

# **COURSE SYLLABUS**

## **MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

**ANT 3462 - U01. Spring 2019**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 to 1:45. Charles Perry – PC 439**

**Florida International University**

**Version of January 6, 2019**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Medical anthropology is concerned with human life and wellness. This course is a comparative study of the effects of culture on disease and health care. It stresses the importance of social and cultural factors in governing the type and frequency of disease in a population, the way people explain and treat disease, the way people adapt to changing environments, and the manner in which persons respond and relate to the delivery of modern medicine.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES: What you should be able to do on completion of this course.**

1. Explain the importance of "culture" in governing the type and frequency of disease in a population.
2. Analyze the social and cultural basis for current health issues and disparities.
3. Identify the unique health beliefs and practices of ethnic communities.
4. Describe the responsibilities of health professionals to provide health services in a culturally appropriate manner.
5. Articulate how anthropologists contribute to health research, interventions and education.
6. Appraise various medical anthropology careers.

### **INSTRUCTOR**

Dennis Wiedman, Ph.D. Anthropologist

Associate Professor. Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies

Office: University Park SIPA 327. 305-348-2262

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30 to 3:30, or by appointment.

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Always communicate with instructor using Canvas messages.

**Teaching Assistant:** TBA Communicate using Canvas messages.

### **REQUIRED BOOKS AND JOURNAL ARTICLES:**

Erickson, Pamela

2008 Ethnomedicine. Long Grove, Ill: Waveland Press. ISBN: 9781577665212

McElroy, Ann, and Patricia K. Townsend

2014 Medical Anthropology in Ecological Perspective.

Sixth Edition. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press.

ISBN: 9780813348872. Also available as an electronic ebook.

Required Journal Articles: Selected peer-reviewed medical anthropology journal articles noted in the course schedule below are available free of charge through the FIU Library electronic journals.

## EXPECTATIONS FOR THIS COURSE

As a student in this course, you are expected to:

1. Attend class, complete in-class and out-of-class exercises.
2. Introduce yourself in the Canvas discussions during Week 1 to proceed in course.
3. Take the Syllabus Quiz earning 100% to proceed in course
4. Agree to the Ethics Statement to proceed in course.
5. Read and understand the required books and journal articles.
6. Become a specialist on a weekly course topic and related required Journal Article.
7. Produce an Essay on a selected additional Journal Article on your topic.
8. Communicate with assigned group members using Canvas Group Discussions.
9. Develop and present with your group members a PowerPoint on how anthropologists contribute to health research, intervention, and education related to the required Journal Article.
10. Follow the course schedule and submit assignments by the corresponding deadlines
11. Log in to Canvas at least two times per week to review announcements, messages, and discussions.
12. Take two exams and a final examination.
13. Respond to Canvas Messages within 2 days

Instructor will:

1. Log in to the Canvas course 7 times per week
2. Respond to Canvas Messages within 3 days
3. Grade assignments within 14 days of the assignment deadline

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All course requirements must be completed in order to earn a passing grade. See course schedule below for deadlines and in Canvas Course Modules. Each course requirement earns points as noted in the grade calculation section. ***Final grades are non-negotiable; letter grades are assigned based on the points earned. Final grades are released in Panthersoft.***

**1) Learning Enhancements.** Ways to enhance your learning.

1. Syllabus Quiz 2. Self-introduction 3. Ethics Statement 4. Course Feedback Survey

**2) Exercises** are in-class and out-of-class assignments that enable students to express their perspectives, course comprehension and research abilities while demonstrating their writing and presentation skills. Most are questions or short essays. Best scores are awarded for perfect punctuation, format and logic. This is a way that your attendance is recorded. Missed in-class exercises cannot be made up; a written note from a health practitioner is required in order not to receive reduced points.

