

Glendale College

Course Outline of Record Report

Course ID 010775
Created - May 2025

ANTHR115 : Medical Anthropology: Medicine, Healthcare, and Healing

General Information

Author:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andre Yefremian • Stonis, Michelle • Fonarow, Wendy
Course Code (CB01) :	ANTHR115
Course Title (CB02) :	Medical Anthropology: Medicine, Healthcare, and Healing
Department:	ANTHR
Proposal Start:	Spring 2026
TOP Code (CB03) :	(2202.00) Anthropology
CIP Code:	(45.0201) Anthropology, General.
SAM Code (CB09) :	E - Non-Occupational
Distance Education Approved:	No
Will this course be taught asynchronously?:	Yes
Course Control Number (CB00) :	CCC000654125
Curriculum Committee Approval Date:	05/28/2025
Board of Trustees Approval Date:	07/08/2025
Last Cyclical Review Date:	05/28/2025
Course Description and Course Note:	ANTHR 115 examines how anthropologists study health, illness, and healing across cultures using theoretical frameworks and ethnographic case studies. Students explore the cultural construction of health and disease, medical pluralism, social determinants of health, patient and healthcare-provider interaction, and comparative healthcare systems. Students examine how people experience and respond to illness, the various healing systems (biomedical, traditional, and alternative), and global health issues such as pandemics.
Justification:	New Course
Academic Career:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit
Mode of Delivery:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person • Remote • Hybrid • Online
Author:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andre Yefremian • Stonis, Michelle • Fonarow, Wendy
Course Family:	No value

Academic Senate Discipline

Primary Discipline:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthropology
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Alternate Discipline: No value

Alternate Discipline: No value

Course Development

Basic Skill Status (CB08)

Course is not a basic skills course.

Allow Students to Gain Credit by Exam/Challenge

Course Special Class Status (CB13)

Course is not a special class.

Pre-Collegiate Level (CB21)

No value

Grading Basis

- Grade with Pass / No-Pass Option

Course Support Course Status (CB26)

Course is not a support course

General Education and C-ID

General Education Status (CB25)

Not Applicable

Transferability

Transferable to both UC and CSU

Transferability Status

Pending

Cal-GETC

Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Area

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Status

Pending

Approval Date

No value

Comparable Course

No Comparable Course defined.

GCC General Education Requirements

Area 4:

Area

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Status

Pending

Approval Date

No value

Comparable Course

No Comparable Course defined.

Units and Hours

Summary

Minimum Credit Units (CB07)	3
Maximum Credit Units (CB06)	3
Total Course In-Class (Contact) Hours	54
Total Course Out-of-Class Hours	108
Total Student Learning Hours	162

Credit / Non-Credit Options

Course Type (CB04)

Credit - Degree Applicable

Noncredit Course Category (CB22)

Credit Course.

Noncredit Special Characteristics

No Value

Course Classification Code (CB11)

Credit Course.

Variable Credit Course

Funding Agency Category (CB23)

Not Applicable.

Cooperative Work Experience Education Status (CB10)

Weekly Student Hours

	In Class	Out of Class
Lecture Hours	3	6
Laboratory Hours	0	0
Studio Hours	0	0

Course Student Hours

Course Duration (Weeks)	18
Hours per unit divisor	54
Course In-Class (Contact) Hours	
Lecture	54
Laboratory	0
Studio	0
Total	54
Course Out-of-Class Hours	
Lecture	108
Laboratory	0
Studio	0
Total	108

Time Commitment Notes for Students

No value

Units and Hours - Weekly Specialty Hours

Activity Name	Type	In Class	Out of Class
No Value	No Value	No Value	No Value

Prerequisites, Corequisites, Recommended Corequisites, and Recommended Preparation

Advisory

ENGLC1000 - Academic Reading and Writing

Objectives

- Read analytically to understand and respond to diverse academic texts.
- Compose thesis-driven academic writing that demonstrates analysis and synthesis of sources as appropriate to the rhetorical situation.

- Demonstrate strategies for planning, outlining, drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading written work.
- Analyze stylistic choices in their own writing and the writing of others and the context in which readings were produced.
- Write timed, in-class essays exhibiting acceptable college-level control of mechanics, organization, development, and coherence.
- Integrate the ideas of others through paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting without plagiarism.
- Find, evaluate, analyze, and interpret primary and secondary sources, incorporating them into written essays using appropriate documentation format.
- Proofread and edit essays for presentation so they exhibit no disruptive errors in English grammar, usage, or punctuation.

