
**Anthropology 341
Medical Anthropology
GFC Hours 3-0
Winter 2024**

Prerequisite(s): Anthropology 203

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of bioanthropological and cultural approaches to health, disease, sickness, and illness.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology is committed to student knowledge and skill development.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the theoretical and practical approaches, research methods, analytical insights, factual information, and conclusions made within the subfield of medical anthropology.
2. Demonstrate ability to analyze and discuss central issues surrounding health, disease, illness, and sickness behaviour in a cross-cultural perspective.
3. Use a range of research skills to comparatively investigate health and illness within and between cultural groups.
4. Understand past, contemporary, and future issues surrounding the construction of disease and illness within cultural context.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary health issues (e.g., COVID) and be able to articulate different views on these issues.
6. Understand and demonstrate the ability to transfer knowledge obtained in the course to new and unique situations.

Material covered in this course will include lecture, film, discussion, and required readings. Grades and evaluation will be based on the student's (i) breadth of factual and theoretical knowledge, (ii) comprehension of concepts and descriptive materials, and (iii) clarity and structure of presentation both in class and in written materials. All written assignments including, written exam responses will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization.

REQUIRED READINGS AND TEXTBOOK:

Brown, Peter J. & Closser, Svea (2016) *Understanding and Applying Medical Anthropology*, 3rd Ed.

*Reading assignments from the textbook will be listed weekly in D2L.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY and EQUIPMENT:

- You must have a working computer with a broadband internet connection, an updated browser, webcam, and microphone (i.e., working camera and microphone) to participate in the zoom discussion sessions.
- You must have access to D2L, Word and PowerPoint for online examinations.

- **Zoom** is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a "live" video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.
- To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.
- The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity, and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect. When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions

may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies. If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom>.

- If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session. Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).
- The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

Final course grades will be based on weekly participation in discussion sessions, 2 midterm examinations, and a final examination. Examinations will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and an essay question.

1st Midterm Exam 35% posted Thursday Feb 15 @ 1515 hrs; Due Friday, Feb 16 at 1515 hrs

2nd Midterm Exam 35% posted Thursday, March 21 @ 1515 hrs; Due Friday, Mar 22 at 1515 hrs

Registrar Scheduled Final Exam 25% Apr 12-23 Exact date TBA

Discussion Session Participation. 5% ongoing

Midterms will be open book ‘take-home’ examinations. Students can use class notes, lecture materials, and textbook readings during examinations. Joint or shared interactions between students and/or others is **not** allowed. Students will have 24 hours to complete their exams and return them to the drop-box in D2L. The final exam will be scheduled during the Registrar Final Exam Period. Students must complete the exam during the scheduled time. Students will have 180 minutes to complete and return the final exam on the scheduled day.

Missed examinations cannot be made up without the approval of the instructor. Exams may only be deferred in the case of serious illness or medical emergency, religious observance, or domestic affliction (see: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-final-exams>).

Students who miss a test/exam have up to **48 hours** to contact the instructor to ask for a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48 hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. Makeup tests/exams may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from the regularly scheduled test/exam [i.e., no multiple choice, more short answer questions, a different essay exam). Once approved by the instructor a makeup test/exam must be written within **two weeks** of the missed test/exam on a day/time scheduled by the instructor.

Deferral of the registrar-scheduled final exam requires Registrar approval <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-final-exams>

Students may provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note. Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Reappraisal of Final Grade: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Department of Anthropology and Archaeology Grading Scheme:

A+	95 – 100%	B+	80 – 84.9%	C+	67 – 70.9%	D+	55 – 58.9%
A	90 – 94.9%	B	75 – 79.9%	C	63 – 66.9%	D	50 – 54.9%
A-	85 – 89.9%	B-	71 – 74.9%	C-	59 – 62.9%	F	< 50%

*****Please note that no extra credit or ‘make up’ work is available in this class*****

Land Acknowledgement

The University of Calgary, located in the heart of Southern Alberta, both acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut’ina

First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta (Districts 5 and 6).

Acknowledgment and Respect for Diversity

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology views diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion.

