



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 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 29 June 2016

Teaching dates: 29 February to 5 June 2016

Easter break: 24–30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Last assessment item due: 3 June 2016

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

Class times and locations

Lectures: Thursday 13.10 - 14.00, HMLT002
 Friday 13.10 – 15.00, HMLT002

Tutorials: Tutorials will start in week 2 and finish in week 11. There will be no tutorials in week 8 (the week beginning Monday 18 April).

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: March 3 & 4

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: March 10 & 11

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: March 17 & 18

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 5: March 31 & 1 April

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 6: April 7 & 8

Biopower: key thinkers

Lecture 1: What is biopower? Foucault's ideas.

Lecture 2: Documentary: *After the Apocalypse*, followed by discussion.

Week 7: April 14 & 15

Biopower: how the sick gain recognition and legitimacy

Lecture 1: Biological Citizenship and Biosociality

Lecture 2: Documentary: *Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making us Sick? In Sickness and in Wealth*, followed by discussion.

Week 8: April 21 & 22

Biopower: poverty, inequality and health

Lecture 1 Documentary and discussion: *When the Bough Breaks*.

Lecture 2: Guest Lecture

Week 9: 5 & 6 May

Communities of illness and human rights

Lecture 1: Inequality and Health in New Zealand.

Lecture 2: A case study: Nuclear test veterans

Week 10: 12 & 13 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 11: 19 & 20 May

Genetics, Choice and Property

Lecture 1: The patenting of life and cell lines.

Lecture 2: The trade and transplantation of organs.

Week 12: 26 & 27 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 13: 2 & 3 June

Lecture 1: Summing up the course.

Lecture 2: in-class test

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

By the end of ANTH 307 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 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 a genuine attempt at the Research Essay in order to meet CLOs 1, 2 and 3
- submit the genuine attempt at blog posts in order to meet CLOs 2, 3, 4 and 5
- Sit the in-class test in order to meet CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- attend at least 7 out of 9 tutorials in order to meet CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Reasons for acceptable absence to tutorials (for which minimum attendance in 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.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

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 in the first lecture and on Blackboard.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	2 of the weekly Blackboard blog posts (300-500 words each)	10% each	2,3,4,5	13 April 2016
2	2 of the weekly Blackboard blog posts (300-500 words each)	10% each	2,3,4,5	1 June 2016
3	Research Essay (3000 – 3500 words)	35%	1,2,3	13 May 2016
4	In class test (1 hr 50 mins)	25%	1,2,3,4,5	3 June 2016

Blog Posts

Assignment weighting: 10% each (40% in total)

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

Word Limit: 300-500 words each.

You must choose two weeks between weeks 1-7, and two weeks between weeks 8-13 during which you write and post a blog entry to the class blog on Blackboard (4 weeks in total during which you post 4 blog entries in total). You must also submit a printed paper copy of your first two blog posts on April 15, 4pm, and your second two blog posts on June 1, 4pm SACS Essay Box, level 9, Murphy Building.

Research Essay

Assignment weighting: 35%

(Linked to learning objectives 1, 2 and 3)

Word Limit: 3000-3500 words.

Due: **Monday 13 May**, 4pm, SACS Essay Box, level 9, Murphy Building **and** via Turnitin.

In-Class Test

Assignment weighting: 25%

(Linked to learning objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4)

One Hour and 50 minutes

Due: 3rd June, in lecture class.

Submission and return of work

Essay

You must submit your essay 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.

Blog Posts

You must submit your blog posts in two ways.

1) **By posting it online on the Blackboard class blog.**

You can choose which weeks you will write blog posts, as long as two are completed before 13 April and two are completed before 1 June. For each week you choose to write a post, you can submit it anytime throughout that week, but you must submit it at the latest by the Tuesday directly following that week (midnight).

AND

2) **Submit a printed out paper copy** of your first two blogs on April 13, 4pm, and your last two blogs on June 1, 4pm SACS Essay Box, level 9, Murphy Building. (Please print out your entry from the blog page, rather than a different Word Doc, to ensure it is exactly the same material as is posted online). On your assignment cover sheet please write *which weeks* you have posted your blog entries (e.g. weeks 2 and 5).

Your paper copies of the essay and blog posts must include:

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

Marked assignments not collected in lectures or tutorials can be collected at the Murphy 9th floor reception desk, between **11:00am and 3:00pm only**, 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).

Set texts

There is no set text or book of student notes for this course. All readings will be placed on Blackboard by the Course Coordinator.

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.

Student feedback

In feedback last year students commented on the engaging nature of the course content and the relevance of material covered to understanding contemporary social issues. In response to student feedback the assessment has been altered to include blog posts.

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

- 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
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- 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
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- 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: Prof Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich, MY1019
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