



ANTH8016

Culture, Health and Disease

Session 1, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2020

Department of Anthropology

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	3
<u>General Assessment Information</u>	3
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	3
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	5
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	6

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

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Administration

Payel Ray

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Payel Ray

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MDevStud or MPH or MGlobalHlthDevStud or GradCertGlobalHlthDevStud or MDevStudGlobalHlth or GradCertDevStudGlobalHlth or MAppAnth or MDevCult or MSocEntre or GradCertSocEntre or MPASR or MPASRMDevStud or GradDipPASR or GradDipPP or MPPP or MPPPMDevStud or MPPMPASR or 10cp in ANTH units at 8000 level

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines the evolutionary, cultural, socio-economic, and political dimensions of disease and health. Notions of disease causality and healing practices vary across societies, and an understanding of the dynamics of these factors is crucial not only for theoretical advancement, but also for applied intervention in the field of international public health. In addition to surveying the key conceptual developments in medical anthropology, we look at how anthropological perspectives and methods can be used in applied settings. We also explore issues in critical medical anthropology, such as: How do global inequalities and violence affect health in developing countries? What larger social transformations accompany the rise of biomedicine, including recent biomedical technologies? These topics explore various dimensions through which medical anthropology can analyse and shape global health policies and interventions, preparing students to work in health policy and applied research.

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: Demonstrate command of anthropological knowledge and theories relevant to the subdiscipline of medical anthropology and the broader study of illness and healing practices in their social and cultural contexts.

ULO2: Interview, analyse, and represent the illness experience of another person, emphasizing the integrative factors (culture, politics, social structure, etc.) influencing their condition.

ULO3: Apply the theories and concepts of medical anthropology to critically evaluate one's own culture and determinants of illness and health.

ULO4: Demonstrate an understanding of how healing systems often cut across categories of religion, medicine, and social organization.

ULO5: Analyse how illness and health (and normality) are constructed within particular social, cultural, political, and environmental contexts.

ULO6: Identify how inequality, social hierarchy, and structural violence generate unequal and often unique health determinants in the global and transnational context.

Assessment Tasks

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Assessment details are no longer provided here as a result of changes due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Students should consult [iLearn](#) for revised unit information.

[Find out more about the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and potential impacts on staff and students](#)

General Assessment Information

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

- Appreciate the scope of medical anthropology and how its literature and central theories enable you to analyse illness and healing practices in their social and cultural contexts;
- Understand how biology, culture, politics, and ecology interact to shape illness and

health, health systems, and patterns;

- Interview, analyse, and represent the illness experience of another person, emphasising the integrative factors (culture, politics, social structure, etc.) influencing their condition;
- Apply the theories and concepts of medical anthropology to critically evaluate one's own culture and determinants of illness and health;
- Understand how healing systems often cut across categories of religion, medicine, and social organisation;
- Understand how illness and health (and normality) are constructed within particular social, cultural, political, and environmental contexts; and
- Identify how inequality, social hierarchy, and structural violence generate unequal and often unique health determinants in the global and transnational context.

The assessment tasks all work together with the weekly readings and seminar discussions to achieve these learning outcomes.

Participation in Seminar and Written Discussion Guide

Due: Weekly

Each student is expected to actively participate in the seminar discussion. Seminar participation is mandatory. Students are expected to be active participants in class and demonstrate that they have read and engaged with the readings. Participation also means contributing to a general atmosphere of scholarly enquiry, showing respect for the opinions of others; thus, listening to and engaging with the contributions of others is just as important as talking yourself!

Each week students will prepare a written preparation guide based on the week's readings and bring this to seminar to help contribute to discussion. This written preparation guide will be the basis for your seminar participation mark, which will also be based on how you engage with your peers in discussion.

Once during the semester, each student will take a turn leading part of the seminar discussion.

Note: failure to attend seminars without approved 'Special Consideration' (see Unit Handbook) will lower your mark. You will not be able to successfully complete this unit if you miss multiple seminars.

During the seminar, we are looking for the following contributions to seminar discussions:

-initiating discussion -giving information -asking for information -raising questions -restating another's contribution -asking for clarification -giving salient examples -encouraging others -relieving group tension

We are NOT looking for the following contributions to seminar discussion:

-expression of unsupported opinions -attempts to dominate discussion -mocking others
In your verbal contributions to discussions, I will be looking for remarks that engage thoughtfully with the readings and 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. Everyone should feel free to speak up. Please do not drown out quieter voices. If you are having trouble speaking up in class discussion, please come to speak with the course convenor privately and together we can strategise ways to facilitate your contribution.

Midterm Exam

Due: Week 8

An online, open-note, short-answer midterm exam in Week 8 will assess how well you have learned the core theories discussed up to that point in the semester. Additional details provided on iLearn.

Illness Narrative Essay, including ethics training

Due: Week 11

Your ethnographic essay will be based on an interview that you will conduct with a friend or family member about an illness or medical treatment they have experienced. You will write an “illness narrative” along the lines outlined by Kleinman and Good, locating their illness / treatment experience within a broader social, cultural, and political economic context. Before you conduct your illness narrative, you must complete the online ethics training at ethicstraining.mq.edu.au. Additional details about this assessment task available on iLearn.

Final Exam

Due: Week 13

An online, open-note, short-answer final exam in Week 13 will assess how well you have learned the material covered over the entire semester. Additional details provided on iLearn.

Delivery and Resources

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19.

Please check here for updated delivery information: https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status

The seminar meets on Fridays from 5-7pm in the G08 Tutorial Room, 25a Wallys Walk.

Your active participation is essential to your learning experience. The weekly 2-hour seminars will not be recorded, so you must plan to attend in person, and participation is a mandatory component of your final mark in the unit. Detailed information about seminar topics, resources, and assessment tasks can all be found on iLearn.

The unit convener will use the first half of each seminar to introduce concepts, provide background information or examples, or offer an overview of the key issues under discussion. The second half of the seminar will be devoted to discussing the issues and readings as well as

your progress on the illness narrative project.

Seminar attendance and participation are mandatory. Students are expected to be active participants and demonstrate that they have actively engaged the readings and material presented. Each student will take a turn helping to lead the seminar discussion one week with the unit convenor.

All required readings will be available electronically through iLearn.

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.