**3) Exams** enable the student to demonstrate an understanding of the subject by focusing on class lectures, films, readings, and special presentations. Two exams and a final exam are scheduled. In-class printed exams are composed of matching, multiple choice, true & false, word identifications, essays, etc. Legitimate reasons for not taking an exam at the scheduled time must be approved by the instructor prior to that date. Failure to take an exam at the scheduled time will result in a letter

## Medical Anthropology Syllabus

grade reduction from the achieved score. Students with a written medical excuse from a health practitioner receive their full exam score.

**4) Additional Journal Article Essay:** Demonstrate your knowledge of the topic and required journal article by writing an essay based on one recent additional anthropology journal article. Select one additional journal article published within ten years that is directly related to your required journal article. Must be a different journal article than other group members. Article must be authored by an anthropologist and published in a peer-reviewed anthropology journal. Post to discussions the FIU electronic library web link, abstract, and full citation with author, date, journal title, volume, issue, pages and a few sentences noting how it relates to the required journal topic. In your Essay compare your additional article with the required journal article and with the readings by McElroy and Townsend, and/or Erickson. How does the additional article contribute new knowledge to the topic? Text of the essay must be more than 500 words, not including the Abstract, and References Cited Section. Essay and full citation must be in the style of the American Anthropologist. Completed essay must be submitted in both Canvas Groups, and Canvas Assignment Submissions. Do not rely on this description for your essay, see more detailed instructions and required outline in Canvas Module: Course Requirements.

**5) Group Required Journal Article Presentation:** To enhance the learning experience the weekly topic and required journal article are discussed by the whole class led by a student group. Students assigned to each topic and required article form a group that develops a PowerPoint presentation containing information and questions that stimulate discussions on critical points of the required article. Use Canvas Group Discussions to communicate and post drafts of presentation. See Canvas Module for more instructions and Weekly Group Timeline Chart with due dates.

### **6) Multiple Choice Question and Justification**

Create a multiple-choice question on a specific aspect of *your required journal article*. This must be on a different aspect than other students in your group. Use the format detailed in the Canvas instructions for “Designing Multiple Choice Questions.” Include a paragraph justifying the importance of the topic for understanding this major theory. Note the specific page number in the *required journal article* where more information can be found. Also, include the correct answer. In Canvas Discussions post in the editing window, not as a attached file. Respond to questions and clarifications that students have in discussing your question. Best questions may be used in the exams.

## **OPTIONAL WAYS TO GET A BETTER GRADE**

Students who want to ensure a better grade can 1) write an optional course essay and, if you care to, 2) produce a PowerPoint presentation based on this research. The instructor then invites selected students to 3) present their PowerPoint research before the class.

**1) Optional Essay:** Choose a topic from the list provided by the instructor, read the articles on the topic, and write essay. Essay should be a minimum of 500 words. A Proposal of at least 250 words identifying the topic, why you are interested in this topic, selected articles, and a “References Cited” section in AA style must be submitted by the scheduled date. Changing topics requires resubmission of a new proposal. Proposal and essay are worth up to 10 extra points. Both must be submitted to receive points. Submit in Canvas. More specific instructions are in Canvas.

## Medical Anthropology Syllabus

### 2) Optional PowerPoint for students completing Optional Research Essay

Students completing the optional essay can produce a PowerPoint Presentation based on their research. Provide the instructor with the PowerPoint presentation in Canvas. Submitting a PowerPoint is a commitment to present it to the class if selected. Be sure to reduce the pixel size of the graphic images so that the file is not too large to submit via Canvas. CDs or thumb drives are not acceptable given the chance for viruses.

**3) Optional PowerPoint Presentation to the class:** The Instructor will preview the PowerPoints submitted and invite selected students to present their work to the class.

**4) Optional Events:** Attend course related activities, exhibits, places, etc., approved in advance by the instructor. Write a 250-500 word essay on how the event contributes to your understanding of a specific aspect related to medical anthropology. Submit in Canvas within one week after the event.

### COURSE COMMUNICATIONS – Canvas.

Below is a summary of the primary methods to communicate in the class within Canvas.

