

Module Specification (Distance Learning)

In collaboration with University of London International Programmes



1. Title:	Medical Anthropology in Public Health
2. Module code:	PHM211
3. Institution:	Faculty of Public Health and Policy London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Keppel Street London WC1E 7HT http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/php/
4. Module Organiser:	Ginny Bond
5. Mode of study:	Distance learning
6. Type:	Elective module
7. Duration and dates:	<p>Deadlines if taken as part of a formal award:</p> <p>Application deadline: 30 June each year</p> <p>Registration deadline: 31 August each year</p> <p>Course registration duration: Up to 5 years</p> <p>Course starts: 1 October each year</p> <p>Examination takes place: Usually June each year (date to be confirmed)</p> <p>Deadlines if taken as an individual module (i.e. not registered for formal award):</p> <p>Application deadline: 31 August each year</p> <p>Registration deadline: 30 November each year</p> <p>Registration duration: 2 years</p> <p>Module study starts: 1 October each year</p> <p>Examination takes place: Usually June each year (date to be confirmed)</p>
8. Credit points:	15 credit points will be awarded on successful completion of this module at Masters level (Level 7).
9. Notional Learning Hours (NLH):	<p>On average, the module should take about 150 hours to complete, consisting of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main reading and web-based discussion forum participation: 80 hours • Additional reading materials and exercises: 30 hours • Assignments and exam preparation: 40 hours.
10. Aim:	To introduce anthropological concepts and approaches that are relevant for the study of health and illness and with particular application to public health interventions.
11. Learning objectives:	<p>On completing this module students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the relevance of the anthropological concept of culture for studying health and illness; • List key features of an anthropological approach to health and illness; • Identify and distinguish the main theoretical approaches in medical anthropology; • Formulate anthropological areas of inquiry and questions around particular public health topics; and • Assess the advantages and limitations of different anthropological approaches to health and illness.

12. Content:	<p>The last decades have seen growing participation of medical anthropologists in medical research and public health. Medical anthropology has become the single largest sub-discipline in anthropology. However, true collaboration between anthropologists and medical and public health researchers remains challenging. Anthropology and biomedicine are based in different assumptions about fundamental issues such as the nature of health and illness and how these should be studied. This module introduces anthropological approaches to health, risk, and illness and their application in public health. It begins with the history, theoretical frames and methods of social and cultural anthropology, and moves on to focus on the sub-discipline of medical anthropology. It then examines social and cultural perceptions of sickness, medical pluralism and health seeking behaviour, the anthropology of infectious diseases, of biomedicine and of medicines, and the relations between cultural constructions of the person, the body and sickness. Finally, it explores the potential of anthropology to study (and improve) public health interventions and medical research itself.</p>
13. Learning methods:	<p>The module textbook is <i>Medical Anthropology</i> by Robert Pool and Wenzel Geissler.</p> <p>Learning is self-directed, guided by a detailed set of learning objectives that are identified at the start of each chapter of the module textbook, which also offers focused reading and various learning activities.</p> <p>Additional learning materials include: a brief guide to the study module, a set of recommended reading from the peer-reviewed literature with guidance notes, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and suggested relevant websites.</p> <p>Student support is available from the module tutors through the web-based discussion forum. The forum uses sub-conferences to deal explicitly with themes arising in the module textbook, encouraging questions and discussion through live web-chats. Module tutors provide written feedback for all students on the web-based discussion forum and offer individual feedback on an assessed assignment submitted by the student.</p>
14. Assessment procedures:	<p>Students will be assessed by one or more assignments, which count 30% towards the overall grade for the module and by a two-hour unseen written examination, which will contribute 70% of the total grade for the module.</p> <p>Examinations are normally held in a student's country of residence, in one of over 650 examination centres worldwide. They are arranged mainly through Ministries of Education or the British Council. A local fee will be payable. A list of examination centres can be found at http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/current_students/general_resources/exams/exam_centres/index.shtml.</p> <p>If students fail an examination at the first entry they will be allowed one further attempt, the following year.</p>
15. Prerequisites:	<p>There are no pre-requisites for this module.</p> <p>Those wishing to study this module should have regular access to the internet to benefit from library facilities, participate in web-based discussions and submit assignments.</p> <p>Students must meet the standard of English required to study this course. See http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/prospectus/english.html.</p> <p>This module is recommended for students studying the Environment and Health and Health Promotion streams of the Public Health MSc.</p>

16. Attendance:	No maximum number
17. Selection, if applicable:	<p>This module is available to students registered for the MSc in <u>Public Health</u>, <u>Clinical Trials</u>, <u>Epidemiology</u>, <u>Global Health Policy</u> and <u>Infectious Diseases</u> courses; alternatively, it can also be taken as an individual module. It can also be taken by those studying for the PG Diploma Public Health, Clinical Trials, Global Health Policy and Infectious Diseases courses under the credit framework scheme.</p> <p>This module is not available to those who have already studied module HS303 <i>Medical Anthropology</i>.</p>
18. Fees:	For current schedule of fees see http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/fees/schedules/lshhtm.pdf .
19. Scholarships:	None available
20. External accreditation:	None
21. Application process:	Applications are managed by the University of London International Programmes (website: http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/).
22. Further enquiries:	Enquiries may be emailed to distance@lshhtm.ac.uk .