepts of medical anthropology to critically evaluate one's own culture and determinants of illness and health.
- critically evaluate Western biomedicine.

- apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues

Weekly Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **10%**

Students will participate in discussions and other activities on weekly forums (5%). At the end of the semester they will submit what they consider to be their two best contributions (5%).

Participation will be assessed according to regularity, relevance and thoughtfulness.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- understand medical anthropology and develop an understanding of cross-cultural beliefs relating to illness and healing.
- be familiar with medical anthropological ethnography and ethnographic approaches to the investigation of illness and healing
- understand how biology, culture, politics, and ecology interact to shape illness and health, health systems, and patterns.
- appreciate the ways in which class, gender and ethnicity shape medical systems and outcomes.
- apply the theories and concepts of medical anthropology to critically evaluate one's own culture and determinants of illness and health.
- critically evaluate Western biomedicine.
- apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues

Book Review

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **5pm Sunday Week 11**

Weighting: **10%**

Students will write a summary of the key insights gained from two chapters from the assigned text *And The Spirit Catches You. . .* Minimum length (total) is 250 words, maximum (total) is 500 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- understand medical anthropology and develop an understanding of cross-cultural beliefs relating to illness and healing.
- be familiar with medical anthropological ethnography and ethnographic approaches to

the investigation of illness and healing

- understand how biology, culture, politics, and ecology interact to shape illness and health, health systems, and patterns.
- appreciate the ways in which class, gender and ethnicity shape medical systems and outcomes.
- apply the theories and concepts of medical anthropology to critically evaluate one's own culture and determinants of illness and health.
- critically evaluate Western biomedicine.
- apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues

Exam

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **5pm Sunday Week 14**

Weighting: **40%**

The exam will consist of a choice of questions that link together topics covered in the second half of the session (i.e. Weeks 8-13). Each student will be required to answer the questions by writing 2 short essays (maximum 1000 words each). The final exam is open-book format.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- understand medical anthropology and develop an understanding of cross-cultural beliefs relating to illness and healing.
- be familiar with medical anthropological ethnography and ethnographic approaches to the investigation of illness and healing
- understand how biology, culture, politics, and ecology interact to shape illness and health, health systems, and patterns.
- appreciate the ways in which class, gender and ethnicity shape medical systems and outcomes.
- apply the theories and concepts of medical anthropology to critically evaluate one's own culture and determinants of illness and health.
- critically evaluate Western biomedicine.
- apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment

- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

The required readings for each week, as well as many other relevant readings, are available through iLearn. Other material can be accessed online through Macquarie University Library

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, including online.

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.*)

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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

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.