



School of Arts & Science  
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

**ANTH 270-001**  
**Culture, Health and Illness**  
Winter 2008

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Tuesday: Lecture 3:30 – 5:20 pm,  
Thursday: Seminar 3:30 – 4:20 pm or 4:30 – 5:20 pm,  
Young 214

**1. Instructor Information**

Instructor:	Karoline Herbison		
Office Hours:	Mo & We 10:30 am - 12 pm, Tue 11 - 12:30, and Thu 12:30 - 1 pm, or by appointment		
Location:	Paul 233		
Phone:	370-3370		
Email:	<a href="mailto:HerbisonK@camosun.bc.ca">HerbisonK@camosun.bc.ca</a>		

**2. Intended Learning Outcomes**

Knowledge Outcomes

1. Explain the main approaches in medical anthropology and its significance as an applied field of study.
2. Assess the influence of culture on ideas of best medical practice.
3. Write discussion papers on ethnographic materials from Western and non-Western societies.
4. Explain the role of culture in the illness experience, HIV/AIDS, the pharmaceuticalization of health, structural violence, and reproductive technologies.

Skills Outcomes

1. Develop: personal management skills through using high academic standards while meeting time deadlines;
2. Writing skills by preparing critical discussions and research papers;
3. Communicate thoughts, idea and information in a prescribed written form
4. readings skills through evaluating and comprehending course readings and library sources;
5. research skills by gathering data and analyzing materials
6. intercultural skills through the exploration of cross-cultural themes in health and illness.

### 3. Required Materials

#### **(a) From the bookstore:**

Joralemon, Donald  
2006 Exploring Medical Anthropology, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Boston: Pearson Education Inc.

Fadiman, Anne  
1997 The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down. New York: Farrer, Straus and Giroux.

Herbison, Karoline  
2008. Course Pack: ANTH 270 Culture, Health and Illness.

#### **(b) Online sources:**

Huss-Ashmore, Rebecca  
2000 'The Real Me': Therapeutic Narrative in Cosmetic Surgery. *In Expedition*, 42(3):26-38.  
(accessible through EBSCOhost)

Mitchell, Lisa M., and Eugenia Georges  
1997 Cross-Cultural Cyborgs: Greek and Canadian Women's Discourses on Fetal Ultrasound.  
*In Feminist Studies*, 23 (2):373-401.  
(accessible through JSTOR)

Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy  
2006 Food First Backgrounder: 12 Myths about Hunger. <http://www.foodfirst.org/12myths>

#### **(c) On reserve in the college library:**

Katz, Pearl  
1999 The Surgeon as Hero. *In The Scalpel's Edge: The Culture of Surgeons*. Pp. 19-41.  
Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

#### **(d) Handouts**

There will be several handouts, including an assignment handout, study guides, and a reading guide.

#### 4. Course Content and Schedule

Please note that the schedule below is tentative; possible changes will be announced in class.

Date	Topic	Readings
Week 1: Jan 8 & 10	Introduction to Anthropology Culture, Illness, and the Body	Chap. 1 (p. 1-8), Bower
Week 2: Jan 15 & 17	Introduction to Medical Anthropology Research Methods	Chap. 1 (p. 8-14), Chap. 2
Week 3: Jan 22 & 24	Evolutionary/Ecological Approach to Illness	Chap. 3, Diamond
Week 4: Jan 29 & 31	Interpretive & Critical Medical Approach to Illness <b>Tue: Assignment 1 Discussion Paper 1 due</b> <i>Sign-up for Assignment 3</i>	Chap. 4, Singer et. al., Adler
Week 5: Feb 5 & 7	<b>Tue: QUIZ (3:30 – 4:10 pm)</b> Shamanic Healing	Chap. 6 (pp. 70-76), Davis, Calderon
Week 6: Feb 12	The Culture of Biomedicine <i>Feb. 14 Reading Days: College closed</i>	Chap. 6 (pp. 76-87), Fadiman Chap. 1-5
Week 7: Feb 19 & 21	Multiple Medical Realities <b>Tue: Assignment 1 Discussion Paper 2 due</b>	Katz (library reserve), Fadiman Chap. 6-16
Week 8: Feb 26 & 28	Applying Medical Anthropology	Fadiman Chap. 17-19, Chap. 7, Harwood
Week 9: Mar 4 & 6	<b>Tue: MIDTERM EXAM</b> Thu: Culture, Health and the Disabled Body	Murphy
Week 10: Mar 11 & 13	Culture, Health and the Beautiful Body Thu: Presentation	Huss-Ashmore (online), Sobo
Week 11: Mar 18 & 20	Reproduction & Medical Ethics Thu: Presentation	Chap. 8, Mitchell & Georges (online), Scheper-Hughes
Week 12: Mar 25 & 27	HIV/AIDS & Other Infectious Diseases <b>Tue: Assignment 1 Discussion Paper 3 due</b> Thu: Presentation	Chap. 5, Farmer & Kleinman, Helman
Week 13: Apr 1 & 3	Food, Culture & Indigenous Health Thu: Presentation	Mintz, Weismantel, Raymer
Week 14: Apr 8 & 10	Health & Globalization <b>Tue: Assignment 2 Research Paper due</b> Thu: Presentation	Chap. 9, Food First (online)
Exam Period* Apr 14 - 22	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	