#### Announcements

Used when I need to communicate something to the whole class. It is important to read announcements as soon as they are posted. Please note, announcements are sent to your FIU student email address on record. Please review the following tutorials:

[How do I view Announcements?](#)

[How do I set my Canvas notification preferences as a student?](#)

[How do I add an additional email address as a contact method in Canvas as a student?](#)

#### Canvas Inbox

This is the best method to communicate with me privately. Please review the following tutorials:

- [How do I use Conversations as a student?](#)
- [How do I find my unread messages in Conversations as a student?](#)
- [How do I filter conversations as a student?](#)
- [How do I star a conversation as a student?](#)

#### Discussion Forums

Be sure to regularly check the Canvas Discussion: General Forum. Here you and the instructor can post any course issues, such as clarification of instructions, problems, issues, or interesting ways to use Canvas. Students, please help one another by answering questions or issues when they are posted. Post interesting ideas you may have related to the course. This is an open discussion facilitating back and forth dialog. Something in the news related to the course? Find an interesting web site? How about your insights connecting things learned in the course, or new ways to implement anthropological concepts. Is there a campus/community event, TV program, or special place to see? This Forum is to liven up the course and facilitate interactions. (This forum is not for course points or a grade).

## Medical Anthropology Syllabus

Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox.

Visit the FIU [Writing Resources](#) webpage for more information on professional writing and technical communication skills.

### Policies

**FIU Policies:** Please review [FIU's Policies](#) webpage containing essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU.

**Classroom Etiquette:** During class time cell phones and text messaging must be turned off and out of sight. Class discussions demonstrate the student's interest in the course, understanding of the materials, as well as critical thinking and verbal skills. Active, courteous and informed participation is highly desired.

**Attendance:** In order to succeed in this course, students are expected to attend every class. Avoid arriving late or leaving early since this disrupts the presentation and student concentration. Course materials, exercises and discussions presented in class are the responsibility of the student. In-class exercises are designed to promote attendance.

**Timeliness.** Exercises and essays are due on the due time and date. Late Essays receive a letter grade reduction for each week it is late. Exercises are not accepted after the due date. The last dates to submit extra credits and late assignments are posted in the course schedule.

### Academic Misconduct Statement

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Academic Misconduct includes: **Cheating** – The unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources; or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, class recitations; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers or course materials, whether originally authorized or not. **Plagiarism** – The use and appropriation of another's work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is responsible for plagiarism.

## Medical Anthropology Syllabus

All sources must be identified with in-text citations and in a "References Cited" section using the style of American Anthropologist. Essays submitted to Canvas assignments are assessed for originality by "Turnitin." Students who violate these principles could receive a grade of "F" for the course. The instructor has the authority to consider academic misconduct charges that carry considerable penalties. You must agree to the **Ethics Statement** in Canvas to proceed with the course.

### COURSE POINTS AND GRADE CALCULATIONS:

Calculate your earned course points anytime during the semester to calculate your grade. **Canvas does not accurately total scores. Final grades are assigned based on the points earned and are non-negotiable.** Final grades are released in Panthersoft.

#### COURSE POINTS

Learning Enhancements 4 @ 1 pt	4
Three Exams 13, 13, 17 pts	43
Group Journal Article Presentation	10
Additional Article Selection	3
Additional Article Essay	7
Multiple Choice Question	3
Exercises **	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>
<i>Optional: Earn points up to:</i>	
Optional Proposal and Essay	10
PowerPoint Presentation	3
Presentation to Class	5
Events (usually 1 point each)	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>119</b>

#### FINAL GRADE CALCULATION

##### Grand Total Points

<b>A</b>	= 95 – 100	<b>C+</b>	= 77 – 79.9
<b>A-</b>	= 90 – 94.9	<b>C</b>	= 70 – 76.9
<b>B+</b>	= 87 – 89.9	<b>D</b>	= 60 – 69.9
<b>B</b>	= 83 – 86.9	<b>F</b>	= 59.9 or less
<b>B-</b>	= 80 – 82.9		

\*\* At the end of the semester the total number of points for the Exercises may be more or less than the Course Points. Exercise points are calculated using the following formula: A) Total points earned divided by B) Total possible points, multiplied by C) 30 Course Points = D) Course Points Earned.  $(A / B) \times 30 = D$

### COURSE AND READING SCHEDULE

You are responsible for reviewing all weekly course content before the class meeting. Below is a guide to when lessons, activities, quizzes, exercises and meetings are scheduled or due. Modifications discussed in class and posted in Canvas supersede this schedule.

