



THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Course title: HPRM7010 The Anthropology of Health

Course coordinator: [Dr Megan Jennaway](#)

Mode: Internal and External

Course introduction:

This course explores the cultural and social dimensions of health and illness in a wide variety of local and international contexts. Using perspectives informed by medical anthropology, it examines cultural aspects of international health, cross-cultural interpretations of illness, and the processes of medical syncretism to derive understandings and insights that can inform health interventions in global and local contexts.

Course aims:

The principal aims are: 1. to provide students with a deep understanding of the significance of cultural and social factors in relation to international health; 2. to demonstrate the contribution medical anthropology can make to international health research and interventions; 3. to gain an appreciation of the variety and specificity of cultural understandings of illness and health in non-Western or alternate social settings; 4. to introduce students to a comprehensive range of local cultural concepts and nosologies that have currency in non-Western settings and to thus explore avenues of integration or complementarity with cosmopolitan medicine; 5. to introduce students to the core qualitative methodologies used in cross-cultural research.

Course content:

Specific topics include:

- Anthropology, biomedicine and global health
- Ethnomedicine: indigenous medical systems
- Transcultural psychiatry: 'culture-bound' disorders, deviance and mental health
- Medical pluralism: parallel medical systems
- Folk healers and indigenous therapists
- Biomedical healers and the global expansion of western medical services
- Ethno-pharmacology: local and global medicines
- Nutritional anthropology: local and global dietary practices
- Human fertility: sexuality, reproduction and women's health
- Medical ecology: human adaptation in cultural perspective
- Applied anthropology and global health: collaborative interventions
- Anthropological methods: ethnographic and qualitative approaches to health research

Method of assessment:

There are two written assignments and a tutorial presentation.

Recommended text:

Hahn, R.A. (ed.) 1999 *Anthropology in Public Health: Bridging Differences in Culture and Society*.

Oxford University Press: USA

Nichter, M. & Nichter, M. (eds.) 1996 *Anthropology and International Health: Asian Case Studies*.

Gordon & Breach: USA

Required resources:

Study guide: This contains the week-by-week learning materials for each module. These include clear learning objectives, the required reading, introduction, a brief synopsis and key definitions, case studies, and then a series of practical exercises.

Online Blackboard site: This provides an interactive environment for you and teachers. Reliable and regular access to the Internet is required.

Further details are provided in the [Course Profile](#):

http://www.uq.edu.au/study/course.html?course_code=HPRM7010