OR

Advisory

ENGLC1000E - Academic Reading and Writing

Objectives

- Read analytically to understand and respond to diverse academic texts.
- Compose thesis-driven academic writing that demonstrates analysis and synthesis of sources as appropriate to the rhetorical situation.
- Demonstrate strategies for planning, outlining, drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading written work.
- Analyze stylistic choices in their own writing and the writing of others and the context in which readings were produced.
- Write timed, in-class essays exhibiting acceptable college-level control of mechanics, organization, development, and coherence.
- Integrate the ideas of others through paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting without plagiarism.
- Find, evaluate, analyze, and interpret primary and secondary sources, incorporating them into written essays using appropriate documentation format.
- Proofread and edit essays for presentation so they exhibit no disruptive errors in English grammar, usage, or punctuation.

OR

Advisory

ENGLC1000H - Academic Reading and Writing - Honors

Objectives

- Read analytically to understand and respond to diverse academic texts.
- Compose thesis-driven academic writing that demonstrates analysis and synthesis of sources as appropriate to the rhetorical situation.
- Demonstrate strategies for planning, outlining, drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading written work.
- Analyze stylistic choices in their own writing and the writing of others and the context in which readings were produced.
- Write timed, in-class essays exhibiting acceptable college-level control of mechanics, organization, development, and coherence.
- Integrate the ideas of others through paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting without plagiarism.
- Proofread and edit essays for presentation so they exhibit no disruptive errors in English grammar, usage, or punctuation.
- Find, evaluate, analyze, and interpret primary and secondary sources, incorporating them into written essays using appropriate documentation format.

Entry Standards

Entry Standards	Description
No value	No value

Course Limitations

Cross Listed or Equivalent Course	Description
No value	No value

Specifications

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction Collaborative Learning

Methods of Instruction Demonstrations

Methods of Instruction Discussion

Methods of Instruction Field Activities (Trips)

Methods of Instruction Guest Speakers

Methods of Instruction Lecture

Methods of Instruction Multimedia

Methods of Instruction Presentations

Out of Class Assignments

- Cultural and Biological Analysis Essay (e.g., analyze the cultural and biological aspects of a chosen treatment or illness by applying the relevant course concepts)
- Cross-Cultural Encounter Journal Entry (e.g., reflect on a health issue they have experienced, handled, and perceived differently from someone they know who is not of the same background or culture)
- Case Study Analysis Canvas Discussion Post (e.g., analyze a real-world case study related to a health issue using applicable concepts from the course, such as medical pluralism, cultural competence, or stigma)

Methods of Evaluation

Exam/Quiz/Test

Activity (answering journal prompt, group activity)

Writing Assignment

Rationale

Midterm examination

Reflection journal entry (e.g., write a one-page short answer paper applying relevant anthropological concepts to one's health practices and beliefs that have been shaped by their socialization and personal experiences)

Five-page essay (e.g., research a global health issue and applying anthropological concepts to analyze the experience of the same illness in various cultures around the world)

Presentation (group or individual)

Cultural Artifact Analysis Presentation (e.g., choose a health-related artifact or object and analyze its cultural significance, how it reflects health practices, and what it reveals about the community's views on wellness)

Exam/Quiz/Test

Final examination

Textbook Rationale

The Murchinson is a classic text in the field without rival.

Textbooks

Author	Title	Publisher	Date	ISBN
Julian Murchison	X-Rays, Spirits and Witches: Understanding Health and Illness in Ethnographic Context	Rowman & Littlefield	2017	978-1442267398
Andrea S. Wiley and John S. Allen	Medical Anthropology: A Biocultural Approach	Oxford University Press	2020	978-0197515990

Other Instructional Materials (i.e. OER, handouts)

No Value

Learning Outcomes

Course Objectives

Explain the key concepts of medical anthropology, including cultural, social, biomedical, and biocultural approaches to health.

Examine how different cultures interpret and respond to illness, health, and healing.

Analyze the influence of social, cultural, political, and environmental factors on health disparities and global health outcomes.

Critically evaluate the role of medical anthropology in shaping health policy, research, and interventions.

SLOs

Compare and contrast the different social and cultural perceptions of health, illness, and healing.

Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

Apply anthropological frameworks to real-world health problems.

Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

Assess the impact of society, the environment, and cultural context on health outcomes.

Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

Course Content

Lecture Content

Introduction to Medical Anthropology (3 hours)

- Definition and scope
- Key concepts
- Historical development as a subfield
- Interdisciplinary nature
- The role in understanding health disparities and global health
- The field's contribution to public health policy and global health initiatives

Theories of Health and Illness (6 hours)

- Biocultural approach
- Ecological models
- Political economy
- Structural violence and health disparities
- Interpretivist approaches and socio-cultural contexts

Biocultural Approaches to Health (4 hours)

- Interaction of genetic, environmental, and cultural factors in shaping health outcomes
- Evolutionary perspectives on human health
- Impact of lifestyle and environmental factors on human health
- Case studies on biocultural health issues
- Understanding human adaptation to disease and environmental stresses across different populations

Ethnomedicine and Healing Systems (6 hours)

- Ethnomedicine and traditional medical systems and practices across cultures
- Comparative analysis of biomedicine and traditional healing practices
- The role of spirituality and rituals in healing
- Healing as a social practice
- The cultural meaning of illness and healing
- Case studies on healers and their social roles in various societies

Medical Pluralism and Healthcare Systems (6 hours)

- Coexistence of multiple healing systems within a society
- How patients navigate and integrate multiple healing systems
- Comparative healthcare systems
- The role of medical professionals in pluralistic contexts
- Issues of access to care within a pluralistic medical landscape
- Global examples of healthcare systems with pluralistic elements

Health Inequality and Social Determinants of Health (6 hours)

- The role of social and economic factors in determining health outcomes
- The impact of race, ethnicity, and gender on health outcomes and disparities
- How environment, occupation, and community contribute to health and illness
- How different populations experience health disparities
- Case studies on health inequities
- Structural factors influencing healthcare access

Patient-Healthcare Provider Relations (4 hours)

- Power dynamics in patient-provider relationships
- The concept of social and cultural competence in healthcare
- Cross-cultural communication in healthcare
- Patient agency and how patients participate in their own care
- The role of patients' health literacy
- Case studies on cultural misunderstandings in patient-provider interactions

Global Health and Epidemiology (5 hours)

- Global health challenges
- Epidemiology and disease spread in global populations
- Global health organizations and addressing global health crises
- Pandemics and disease outbreaks
- Strategies for improving both access to healthcare and health outcomes in developing nations

Environmental Health and Human Ecology (4 hours)

- Environmental determinants of health and their impact on global populations
- Human ecology and the way human populations are shaped by their physical and social environments
- Case studies on environmental health risks
- The global impact of climate change on human health
- Environmental justice and how marginalized communities are affected disproportionately

Mental Health and Psychiatry (4 hours)

- Cultural variations in mental health perception, understanding, and treatment
- The medicalization of mental health and its framing within biomedical paradigms
- Psychiatric anthropology and the role of culture in defining mental illness and the psychiatric system
- Culture-bound syndromes
- Case studies on mental health care in diverse cultural settings
- The influence of colonialism and globalization on mental health systems

Research Methods in Medical Anthropology (3 hours)

- Ethnography
- Conducting ethnographic studies on traditional, alternative, and biomedical healing practices
- Quantitative methods
- Ethical challenges
- The need for an anthropological critique of health systems

Contemporary Issues in Medical Anthropology (3 hours)

- Emerging trends
- The intersection of medical anthropology and other fields
- Addressing health inequalities, the ethics of intervention, and the changing landscape of healthcare
- The globalization of health

Total Hours: 54**Additional Information****Repeatability**

Not Repeatable

Justification (if repeatable was chosen above)

No Value

Is it possible this course will have a material fee?

No

I have contacted my library liaison (<https://campusguides.glendale.edu/faculty/liasons>):

No

What term(s) will this course be offered?

Fall

Will any additional resources be needed for this course? (Click all that apply)

- No

If additional resources are needed, add a brief description and cost in the box provided.

No Value

Resources

Did you contact your departmental library liaison?

No

If yes, who is your departmental library liaison?

No Value

Did you contact the DEIA liaison?

No

Were there any DEIA changes made to this outline?

No

If yes, in what areas were these changes made:

No Value

Will any additional resources be needed for this course? (Click all that apply)

- No

If additional resources are needed, add a brief description and cost in the box provided.

No Value