

# **CULTURE AND MEDICINE**

**ANT4462**

3 CREDIT HOURS

SUMMER A 2022

**INSTRUCTOR:** Shreemoyee Sil (s.sil@ufl.edu)

**ONLINE OFFICE HOURS:** TBA

Office hours (via Zoom) can be scheduled by e-mail request.

**COURSE TEACHING ASSISTANTS (TA):** TBA

**COURSE WEBSITE:** <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/436414>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course offers a broad examination of health and disease in a cross- cultural context. As part of this course, we explore the relationship of anthropology to medicine through cross-cultural comparisons and specific ethnographic examples. Given the time constraints of this class, we are not able to examine everything related to medical anthropology. Instead, we use literature, film, and discussion to examine the cultural construction and organization of diverse health systems, world economic development/political economy of health, and the role of the anthropologist in transformations of contemporary Western health systems. In light of the current global pandemic, we will also challenge ourselves to think critically about the ways in which this global health crisis is connected to issues of race, poverty, environment, and other aspects of our society. Students are invited to connect the course content to their own lives, as well as to explore the ways in which they can engage with public health issues in their own community.

## **REQUIRED TEXT:**

2016 Wiley, A. and J. Allen. Medical Anthropology: A Biocultural Approach. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Oxford University Press, New York.

Additional readings available on Canvas.

**COURSE COMMUNICATIONS:** The instructor and TA can all be reached by email and through the messaging (“inbox”) tool in E-learning. Please use your UF email address and allow 24 hours for a response (not including weekends or holidays). The instructor and TA’s will use email to

make general class announcements or to contact students directly about their work. Regular course information will be sent as “announcements” on the course website. Students are responsible for checking their official UF email regularly to be aware of communication from their instructors. There are no allowances for students who fail to read their email announcements or whose inboxes are full at the time an announcement is sent.

\*\*\*The instructor and TAs will leave feedback on your assignments, so be sure to check the feedback view when you check your grades.

**PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:** There are no specific prerequisites or skills for this course. The following resources may be helpful to students who wish to gain more information about Anthropology before/while taking this course:

**Optional Websites:**

- [Living Anthropologically](#): This website/blog provides links to additional resources and up-to-date information.
- [American Anthropological Association](#): Official website for the American Anthropological Association.
- [Anthropology Department at UF](#) offers a wide variety of courses every semester. See this site for additional information on course offerings.

**PURPOSE OF COURSE:** This course is designed to help students develop a better appreciation for the complex relationship between culture, human biology, and health, and how it varies over space and time. The course will help students understand:

1. Different concepts of health and illness across cultures
2. How social and environmental factors influence health outcomes
3. How culture and biology interact to shape individual- and population-level health outcomes.

This course will also help students develop a better appreciation for the ways that they themselves conceive of health and the different factors that influence their own health beliefs and healthcare decisions.

**COURSE GOALS AND/OR OBJECTIVES:** By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Describe the scope of medical anthropology and give examples of the key theoretical and empirical areas
2. Analyze the biocultural factors that shape the distribution of health
3. Evaluate cultural influences and assumptions about healing practices

4. Apply an anthropological perspective to public health problems both in the U.S. and internationally

This course is also designed to develop the student's learning skills, including:

1. Analytical thinking and research abilities (including information acquisition and critical reading and writing skills)
2. Holistic learning skills and the ability to integrate ideas from many different perspectives

**TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:** Anthropology makes an important contribution to understanding and appreciating human diversity. People do not have to be an academic to be an anthropologist. Many anthropologists are involved in applied work across a range of disciplines. Therefore, our goal when teaching anthropology is for students to understand the relevance of anthropology to their lives and the contribution that anthropology can make to other disciplines and practices.

We follow a constructivist learning approach, which means that we believe learning is an active process of creating meaning from different experiences. In other words, students learn best by trying to make sense of something on their own with instructors available as guides to help them along the way. This means that we have a responsibility to help facilitate student learning and engagement. Our approach to teaching is to act as a facilitator and co-creator of information, rather than lecturers. We understand that students learn in many different ways and our role is to help students identify: 1) how they learn best, 2) how to use that capacity to find new information, and 3) how to effectively and efficiently evaluate, translate, and use the information that they find. Our teaching approach reflects these goals--we favor a more interactive, hands-on approach to teaching and asking questions that encourage students to synthesize and engage with the material.

