



ANTH2002

Illness and Healing

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2023

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Anna-Karina Hermkens

anna.hermkens@mq.edu.au

Co-convenor and Lecturer

Daniel Tranter-Santoso

daniel.tranter@mq.edu.au

Tutorer

Ben Robin Dean

ben.dean@mq.edu.au

Payel Ray

payel.ray@mq.edu.au

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

(ANTH150 or ANTH1050) or 40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces us to a perspective on illness and healing that opens up when we give central importance to human *experiences* of what it is to be ill or to be healed. This means that we do not necessarily have to choose between biology and sociology, between individual and culture. These elements get integrated – and this is insight comes through in the more holistic understandings of “alternative” therapies as well as in the accounts we have of healing traditions from around the world. But how and where does this integration occur? To answer this, we need to refer to experience, both individual and collective. The unit will therefore give priority to richly experiential accounts made available in ethnographies, as well as in other kinds of writing such as literature and introduce us to a perspective called phenomenology. As we seek to understand the wide variety of ways in which different cultural histories have understood what it means to be ill or to be healed, we will necessarily go deeper into some of anthropology’s most fundamental challenge – it tells us that what it means to be ‘human’ is fundamentally a relationship to the world around us, and that world has been understood in very different ways across time and place.

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 theory as it relates to medical anthropology and the broader study of illness and healing practices in their social and cultural contexts.

ULO2: Identify the processes through which biology, culture, politics, and ecology interact to shape illness and health, health systems, and patterns.

ULO3: Research, analyse, and represent the illness experience of a person or community, emphasizing the integrative factors (culture, politics, social structure, etc.) influencing the condition.

ULO4: Identify and apply the theories and concepts of medical anthropology to critically evaluate one's own culture and determinants of illness and health.

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

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

General Assessment Information

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to non-time sensitive assessment (incl. essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special Consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

Assessment Tasks

| Name | Weighting | Hurdle | Due |
|--|-----------|--------|-------------------------------|
| Tutorial participation | 15% | No | On-going |
| Weekly online quizzes | 20% | No | Every Thursday weeks 2-12 |
| Mid session quiz | 25% | No | End of week 7; 10/9/23 23:55 |
| Essay | 40% | No | End of week 13; 5/11/23 23:55 |

Tutorial participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **On-going**

Weighting: **15%**

Tutorial preparation and participation in class or online via discussion forums, based on set weekly readings and listening to weekly lecture.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate command of anthropological knowledge and theory as it relates to medical anthropology and the broader study of illness and healing practices in their social and cultural contexts.
- Identify the processes through which biology, culture, politics, and ecology interact to shape illness and health, health systems, and patterns.
- Identify and apply the theories and concepts of medical anthropology to critically evaluate one's own culture and determinants of illness and health.
- Analyse how illness and health (and normality) are constructed within particular social, cultural, political, and environmental contexts.
- Analyse how inequality, social hierarchy, and structural violence generate unequal and often unique health determinants in the global and transnational context.

Weekly online quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **Every Thursday weeks 2-12**

Weighting: **20%**

Weekly quizzes about the lecture and readings

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate command of anthropological knowledge and theory as it relates to medical anthropology and the broader study of illness and healing practices in their social and cultural contexts.
- Identify the processes through which biology, culture, politics, and ecology interact to shape illness and health, health systems, and patterns.
- Analyse how illness and health (and normality) are constructed within particular social, cultural, political, and environmental contexts.
- Analyse how inequality, social hierarchy, and structural violence generate unequal and often unique health determinants in the global and transnational context.

Mid session quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 2 hours

Due: **End of week 7; 10/9/23 23.55**

Weighting: **25%**

Online quiz

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate command of anthropological knowledge and theory as it relates to medical anthropology and the broader study of illness and healing practices in their social and cultural contexts.
- Identify the processes through which biology, culture, politics, and ecology interact to shape illness and health, health systems, and patterns.
- Analyse how illness and health (and normality) are constructed within particular social, cultural, political, and environmental contexts.
- Analyse how inequality, social hierarchy, and structural violence generate unequal and often unique health determinants in the global and transnational context.

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **End of week 13; 5/11/23 23:55**

Weighting: **40%**

Word length: 2000 words Choice between a) book-review essay (choice of books will be nominated by the unit convener) or b) Implications of unit content for healing practice.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate command of anthropological knowledge and theory as it relates to medical anthropology and the broader study of illness and healing practices in their social and cultural contexts.
- Identify the processes through which biology, culture, politics, and ecology interact to shape illness and health, health systems, and patterns.
- Research, analyse, and represent the illness experience of a person or community, emphasizing the integrative factors (culture, politics, social structure, etc.) influencing the condition.
- Identify and apply the theories and concepts of medical anthropology to critically evaluate one's own culture and determinants of illness and health.
- Analyse how illness and health (and normality) are constructed within particular social, cultural, political, and environmental contexts.
- Analyse how inequality, social hierarchy, and structural violence generate unequal and often unique health determinants in the global and transnational context.

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

All in-person students will attend lectures and tutorials on campus. Online/flexible students will

participate online through iLearn discussion forums and watch lecture recordings online.

All lectures for this unit will be given live in-person; a recording of these lectures will be made available online through Echo.

Readings will be available on iLearn.

Unit Schedule

Week 1. What is medical anthropology?; Week 2. Illness, Disease, and the Sick Role; Week 3. Making Sense of Suffering: Metaphors and Meaning; Week 4. Sex and gender in healthcare; Week 5. Witches and female healers; Week 6. Existential dimensions of Illness and Healing; Week 7. Cultures of Biomedicine; Week 8. Pregnancy and fertility; Week 9. Normal and Pathological: The Case of Gender Variance; Week 10. Indigenous Health; Week 11. Explain Disease, Social and Political Etiologies; Week 12. Making Change: Health Activism; Week 13. Structural Violence, Global Health, and Commodification.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

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.

Unit information based on version 2023.02 of the [Handbook](#)