



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH 307

MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 2 March to 1 July 2015

Teaching dates: 2 March to 5 June 2015

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 3–19 April 2015

Last assessment item due: 2 June 2015

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures: Monday 12-12.50pm, HM LT104
Tuesday 11:00am-12:50pm, SUMT 228

Tutorials: Tutorials will start in week 2 and finish in week 11. There will be no tutorials in week 7 (the week beginning Monday 27 April). Please sign up for a tutorial on S-Cubed.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Catherine Trundle
Level 10, Murphy Building, MY1021
Telephone: (04) 463 5134

Email: catherine.trundle@vuw.ac.nz

Office Hours: By appointment.

Communication of additional information

Additional information will be communicated in lectures and on Blackboard. You will automatically receive all Blackboard announcements as an email sent to your @myvuw.ac.nz email address. If you are not going to use this Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

Prescription

This course introduces students to current questions in medical anthropology. It explores how culture shapes experiences of the body and illness, and critically examines the politics and ethics of modern global healthcare in a range of ethnographic settings.

Course content

This course asks such questions as: What do the concepts ‘health’ and ‘illness’ mean in different cultural contexts? How is the body understood and experienced culturally? How do political, economic and technological systems interact with health and illness? What is the relationship between culture, inequality and illness? What can anthropology add to biomedical domains and strategies for dealing with global health issues?

Week 1: Beginning 2 March

Introduction

Lecture 1: Intro to course. What are ‘sickness’, ‘illness’ and ‘disease’?

Lecture 2: What does culture have to do with illness? Documentary: *Facing Death*.

Week 2: Beginning 9 March

A sociocultural approach to health

Lecture 1: Key concepts: The culture-bound syndrome and medicalisation.

Lecture 2: The documentary *Intersexions*, followed by discussion.

Week 3: Beginning 16 March

A sociocultural approach to health: mental illness

Lecture 1: Depression in a range of ethnographic contexts.

Lecture 2: The documentary *The Split Horn*, followed by discussion.

Week 4: Beginning 23 March

A sociocultural approach to health: mental illness

Lecture 1: The history of depression.

Lecture 2: Depression in NZ and the modern world. Summary of the key themes of this topic.

Week 5: Beginning 30 March

Biopower: key thinkers

Lecture 1: What is biopower? Foucault's ideas.
Lecture 2: Documentary: *After the Apocalypse*, followed by discussion.

Week 6: Beginning 20 April

Biopower: how the sick gain recognition and legitimacy.

Lecture 1: Biological Citizenship and Biosociality

Lecture 2: A case study: Nuclear test veterans

Week 7: Beginning 27 April

Biopower: Communities of illness and biological citizenship

Lecture 1: ANZAC DAY, UNIVERSITY CLOSED, NO LECTURE.

Lecture 2: Giorgio Agamben, states of exception.

Week 8: Beginning 4 May

Biopower: poverty, health and human rights

Lecture 1: Documentary: *Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making us Sick?* Followed by discussion.

Lecture 2: A class discussion on inequality and health in New Zealand.

Week 9: Beginning 11 May

Bioethics: pharmaceutical ethics

Lecture 1: What would an anthropological approach to/critique of global bioethics look like?

Lecture 2: The ethics of pharmaceutical patents and access, and the global drug trial industry.

Week 10: Beginning 18 May

Genetics, Choice and Property

Lecture 1: The patenting of life and cell lines.

Lecture 2: The trade and transplantation of organs.

Week 11: Beginning 25 May

The ethics of genetic testing

Lecture 1: Prenatal genetic screening.

Lecture 2: Documentary: *Pieces of Me: Prevention, Cure or Madness*, followed by topic summary.

Week 12: Beginning 1 June

Lecture 1: PUBLIC HOLIDAY, NO LECTURE

Lecture 2: Summing up the course.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

By the end of ANTH 315 students passing this course should be able to:

- 1 succinctly summarise a range of foundational and contemporary concepts in medical anthropology
- 2 creatively synthesise and apply core theoretical concepts in medical anthropology to a range of ethnographic examples and contemporary medical issues
- 3 critically evaluate the usefulness of core theoretical concepts for understanding contemporary medical issues
- 4 critically reflect upon and recognise the wider social and cultural influences affecting our own beliefs and practices of health, illness, the body and medicine
- 5 express informed perspectives on the relationship between culture, inequality and illness, drawing on diverse ethnographic settings.