Being an active participant in this course means doing the necessary readings, watching lectures, completing assignments and engaging in respectful online discussions with classmates.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:** This is an entirely online course. The course material is divided into 13 modules that include lectures, readings, videos, discussions, and assignments. These activities are designed to help students engage with the material and facilitate learning and interaction with their peers in the class. There is no set order to complete the material within a module, however students must pass each module quiz to continue to the next module.

## COURSE POLICIES:

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Although this is an online course, students are expected to review all material posted on the course E-Learning site (i.e. lectures, articles, videos, etc.), as scheduled and to read their textbook in the order posted. Students are also expected to complete all quizzes, individual assignments, and discussion posts on schedule. **Assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the day assigned unless otherwise specified.**

Students unable to complete assignments due to documented, excused absences or extenuating circumstances must contact the course instructor no less than 48 hours before a planned absence (e.g., university event, religious holiday) and no more than 48 hours after an unplanned absence (e.g., illness). Make-up opportunities will be offered for absences for which documentation is provided. Requirements for make-up quizzes, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the [online catalog](#).

**QUIZ POLICY:** Quizzes for this course are administered in E-learning. The quizzes are open book/open note, but students must complete them on their own. Students are not allowed to collude on quizzes in this class. Quizzes are timed and must be completed within 20 minutes unless students have an accommodation for additional time. Students will have two attempts to take each quiz and must complete the quiz in order to move on to the next module.

Please see the policy below for information on disputing a quiz grade.

**ASSIGNMENT POLICY:** Students are required to complete all assignments by the stated due dates. Assignments should be submitted within E-learning. Written assignments should be .doc or .docx format. Specific instructions are provided for each assignment in E-learning. The due dates for assignments can be found in the course schedule at the end of this syllabus and in the course calendar in E-learning (**all assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the day assigned unless otherwise specified**). Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made for extenuating circumstances, or in the event of a documented illness or emergency.

**MAKE-UP POLICY:** Make-up quizzes/assignments are only available in the case of incapacitating illness or other university-approved absence. When possible, students must provide the instructor with written documentation from an appropriate authority within 24 hours. Teaching Assistants (TAs) may not give permission for make-up work or assignment extensions. The instructor does not assign grades of “incomplete” except in unusual, extreme circumstances and students must provide documentation of such circumstances from an appropriate authority.

**GRADING POLICY:** Grades are earned, not negotiated. If students have a question regarding a grade they receive for an assignment or quiz, students must first discuss the grade with their

TA. If the student still has concerns, they may email the instructor to request that their assignment be reviewed. This request must be made within 2 weeks of the grade posting. **For all late assignments, there will be a 10% reduction in grade per day.**

**COURSE TECHNOLOGY:** [Quizlet](#) is a free online study tool that students may use for a variety of interactive study activities including flashcards, matching activities, and other learning games. Flash cards are available in each module.

**VoiceThread:** VoiceThread is a cloud-based web application that allows users to post media such as a document, slide show, video, or photo collection that can be commented on by a community and then converted into a flash-based animation. Comments can be made by microphone, webcam, text, audio file or telephone.

VoiceThread will be used for one of the exercises in this class: the introduction video. There are two components to this assignment: 1) uploading your media content (PowerPoints, images, video, etc.) to VoiceThread and 2) Providing voiceover for this content.

Students can access VoiceThread in eLearning by clicking on Modules>VoiceThread>Voice Thread Link. Students should set up a VoiceThread account through the course **webpage (if you set up an account outside of the course webpage, it will not be free and your assignments will not be visible to the course TA and instructor)**. All VoiceThread assignments will be created in VoiceThread, but they must be submitted through Assignments (submit the link that is generated in VoiceThread) so that the TA can see and grade your assignment.

## UF POLICIES:

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the [Dean of Students Office](#). The Dean of Students Office (DSO) will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. The student must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes. Accommodations are **not retroactive**; therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:** Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the [UF Student Honor Code](#). **Please be aware--all written assignments are submitted to Turnitin. Students caught plagiarizing on any assignment in this class will be reported to the Dean of Students and receive a zero for the assignment.**

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** As a result of completing the registration form at the University of

Florida, every student has signed the following statement: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”

The latest student honor code and student conduct code can be found at:

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

The following presentation from the University of Florida Writing Center has essential information concerning plagiarism and properly citing sources. Be sure to note that the University of Florida does consider self-plagiarism to be plagiarism.

