

## ANTH 218

# Anthropology of Health and Illness

Dr. Michael Gregg

Department of Anthropology, St. Francis Xavier University

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:15 pm - 2:05 pm, or by appointment

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Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays; 3:45 pm - 5:05 pm; Nicholson Hall, NH156

### Overview

This course will introduce students to the field of medical anthropology through examination of health and illness from a cross-cultural perspective. We begin by exploring ideas about well-being and the body in societies of varying complexity, and subsequently examine conceptions of biological normalcy and medical illness from a variety of perspectives, including biocultural anthropology; critical medical anthropology; feminism; post-colonial studies; globalization; and political ecology. Topics discussed will include fundamentals of nutrition; growth and development; medicalization of women's reproductive health; theories of aging; mental health and illness; medical pluralism; impact of globalization on health, social inequality and infectious disease; and health of indigenous peoples in Canada.

Through course readings and assignments, you will become familiar with the requirements for presentation of evidence and argumentation in the social sciences. You will be encouraged, not only to think independently, but also to work in small problem-solving groups to address specific issues raised through the assigned readings and our discussions in class.

### Course requirements

Research skills report	10%
Midterm test	25%
4 in-class reading responses (15 minutes; best 3 out of 4 marks count @ 5% each)	15%
Research Wiki	25%
Exam	25%

### Required readings

*Medical Anthropology: A Biocultural Approach* by Andrea Wiley and John Allen, 2013, Second Edition, Oxford University Press: *This text is available through the St. Francis Xavier University Bookstore. Additional required readings are listed on the course schedule below. These will be available either through Moodle or St. Francis Xavier University library databases. You are expected to be familiar with readings **before** discussion in class.*

### Missed tests

Make-up tests will be administered upon presentation of appropriate documentation from a licensed medical practitioner, councillor or university administrator. Requests for a make-up test should be sent to mgregg@stfx.ca within two (2) days of the missed test.

## Course Schedule / Readings

Mon. Jan. 4	Course introduction and requirements Discussion on anthropology and health	Johnson 2015 in-class reading
Wed. Jan. 6	Anthropology and the concept of culture Development of Medical Anthropology	Chapter 1
Mon. Jan. 11	Definitions of Health: Disease, Illness, Sickness Biological/Medical Normalcy	Chapter 2
Wed. Jan. 13	Evolutionary perspectives on health The Body and Society, Epidemiology	Chapter 2
Mon. Jan. 18	Healers and Healing Research Skills Workshop	Chapter 3 Makayla Sault readings
Wed. Jan. 20	Alternative and Complimentary Medicines Placebo and Nocebo	Chapter 3 Caulfield 2013: witchdoctors
Mon. Jan. 25	Fundamentals of Nutrition	Chapter 4
Wed. Jan. 27	Nutrition and chronic disease Obesity, diabetes, and the metabolic syndrome	Chapter 4 Wiedman 2012: diabetes
Mon. Feb. 1	Lactose and gluten intolerances, Celiac disease <b>Sign up for Wikis on Moodle today</b>	Chapter 4 Brodie 2014: Celiac/gluten
Wed. Feb. 3	Life histories: physiology and development K and R selection	Chapter 5 Economist 2015 on prenatal care
Mon. Feb. 8	Sex, Gender, Growth, and Health	Harris 2015 Maternal malnutrition Sanjay 2015 Female foeticide
Wed. Feb. 10	Reproductive Health in Biocultural Context <b>Research Skills assignment is due on Moodle</b>	Chapter 6
Mon. Feb. 15	Winter study break begins	
Mon. Feb. 22	Female Genital Cutting <a href="http://www.thebigroundtable.com/stories/damage/">http://www.thebigroundtable.com/stories/damage/</a> Wiki creation workshop	Chapter 6 Karimjee 2014: Damage
Wed. Feb. 24	Guest lecture on genetic testing, Dr. Christina Holmes Please take a look at website on direct to consumer gene testing: <a href="https://www.23andme.com/en-ca">https://www.23andme.com/en-ca</a> Economist 2015: Editing humanity; Wade 2015	