Teaching format

Lectures and tutorials

While attendance at lectures and tutorials is not compulsory, students are expected to regularly attend them, and will be advantaged if they do so.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- submit the Research Essay
- submit the three Reflective Critique Essays
- attend at least 7 out of 9 tutorials
- attend 75% of lectures (attendance will be recorded)

Reasons for acceptable absence to lectures and tutorials (for which minimum attendance in lectures and tutorials will be waived): sickness, with doctor's certificate; bereavement, with death/funeral notice from newspaper; other difficulties, with supporting documentation from a counsellor or another medical professional.

Workload

The expectations are that students will work 10 hours per point, therefore a 20-point course equates to 200 hours over a trimester. This includes scheduled contact time, individual or group study, and work on assessment tasks.

Assessment

Detailed assignment instruction sheet will be given out in the first lecture and on Blackboard.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Reflective Critique essay (1000 words)	20	2,3,4	20 March 2015
2	Reflective Critique essay (1000 words)	20	2,3,4	22 April 2015
3	Research Essay (3000 – 3500 words)	40	1,2,3	15 May 2015
4	Reflective Critique essay (1000 words)	20	1,2,3,4	2 June 2015

Three reflective critique essays

Assignment weighting: 20% each (60% in total)

(Linked to learning objectives 2, 3 and 4).

Word Limit: 1000 words each.

- Reflective Critique Essay 1 due: **Friday 20 March** by 4pm, SACS Essay Box, level 9, Murphy Building **and** via Turnitin
- Reflective Critique Essay 2 due: **Wednesday 22 April** by 4pm, SACS Essay Box, level 9, Murphy Building **and** via Turnitin
- Reflective Critique Essay 3 due: **Tuesday 2 June** by 4pm, SACS Essay Box, level 9, Murphy Building **and** via Turnitin

Research Essay

Assignment weighting: 40%

(Linked to learning objectives 1, 2 and 3)

Word Limit: 3000-3500 words.

Due: **Friday 15 May**, 4pm, SACS Essay Box, level 9, Murphy Building **and** via Turnitin

Submission and return of work

You must submit your assignments in **two** ways.

- 1) Submit to **Turnitin** electronically by the due date. The Turnitin link is on Blackboard under 'Course Resources', in the 'Assessment' folder.

AND

- 2) Submit a paper copy to the assignment box at the SACS Office, Level 9 Murphy building by the due date.

Your paper copy must include:

- a) A completed SACS assignment cover sheet on the front.
- b) The assignment marking guide that will be handed out in class. Attach it to the back of your essay.

Marked assignments not collected in lectures or tutorials can be collected at the Murphy 9th floor reception desk, between **2.00 and 4.00 pm only** from Monday to Friday.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Extensions will be granted to students prior to submission date due to serious and justifiable circumstances. Extensions for up to 4 days can be obtained from the lecturer, Catherine Trundle via email. For longer extensions please arrange to speak with Catherine in person.

Penalties

Penalties will apply for lateness in presenting assignments. 5% of the value of the assignment will be deducted from the piece of work per day (e.g., on a 20 mark assignment you would lose 1 mark for each late day).

Practicum/placement/field trip/internship arrangements

There are no other arrangements for this course.

Set texts

Each student should buy the prepared book of Student Notes from Vic Books since ready access to and familiarity with its contents will be required throughout the course. Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Student evaluations are a valued source of feedback and will be completed in the second half of the course.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates

- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

School Contact Information

Head of School:	Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013 Phone: 463 5676, Email: allison.kirkman@vuw.ac.nz
International Student Liaison:	Dr Hal Levine, MY1023 Phone: 463 6132, Email: hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz
Māori and Pacific Student Liaison:	Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101 Phone: 463 5432, Email: trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz
Students with Disabilities Liaison:	Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120 Phone: 463 9980, Email: russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz
School Manager:	La'Chelle Pretorius, MY918 Phone: 463 6546, Email: lachelle.pretorius@vuw.ac.nz
School Administrators:	Suzanne Weaver, Heather Day, Alison Melling, MY921, Phone: 463 5317; 463 5677; 463 5258 Email: sacs@vuw.ac.nz
School of Social and Cultural Studies:	www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs