

**The Anthropology of Health, Illness, and Healing**  
Tuesdays 7:00pm – 10:00pm, Building TBD

**Instructor: Priscilla Medeiros**E-mail: [medeirp@mcmaster.ca](mailto:medeirp@mcmaster.ca)

Office: Chester New Hall room 502

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00pm – 3:00pm, or by appointment

Course Website: [avenue.mcmaster.ca](http://avenue.mcmaster.ca)**Teaching Assistant: TBD**

E-mail: TBD

Office: TBD

Office Hours: TBD

**Course Description:**

This course introduces you to fundamental themes, theories, and contemporary debates in the field of medical anthropology. Some of the major topics we will explore include: the social meanings of illness, the role of belief in illness and health seeking behaviors, and the connections between social inequalities and health. Through a series of lectures, we will consider the intersecting points of the mind, body, and culture in different healing practices.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Compare and contrast the cultural understandings of illness and disease.
- Describe the anthropology of the body and its connection to explanations of illness and disease.
- Identify the contributions that important medical anthropologists have made to the development of this field.
- Critique health inequalities and their causes in different populations.

**Course Format and Expectations:**

This course consists of a one three-hour lecture each week. There are no tutorials in this course. PowerPoint slides for note taking in lectures will be available on Avenue before each lecture. Classes will also incorporate one break of 10 to 15 minutes.

Please complete readings before class. Attend weekly lectures and participate in discussions during lecture time to do well in the course. You are expected to complete all assignments on time.

**Required Texts, available in the campus store:**

These are available at Titles, the university bookstore.

1. Kleinman, Arthur. 1988. *The Illness Narratives: Suffering, Healing & the Human Condition*. New York: Basic Books.
2. Farmer, Paul. 1992. *AIDS and Accusations*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

**Learning Assessments:**

1. Reading Response Activities - 30% = (3 x 10% each)
2. Midterm Examination - 30%
3. Final Examination - 40%

See below for further details about each learning assessment.

**Reading Response Activities:**

You will complete **three** (3) of the four take-home reading response activities over the term. Each response activity will be made available to you on Avenue in advance of the posted deadline outlined in the syllabi. Written responses are to be 500-1000 words maximum in length. Whole class feedback will be presented in the following class to give you a clear idea of how to improve. These graded activities count towards your final grade, for a total of 30%. There is no credit for missed activities.

**Midterm Examination:**

The midterm examination will take place on **February 27**. It will cover all course material listed on the syllabus, and will consist of multiple-choice questions. A discussion forum for students to ask questions about the midterm will be open on Avenue in advance of the midterm recess.

**Final Examination:**

The final examination will be a scheduled test during the finals period. It is a cumulative assessment covering all course material, and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. *No testing aids will be permitted during the examination.*

**Lecture Schedule:**

Date	Topic	Readings	Deadlines
Jan. 9	Introductory lecture & discussion of syllabus	No readings	
Jan. 16	Illness experience  <b>In-class film:</b> "Alicia Mercado's Story," from Worlds Apart	Kleinman Ch. 1 & 2	
Jan. 23	The anthropology of the pain	Kleinman Ch. 3 & 4	
	Activity #1 question is available on Avenue.		

Jan. 30	Social and cultural complexities of chronic disease	Kleinman Ch. 5, 8 & 11	Activity #1 response is due by 4:00pm in the Dropbox.
Feb. 6	The role of stigma in health disparities <u>and</u> doctor-patient negotiation  <i>Activity #2 question is available on Avenue.</i>	Kleinman Ch. 10 & 14	
Feb. 13	Explanatory models of illness  <b>In-class film:</b> "Mohammad Kochi's Story," from <i>Worlds Apart</i>	Kleinman 7 & 15  Green, A.J., Carillo, J., & Betancourt, K. (2002). Why the disease-based model of medicine fails our patients. <i>Western Journal of Medicine</i> 176(2), 141-143. [LibAccess].	Activity #2 response is due by 4:00pm in the Dropbox.
Feb. 20	<b>Midterm Recess</b>		
Feb. 27	<b>Midterm Exam</b>		
Mar. 6	Anthropology of the body  <i>Activity #3 question is available on Avenue.</i>	Scheper-Hughes, N., & Lock, M. (1987). The mindful body: A prolegomenon to future work in medical anthropology. <i>Medical Anthropology Quarterly</i> 1(1), 6-41. [LibAccess]	
Mar. 13	Anthropology of the body	Csordas, T. (1990). Embodiment as paradigm for Anthropology. <i>Ethos</i> 18(1), 5-47. [LibAccess]  Brett-MacLean, P. (2009). Body mapping:	Activity #3 response is due by 4:00pm in the Dropbox.

		Embodying the self-living with HIV/AIDS. <i>Canadian Medical Association Journal</i> . March 180(7), 740-741. [LibAccess]	
Mar. 20	Local biologies	Farmer, Ch. 7-10, 18 & 19	
	<i>Activity #4 question is available on Avenue.</i>	Lock, M., & Nguyen, V. (2010). <i>Local biologies and human difference</i> . In an anthropology of biomedicine. Pp. 83-110. West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell Ltd. [Avenue]	
Mar. 27	Biopolitics and the State	Farmer, Ch. 5, 6, 12 & 20  Foucault, M. (2003) [1975]. <i>Chapter Eleven 17 March 1976</i> . In society must be defended. Pp. 239-264. New York: Picador. [Avenue]  Nguyen, V. (2010). <i>Biopower: Fever, tribes, and bulldozers</i> . In the republic of therapy. Pp. 111- 136. Durham: Duke University Press. [Avenue]	Activity #4 response is due by 4:00pm in the Dropbox.
Apr. 3	Final discussion <u>and</u> exam review	Nichter, M. (2008). <i>Why is research on local illness categories important?</i> In global health: Why cultural perceptions, social representations, and	

		biopolitics matter. Pp. 69-84. Tucson: The University of Arizona Press. [Avenue]	
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**Important Note:** To reduce your costs, articles listed in the syllabus will be available for download on LibAccess (library.mcmaster.ca) and Avenue to Learn. These are noted in the syllabus.

**Courtesy in the Classroom:**

Please turn off your cell phones and refrain from non-class related Internet activity during lecture.

**Class Cancellation:**

Students will be notified about class cancellations on Avenue to Learn.

**Course Modifications:**

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
E-MAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY**

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Email Forwarding in MUGSI:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/support/email/emailforward.html>

\*Forwarding will take effect 24-hours after students complete the process at the above link.

(Approved at the Faculty of Social Sciences meeting on Tues. May 25, 2010).

**Courtesy in Communications:**

All emails to your instructor and teaching assistant must be written in full sentences (i.e., no point form), and must include a subject line that includes the course code 3HI3. Your instructor or teaching assistant will respond to your e-mail in a timely manner.

**Academic Integrity:**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

**Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities**

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca). For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

**Missed Academic Term Work:**

- The MSAF should be used for medical and non-medical (personal) situations.
- Approval of the MSAF is automatic (i.e. no documentation required).
- Rules governing the MSAF are as follows:
  - The timeframe within which the MSAF is valid has been reduced from 5 days to 3 days.
  - The upper limit for when an MSAF can be submitted has been reduced from ‘less than 30%’ to ‘less than 25%’ of the course weight.
  - The ‘one MSAF per term’ limit is retained.
  - As per the policy, an automated email will be sent to the course instructor, who will determine the appropriate relief. Students must immediately follow up with their instructors. Failure to do so may negate their relief.
- Policy: The MSAF policy can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar under General Academic Regulations > Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work or here: <http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1698 - Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work>. If you have any questions about the MSAF, please contact your Associate Dean’s office.