<http://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/mediasite/Viewer/?peid=adaa44500eaf460a84f238e6b9a558f9>.

All students enrolled in this course are expected to view this presentation and refer back to it as questions arise. Your instructor and TAs are also an excellent resource and any questions you have should be raised before submitting an assignment.

**NETIQUETTE: COMMUNICATION COURTESY:** All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy (outlined in the [Netiquette Guide for Online Courses](#)) in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats.

#### **UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA COUNSELING SERVICES:**

On-campus services are available for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals. They include:

1. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling
2. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling
3. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual assault counseling
4. Career Connections Center, Reitz Union, career development assistance and counseling
5. Additionally, student web-based resources on sexual harassment are available at <http://www.ufsa.ufl.edu/students/sh/sexualharassment.shtml>

**COURSE EVALUATIONS:** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>."

**In Class Recording:** Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are: (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.

### GETTING HELP:

If you’re having trouble using E-learning, first check out the E-learning Basics at <https://elearning.ufl.edu/e-learning-basics/>. For issues with technical difficulties with E-learning, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk at:

- [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://request.it.ufl.edu>

**\*\* Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Help Desk when the problem was reported to them, and a screenshot of the problem if possible. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. Students MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if they wish to request a make-up.**

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Online computing help desk – E-learning support services
- Online library help desk

- Disability resource center
- Counseling and Wellness Center
- Dean of Students Office
- Student complaints

If you have an unresolved administrative issue while enrolled in a distance learning program, please contact us at [distance@dce.ufl.edu](mailto:distance@dce.ufl.edu) or visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints>.

## GRADING POLICIES:

We will assess student performance in this class through discussion posts, module activities, module quizzes, and a final research project. Final grades will be calculated as a percentage of the total available points (400pts).

**Quizzes** (10 points each x 13 quizzes = 130 points)

There are 12 module quizzes and a syllabus/introductory quiz in this course.

**Syllabus/Introductory quiz:** Comprehension of the syllabus and class policies as explained on the Canvas E-learning page is essential. The syllabus/introductory quiz must be completed by **Wednesday, May 11**. Students need to complete the syllabus quiz with at least a 90% to unlock access to the course modules. Students may take the syllabus quiz two times.

**Module quizzes:** Each module has a quiz that must be completed sequentially to access the next set of modules. All quizzes must be completed by the **Sunday, 11:59pm** after the week of that module. Quiz questions are based on lectures and readings. Quizzes consist of 10 multiple choice questions. Module quizzes must be completed by the end of each week in order to move on to the next module. Students will have two attempts to complete each quiz. Quizlet flashcards have been created for each module to help students study for the quizzes.

**Discussion posting** (10 points each x 6 discussions = 60 points)

There are 6 graded discussions this semester. Discussion questions are addressed on the class discussion board. Students must post an answer to the discussion question (**due by Friday of the week assigned**) and respond to two other student posts (**due by Sunday of week assigned**) to receive full credit for discussion. The initial post should go beyond students' personal experiences and **must contain at least one citation of a journal article, book chapter, or online source, including an in-text citation (see [www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5igNRmKLug](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5igNRmKLug) if you are uncertain what an in-text citation is) and the full bibliographic citation**. Responses should not just indicate agreement with the original post and should go beyond students' personal



experiences; **at least one response should include a citation, including an in-text citation, of a journal article, book chapter, or online source.** Guidelines and rubrics for this assignment will be provided in Canvas.

### **Short answer AND Video activities (10 points each x 5 activities = 50 points)**

This semester, there are 5 short answer or video activities. The short answer activity consists of answering questions from the readings. The video activities consist of watching the assigned video and answering the associated questions. Guidelines and rubrics for assignments will be provided in Canvas. All Video activities and Short answer assignments are due by the **Sunday after the week of that module.**

### **Research Project (160 points)**

Students are required to complete an **academic research project** on a topic relating to medical anthropology. The research project is cumulative. Several assignments will be used to assess the progress of research throughout the semester, culminating in a final **research paper**. Guidelines and rubrics for the different stages of the project will be provided in Canvas.