#### Week One: January 8 and 10.

Introductions and Course Overview

Presentation: Medical Anthropology Defined

McElroy & Townsend - Chapter 1: Ecology of Health and Disease. Pps 1-22.

Erickson – Chapter 1: What is Ethnomedicine. Pps 1-12.

**Student Introduction.** Post in Canvas: Discussions by Sunday, January 13 -11:59 PM.

*(Must be completed to proceed in course)*

**Syllabus Quiz** completed by Sunday, January 13, 11:59 pm. *(Must be completed to proceed in course)*

## Medical Anthropology Syllabus

### Week Two: January 15 and 17

Presentations: Health Disparities, Inequalities, and Structural Violence. Ethnomedicine as Medical System  
McElroy & Townsend - Chapter 2: Research Methods in Health Problems. Pps. 23-50.

Chap 13: First, Do No Harm: Ethics in Medical Anthropology. Pps. 287-310.

Article A: Wiedman and Martinez. 2017 Organizational Culture Themes and Strategic Planning of New Medical School. *Human Organization* 76(3):264-274.

**Ethics Statement** completed by Sunday, January 20, 11:59. (*Must be completed to proceed in course*)

### Week Three: January 22 and 24

Presentation: Health Ecology of Populations

McElroy & Townsend - Chapter 3: Human Biocultural Diversity and Health. Pps. 51-74.

Article B: Bourgois, Phillippe, Seth Holmes, Kim Sue and James Quesada

2017 Structural Vulnerability: Operationalizing the Concept to Address Health Disparities in Clinical Care. *Academic Medicine*. 92(3):299-307 92(3):299-307.

**Exercise: Rank order preference** of 3 weekly topics and required journal articles with justifications paragraph for each. Bring printed to class Tuesday, January 22 and post in Canvas by 11:59 pm.

### Week Four: January 29 and 31

Presentation: Health Ecology (Continued)

McElroy & Townsend - Chapter 4: Prehistory of Disease. Pps. 75-94

Article 1. Wrangham, Richard, and Rachel Carmody.

2010 Human Adaptation to the Control of Fire. *Evolutionary Anthropology* 19(5):187-199.

**Multiple Choice Question on Required Article in Discussions by Sunday, February 3, 11:59 pm.**

### Week Five: February 5 and 7

Presentation: Sociocultural Development & Health – Hunters and Gatherers

McElroy & Townsend - Chapter 5: Emerging Diseases of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Pps. 95-114.

Article 2. Wiedman, Dennis. 2012 Native American Embodiment of the Chronicities of Modernity: Reservation Food, Diabetes, and the Metabolic Syndrome among the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 26(4):595-612.

**Selected additional selected journal article** in Canvas discussions by Sunday, February 10 at 11:59.

### Week Six: February 12 and 14

Presentation: H&G Continued

McElroy & Townsend - Chapter 6: Changing Population and Environmental Hazards. Pps 115-138.

Article 3. Orlando, Giovanni. 2018 Offsetting Risk: Organic Food, Pollution, and the Transgression of Spatial Boundaries. *Culture, Agriculture, Food and Environment*. 40(1):45-54.

**Exam 1: Tuesday, February 12.**

**Learning Enhancement: Course Feedback Survey** in Canvas by Sunday February 17, 11:59 PM.

### Week Seven: February 19 and 21

Presentation: Development & Health from Horticulture to Globalization

McElroy & Townsend - Chapter 7: Human Reproduction as a Biocultural Process. Pps.139-162

Article 4: Valdez, Natali. 2018 The Redistribution of Reproductive Responsibility: On the Epigenetics of “Environment” in Prenatal Interventions. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 32: 425-442.