\* Please do not make summer travel or work plans before the final exam schedule is posted; accommodations cannot be made for plane tickets or work schedules.

## 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Students' grades are based on exams, assignments, and seminar participation. You will get a study guide for both exams and a detailed handout about the assignments.

### (a) Quiz & Exams (60%)

#### **Quiz (10%)**

The quiz on Feb. 5 consists of a few short-answer questions testing your understanding of the main theoretical approaches in medical anthropology. You will have 40 minutes at the beginning of class to answer it. (This assignment can only be rescheduled in an emergency and with proper documentation.)

#### **Midterm (25%)**

The midterm consists of a mix of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blanks, and short and long answer questions. It is based on all materials covered up to that day, including lecture topics, readings, and films.

#### **Final Exam (25%)**

The final is based on all materials covered after the midterm, including lecture topics, readings, and films. It will also include some general concepts covered earlier and throughout the course. The format is the same as that of the midterm.

### (b) Assignments (30%)

#### **Assignment 1: Two Discussion Papers (10%)**

This assignment consists of writing *two* short discussion papers (3 pages) based on two out of the following three articles: Why does Juan Garcia Have a Drinking Problem?, by Singer et al.; The Surgeon as Hero, by Katz; or AIDS as Human Suffering, by Frammer and Kleinman.

The assignment asks you to summarize the key points of the argument and critically discuss questions the article raises. The papers count 5% each.

Details will follow in the assignment handout.

#### **Assignment 2: Research Paper (15%) and Group-Presentation (5%)**

This assignment consists of a research paper (7 pages) written individually and a group-presentation on one of the topics listed below. During week 4, I will pass around a sign-up sheet, and during the seminar you will have time to connect with your group. Groups will consist of about four students. Please note that once you have signed up for a presentation date, you have to present on that date. You may, as a group, change your topic somewhat, but make sure you check with me.

- March 13: Cosmetic Surgery in a Non-Western country (i.e. Brazil) or another type of body modification
- March 20: Abortion in a specific cultural context (i.e. India, China, Russia)
- March 27: Malaria (or another infectious disease other than HIV/AIDS)
- April 3: Nutritional change and health in one or two cultural groups (that were until recently mainly pastoral or horticultural)
- April 10: Climate change and health challenges (you can focus on one particular area and culture or provide a comparison of two or three)

Your individual research papers should clearly relate to the presentation topic, but they can explore areas that are not covered in the presentation. Details will follow in the assignment handout.

### (c) Seminar Participation (10%)

The seminars will allow us to explore certain topics issues in more depth, and attendance and participation form an integral part of this course. Seminars will involve discussions and some activities based on the material covered in the lecture that week. Participation also means that sometimes you will be asked to provide a brief written response to a question, individually or in small groups. The focus of the seminar each week will be made clear in the lecture on Tuesdays; sometimes I will provide you with concrete questions to consider for the seminar, while at other times student input from the lecture may shape the focus of the seminar. In preparation for successful seminar participation it is necessary that you attend the lecture and do the readings.

**Please note:** Both exams must be written to successfully complete this course, and they have to be written at the scheduled times. In the case of an emergency or grave illness, you have to inform the instructor *before* the start of the exam or quiz and present a medical certificate. There are no exceptions without such a document.

Assignments are due in class on the days listed in the course schedule. For late assignments, 5% of the grade will be deducted per school day, and assignments will *not* be accepted more than three school days after the deadline.

There is no option to redo assignments or do extra assignments in this class. However, I encourage you to see me during office hours and get feedback as you are working on your assignments.

## 6. Grading System

### Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

## Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca) for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. <i>(For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3<sup>d</sup> course attempt or at the point of course completion.)</i>
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

## 7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

### LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services or the College web site at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca).

### STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.