- 1) Research Question/Paper topic is due **Sunday, May 15 at 11:59pm.** (10 points)  
Additional details will be provided on Canvas.
- 2) Project proposal outlining the topic of the research project is **due Sunday, May 29 at 11:59pm.** (25 points) This proposal should describe the topic, including why the topic is important, and should identify some of the key questions or issues the student's projects will explore. Additional details will be provided in Canvas.
- 3) 250-word abstract and annotated bibliography: Includes 10 carefully selected references from scholarly literature, with summaries/annotations for each as detailed in the rubric provided on E-learning. Due **Sunday, June 05 at 11:59pm** (50 points). Additional details will be provided in E- learning.
- 4) Final VoiceThread presentation is due **Friday, June 10 at 11:59pm.** (60 points). The final presentation should delve into your research question more deeply and be based on scholarly literature. You will include two discussion questions that you pose at the end of your presentation to facilitate discussion in your group. Additional details are provided in Canvas.
- 5) Discussion comments are due **Wednesday, June 15 at 11:59pm** (15 points). You will respond to discussion questions posed by at least 3 of your group members to contribute to discussions of their research.

## GRADING CRITERIA:

Assignment	Points/Percentage
Quizzes	10 points each x 13 quizzes= 130 points
Discussion Posts	10 points each x 6 discussions= 60 points
Short answer OR Video Activities	10 points each x 5= 50 points
Research Project	160 points
Total Points	400 points

## GRADING SCALE:

Letter grades are assigned based on the following scale:

A 93% or above                      C 73-76.99%

A- 90-92.99%                      C- 70-72.99%

B+ 87-89.99%                      D+ 67-69.99%

B 83-86.99%                      D 63-66.99%

B- 80-82.99%                      D- 60-62.99%  
F below 60%

C+ 77-79.99%

Current grade status is available under the “Grades” section of the e-learning site. For more information, see the [undergraduate catalog for grading policies](#).

## COURSE SCHEDULE:

This syllabus represents our current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

Date	Module Topic	Assignments
Week 1 (May 09- May 13)	Module: Start Here  Module 1: Introduction to Medical Anthropology  Module 2: Health and Disease  Module 3: Healers and Healing	<b>-Syllabus Quiz due May 11</b>  All Module 1, 2 and 3 assignments are due on Sunday May 15 <sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm.  <b>*Initial discussion board posts are due on Fridays at 11:59pm, and responses are due on Sundays at 11:59pm.</b>  <b>*Research Question Activity due May 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm.</b>  <i>Reminder: Drop/Add period is May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.</i>
Week 2 (May 16- May 20)	Module 4: Diet & Nutrition  Module 5: Growth & Development	All Module 4 and 5 assignments due Sunday May 22 <sup>nd</sup> at 11:59 pm.  <b>*Initial discussion board posts are due on Fridays at 11:59pm, and responses are due on Sundays at 11:59pm.</b>  <b>*Introduce Yourself! VoiceThread Extra Credits (5 points) due Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup>.</b>

Week 3 (May 23- May 27)	<p>Module 6: Reproductive Health</p> <p>Module 7: Aging and Senescence</p>	<p>All Module 6 and 7 assignments due Sunday May 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm.</p> <p><b>*Initial discussion board posts are due on Fridays at 11:59pm, and responses are due on Sundays at 11:59pm.</b></p> <p><b>*Project research proposal due May 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm.</b></p>
Week 4 (May 30- June 03)	<p>Module 8: Environmental Health</p> <p>Module 9: Ecosyndemics and Infectious disease</p>	<p>All Module 8 and 9 assignments due Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm.</p> <p><b>*Initial discussion board posts are due on Fridays at 11:59pm, and responses are due on Sundays at 11:59pm.</b></p> <p><b>*Abstract and annotated bibliography due June 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm.</b></p>
Week 5 (June 06- June 10)	<p>Module 10: Globalization and Poverty</p> <p>Module 11: Social Inequality and Health</p>	<p>All Module 10 and 11 assignments due June 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm.</p> <p><b>*Initial discussion board posts are due on Fridays at 11:59pm, and responses are due on Sundays at 11:59pm.</b></p> <p><b>*Project VoiceThread submission due Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.</b></p>

<p>Week 6 (June 13- June 17)</p>	<p>Module 12: Mental Health</p> <p>Module 13: Applying Medical Anthropology</p>	<p>All Module 12 and 13 assignments are due June 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm.</p> <p><b>**For the final week: Initial discussion board posts due Wednesday June 15 at 11:59pm, responses due Friday June 17 at 11:59pm.</b></p> <p><b>*Project Discussion Comments due Wednesday, June 15.</b></p> <p><b>*Last day of Summer A classes June 17. All work MUST be in by this time.</b></p>
----------------------------------	---	--