**Additional Article Essay to be posted in Canvas Dropbox by Sunday, February 24 at 11:59.**

### Week Eight: February 26 and 28

Presentation: Horticulture to Globalization Continued

McElroy & Townsend - Chapter 8: The Ecology of Nutrition. Pps. 163-186.

Erickson – Chapter 2: Historical Origins of Medical Systems. 13-34.

Article 5: Ember, Carol R., et al. 2018 Our Better Nature: Does Resource Stress Predict Beyond-Household Sharing? *Evolution and Human Behavior* 39(4):380-391.

**Optional Course Essay Proposal. Post in Canvas: Assignment Drop Box. Sunday, March 3 at 11:59 PM.**

## Medical Anthropology Syllabus

### Week Nine: March 5 and 7

Presentation: Development of American Health Systems. World Theory of Disease  
McElroy & Townsend - Chapter 9: The Global Economy of Food: Stuffed or Starved. Pps. 187-210.  
Erickson – Chapter 3: What causes disease? Theories of disease causation. Pps. 35-58  
Article 6: Tippens, Kimberly Michelle, Erica Oberg, and Ryan Bradley  
2012 A Dialogue between Naturopathy and Critical Medical Anthropology.  
Medical Anthropology Quarterly 26(2):257-270.

### Spring Break – March 11 to 15. No classes

### Week Ten: March 19 and 21

Presentation: Allopathy  
McElroy & Townsend - Chap 10: Stress, Trauma and Mental Illness. Pps. 211-236.  
Erickson – Chapter 4: Geography of Disease Causation. Pps. 59-98  
Article 7: Alemi, Qais, Susan Weller, Susanne Montgomery, Sigrid James  
2017 Afghan Refugee Explanatory Models of Depression: Exploring Core Cultural Beliefs and Gender Variations.  
Medical Anthropology Quarterly 31(2):177-197

### Week Eleven: March 26 and 28

Presentation: Allopathy Continued  
McElroy & Townsend - Chap 11: Health Resources for Vulnerable Populations. Pps. 237-262:  
Erickson – Chapter 5: The Healing lessons of Ethnomedicine. Pps. 99-108.  
Article 8: Padilla, Mark B., Sheilla Rodríguez-Madera, Nelson Varas-Díaz & Alixida Ramos-Pibernus  
2016 Trans-Migrations: Border-Crossing and the Politics of Body Modification Among Puerto Rican Transgender  
Women. International Journal of Sexual Health, 28:4, 261-277.

### Exam 2: Tuesday, March 26.

**Optional Essay: Post in Canvas: Assignment Drop Box. Sunday, March 31, 11:59 PM.**

### Week Twelve: April 2 and 4

Presentation: Culturally Competent Care and Community Empowerment  
McElroy & Townsend - Chap 12: Health Costs and Benefits of Globalization. Pps. 263-286.  
Article 9: Calabrese, Joseph D.  
2008 Clinical Paradigm Clashes: Ethnocentric and Political Barriers to Native American Efforts at Self-Healing.  
Ethos 36(3):334-353.

**Optional Power Point Presentation: Post in Canvas: Assignment Drop Box. Sunday, April 7, 11:59 PM**

### Week Thirteen: April 9 and 11

Presentation: Healing and Health Systems,  
McElroy & Townsend - Chap 14: Applying Medical Anthropology in Health Careers. Pps. 311-424  
Student Optional Presentations  
*Deadline for all extra credits. Sunday, April 14, 11:59 PM*

### Week Fourteen: April 16 and 18

Presentation: Culturally Competent Organizations  
Student Optional Presentations  
Course Review

### Week Fifteen. April 23 and 25

**Final Exam as scheduled by the University – Tuesday April 23. 12:00 to 2:00.**  
Student Optional Presentations if needed