Mon. Feb. 29	<b>Midterm test</b>	
Wed. Mar. 2	Cultural Construction of Age and Aging	Chapter 7
	Dr. Ryan Meili will also be speaking in the Schwartz auditorium 6:00 - 7:00	<a href="http://www.thinkupstream.net/about_upstream">http://www.thinkupstream.net/about_upstream</a>
Mon. Mar. 7	Pathogens and Infectious Diseases	Chapter 8
Wed. Mar. 9	Immune responses Human-Pathogen Co-Evolution	Chapter 8
Mon. Mar. 14	Globalization and human health 1 Africa: highway to health	Chapter 9 <i>Nature</i> 2015 editorial
Wed. Mar. 16	Globalization and human health 2	Chapter 9
Mon. Mar. 21	Social Inequality and human health Intergenerational effects of historical trauma	Chapter 10 Bombay et al. 2014
Wed. Mar. 23	Mental Health and Illness Culture-Bound Syndromes	Chapter 11 <i>Economist</i> 2015: out of shadows
Mon. Mar. 28	Mental Health and Illness Substance Use and Abuse	Chapter 11 Marano 2015: Crisis U
Wed. Mar. 30	<b>All Research Wikis are to be completed</b> In class presentations and discussion (Wikis 1 - 4)	
Mon. Apr. 4	In class presentations and discussion (Wikis 5 - 8)	

**Exam to be scheduled between April 8 - 20**

**Academic Misconduct**

All members of St. Francis Xavier University are expected to conduct themselves in an ethical manner in their academic work. It is the policy of the university that academic dishonesty in any form is not acceptable. Academic dishonesty is defined as any act, practice or behaviour that gives a student an unearned academic advantage over another or that counteracts or undermines the integrity of academic or scholarly endeavour at St. Francis Xavier University. Students are advised to familiarize themselves with the University's academic integrity policy (section 3.8) in the 2015 - 2016 Academic Calendar at: [http://sites.stfx.ca/registrar\\_office/sites/sites.stfx.ca/registrar\\_office/files/StFX\\_Calendar\\_2015\\_2016\\_8\\_1.pdf](http://sites.stfx.ca/registrar_office/sites/sites.stfx.ca/registrar_office/files/StFX_Calendar_2015_2016_8_1.pdf)

**The StFX Counselling Centre**

The transition to student life can be challenging. The StFX Counselling Centre is here to support you. Whether a problem is big or small, a personal challenge or a career decision, StFX counsellors can help. Additional information is available at: [http://sites.stfx.ca/health\\_and\\_counselling/counselling\\_centre](http://sites.stfx.ca/health_and_counselling/counselling_centre)

This assignment calls on you to use the library resources of St. Francis Xavier University to locate three (3) reliable sources of information on topics related to “medical anthropology and international development”. At least one of these sources of information must be a peer-reviewed journal.

**Your report should:**

1. Be structured like an annotated bibliography, and provide proper citation of these sources of information using the formats of *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Information on this system of citation is available at: <http://sites.stfx.ca/library/chicago>  
For more information: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01>
2. Include a brief summary of the type of information you were able to access through each resource (100 words); and outline why you think it is reliable and authoritative (100 words);
3. Be well-organized, typewritten and double-spaced: (12 pt. font, 1 inch margins, no more than 750 words), including a title page with your name and student number.

**Your report should be submitted on Moodle as an MS Word or PDF file by midnight on Wednesday, February 10.**

**Late penalties**

Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day. Assignments more than one (1) week late will not be graded.

This assignment calls on you to collaborate with three or four other students in creating electronic encyclopedia type entries (or wikis) examining diseases or illnesses threatening the well-being and/or potential survival of a marginalized human group within in the developing world. Choose the wiki topic you would like to work on from the list of eight leading causes of death in low income countries as determined by the World Health Organization. This list includes: Lower respiratory infections, HIV/AIDS, Diarrhoeal diseases, Malaria, Preterm birth complications, Tuberculosis, COPD, and Diabetes mellitus.

You will be able to sign up for wiki topics of Monday, February 1. There will be an in-class workshop on the creation of wikis using Moodle on Monday, February 22. The wiki creation process will be monitored on an ongoing basis. Grades will be assigned for both group activities and individual wiki contributions. In-class presentations and discussions of wikis will be on Wednesday, March 30 and Monday, April 4.

**Your Wiki should:**

1. Engage the reader and clearly identify your subject;
2. Outline current and potential impacts of the disease or illness on the societies or cultures in the developing world;
3. Summarize any debate(s) that may exist concerning whether this disease or illness is experienced differently by peoples of different ages, ethnicities, nationalities, genders, or economic and/or social status;
4. Identify any potential changes in human behaviour or possible healthcare or economic initiatives that could be undertaken by individuals, communities, law makers, government organizations, NGOs, corporations, biomedical practitioners and/or traditional healers to prevent the spread or alleviate the suffering from this disease or illness;
5. Outline any benefits and/or risks to the health and well-being of individuals or the larger community that could result from your recommended changes in behaviour or adoption and implementation of these initiatives;
6. Be well organized and provide proper citations from at least 15 reputable and reliable sources of information using the embedded citation formats of *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Information on the author-date system of citation is available at: <http://sites.stfx.ca/library/chicago> For more information: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01>

**Due on Moodle by midnight on Tuesday, March 29**