COURSE POLICIES

Course Information:

1. The course consists of weekly asynchronous lectures, and synchronous discussion sessions.
2. Asynchronous lectures will be posted on Monday (or earlier) for the students to review during the week.
3. Synchronous discussion sessions will be conducted via Zoom on Tuesday and Thursday, 1400-1515. Students are **required to attend and participate in 1 of the 2 sessions each week**. Attendance will be recorded and participation marks will be earned.
4. Readings will be from the required textbook.
5. Course evaluation consists of 2 midterm exams, 1 final exam, and participation in discussion sessions.

Weekly Discussion Session (via Zoom):

1. Weekly discussion session will cover the topics presented in the current week's lectures and readings.
2. Although the sessions may vary slightly due to the attending students' questions or concerns, students **are required to attend** either the Tuesday or Thursday session (students can attend both). Attendance will be recorded.
3. The sessions work well if students participate and bring their questions into the discussion.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/student-services/access>. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor or the Department Head. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. The University Calendar includes a statement on the principles of conduct expected of all members of the university community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors, and volunteers), whether on or off university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary, and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html. Often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are (1) presenting another student's work as your own, (2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

For students wishing to know more about what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly cite the work of others, the Department of Geography recommends that they attend Academic Integrity workshops offered through the Student Success Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/studentservices/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as notesharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing. Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/university-policies-procedures/intellectual-property-policy>

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policiesprocedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

SUPPORTS FOR STUDENT LEARNING, SUCCESS, AND SAFETY

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/courseoutlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

'It's important to give bread when people are hungry, but its also important to know why they didn't have bread in the first place.'

*Pre-recorded lectures will be posted in D2L on the Monday (or earlier) of each week.

*Note- Live (via Zoom) discussion sessions will be held on Tuesday and Thursday 1400 to 1515 every week unless otherwise noted.

Week of:	Topics
8 Jan	(a) Introduction to Medical Anthropology (b) Anthropological Perspectives on Health, Illness and Disease

Anthropology of Illness

15 Jan	(a) Illness Behaviour/theories of illness causation (b) Explanatory Models of Illness / the 'sick role'
22 Jan	Caring and Curing and the development of Health Care Systems
29 Jan	The Art of Healing (a) Healers and Healing in Cross-Cultural Perspective (b) Total Drug/Treatment Effect -Culture and Pharmacology
5 Feb	Cross cultural Mental Health and Illness
12 Feb	Cross cultural mental health and illness cont.
	1st Mid-term Examination – posted Thursday Feb 15 @ 1515 hrs. Due Friday, Feb 16 at 1515 hrs.
19 Feb	Reading Break – no classes

Anthropology of Disease

26 Feb	Changing Relationships with Illness and Disease
4 Mar	(a) Evolutionary/Ecological Perspectives on Health and Disease (b) Disease Etiology
11 Mar	Human Behaviour and Disease

18 Mar Historical Perspectives of Disease in Human Populations

**2nd Mid-term Examination – posted Thursday, March 21 @ 1515 hrs.
Due Friday, March 22 at 1515 hrs.**

25 Mar Historical Perspectives of Disease in Human Populations cont.

Applied Medical Anthropology

1 Apr Applied Medical Anthropology:
(a) Cultural Contact and Change between Health Care Systems

8 Apr (a) Sociopolitical and Economic aspects of Disease and Illness
(b) Syndemic Perspectives
(c) Conclusions

Final Examination – to be scheduled by the Registrar (Apr 12 to 23 exam period)

IMPORTANT DATES

M Jan 8	Start of Classes
R Jan 18	Last day to drop a class without a financial penalty
F Jan 19	Last day to add or swap a course
F Jan 26	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.
M Feb 19	Alberta Family Day No Classes.
Feb 18-24	Reading Break. No classes.
F Mar 29	Good Friday no classes
M Apr 1	Easter Monday no classes
T Apr 9	End of classes Last day to withdraw from half courses.
Apr 12-23	Fall Final Exam Period.
May 20-25	Exam period for Registrar deferred final exams

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html#fall2017>