## Module Specification

### GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Module name</strong></th>
<th>Medical Anthropology in Public Health</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Module code</strong></td>
<td>PHM211</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Module Organiser(s)</strong></td>
<td>Eleanor Hutchinson and Simon Cohn</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Contact email</strong></td>
<td>The LSHTM distance learning programmes and modules are run in collaboration with the University of London. Enquiries may be made via their Student Advice Centre at: <a href="http://www.london.ac.uk/contact-us">www.london.ac.uk/contact-us</a>. (Enquiries from face-to-face i.e. London-based LSHTM MSc or research students regarding study of DL modules should be emailed to <a href="mailto:distance@lshtm.ac.uk">distance@lshtm.ac.uk</a>.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Home Faculty</strong></td>
<td>Faculty of Public Health and Policy London School of Hygiene &amp; Tropical Medicine <a href="http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/php/">http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/php/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Level</strong></td>
<td>This module is at Level 7 (postgraduate Masters level) of the QAA <a href="http://www.heqa.ac.uk/">Framework for Higher Education Qualifications</a> in England, Wales &amp; Northern Ireland (FHEQ).</td>
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<td><strong>Credit</strong></td>
<td>LSHTM award 15 credits on successful completion of this module.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Accreditation</strong></td>
<td>Not currently accredited by any other body.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Keywords</strong></td>
<td>Anthropology, Ethnography, Methodology, Medicalization, Political Economy of Health, Bio-politics.</td>
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### AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Overall aim</strong></th>
<th>To provide an introduction to concepts, perspectives, theories and methods in medical anthropology, and illustrate their relevance to public health issues.</th>
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| **Intended learning outcomes** | By the end of this module, students should be able to:  
  - Demonstrate an analytical understanding of a range of concepts, principles and definitions used in medical and social anthropology;  
  - Apply these concepts and principles in the analysis of particular public health issues across different contexts;  
  - Evaluate the role of anthropological inquiry and analysis in public health arenas;  
  - Critically evaluate, from an anthropological perspective, epidemiological, medical and public health approaches. |
| **Target audience**      | This module is recommended for students studying the Environment & Health and Health Promotion streams of the Public Health MSc. |
Session content

Medical anthropology examines how health and illness are shaped, experienced, and understood both in local contexts and relation to global, political and historical forces. It has implications for how we might understand the complexities of disease, diagnostic categories, and indeed what might ‘count’ as pathological or healthy in the first place. It also examines public health as a social, political and economic force in society that shapes the ways in which people interact with one another and those that govern them. The last decades have seen growing participation of medical anthropologists in medical research and public health and as a result, medical anthropology has become the single largest sub-discipline in anthropology. However, effective collaboration between anthropologists and medical and public health researchers can also be challenging: Anthropology and biomedicine often have 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, medicine and public health. It will cover: the history, theoretical framings and methods of social and medical anthropology and the value of detailed in-depth accounts of social life; key debates in medical anthropology, including the social and cultural perceptions of sickness, medical pluralism; some of the non-clinical dimensions of biomedicine, biomedical treatments and the politics of health; and the relationship between ideas about the person, the body and illness. These issues will be linked to a concern with the potential of anthropology to study (and improve) public health interventions and medical research, and the additional questions and directions an anthropological approach may bring to these fields.

The module will be taught using a range of materials in order to illustrate the different ways in which anthropological ideas and methods are used. It provides lectures, core and additional readings. It no longer relies upon a textbook and students are required to download and read key anthropological journal articles and book chapters.

TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Study resources provided or required

The primary resource for this module will be the LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) – Moodle. Here, students can access a detailed course outline, recorded lectures, key and suggested readings, participate in module-specific discussion forums and Collaborate sessions and access the LSHTM online library resources.

The following specific elements are provided to students after registration for this module once a year in September/October:

- A guide to studying the module
- A guide for each block, specifying the learning materials and guide time needed for each and a learning exercise
- A reading list including details of both required and optional readings, which are available either as scans to download, or via the School’s subscription to journals.
- A series of lectures, recorded at LSHTM
- A list of useful websites and other online resources.

Teaching and learning methods

Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives described at the start of each Moodle learning block. Students will be guided through materials linked to each learning block. For example, students may be directed to listen to the recorded lectures; read specific papers detailed in the reading
Students are also encouraged to access further online resources in order to expand their knowledge of a topic.

Two collaborate sessions are provided during the year. Additional collaborate sessions can provided in accordance with student demand. Students will be expected to take part in two collaborate sessions and to make active use of the discussion forums. Discussion and debate is critical to studying this module and students who are not active in these discussions often struggle with the assignment and exam.

There is a key Moodle tutor and other tutors cover specific topics during the course of the year on Moodle. In addition, written feedback is provided on submitted assignments.

Assessment details

Formal assessment of this module includes a two-hour 15 minute unseen written paper examination (70%) and an assessed assignment (30%). Details of the maximum word limit permitted and what to include in the word count are provided in the assignment instruction document. Students are required to keep within the word limit detailed in the Assignment Instructions.

If students fail the module overall, they are allowed one further attempt at the failed element (examination and/or assignment).

Assessment dates

Assignments for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than 31 March and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.

Unseen written examinations for DL modules are held once a year, in June (including resits). Examinations are normally taken in a student's country of residence, in one of over 650 examination centres worldwide (arranged mainly through Ministries of Education or the British Council). A list of examination centres can be found at [https://london.ac.uk/current-students/examinations/examination-centres](https://london.ac.uk/current-students/examinations/examination-centres).

A local fee will be payable direct to the examination centre. This fee is in addition to the programme/module fee and is set by, and paid directly to, the individual examination centres. The level of local examination centre fees varies across the world and neither the University of London nor the LSHTM have any control over the fee amount.

Language of study and assessment

English (please see ‘English language requirements’ below regarding the standard required for entry).

TIMING AND MODE OF STUDY

Duration

Distance learning module studies begin in early October. Registered students will be able to access the majority of the materials for this module via the LSHTM’s VLE - Moodle - from the beginning of October onwards. Online materials are available to all registered students in early autumn once fees have been paid.

Students will be expected to begin their studies from the beginning of October and work through the material until the start of the June examinations (although assessment submission deadlines which are earlier than this must be observed). We strongly advise students to engage with the course from October. Students who begin the course later (in January) often struggle with the reading list.

Dates

Tutorial support for distance learning modules is available only from the beginning of October through to the end of May.

Mode of study

By distance learning.
Learning time

The notional learning time for the module totals 150 hours, consisting of:

- **Directed self-study** (reading and working through the provided module material) and **self-directed learning** (general reading around the subject, library, Moodle discussion forums) ≈ 110 hours
- **Assessment, review and revision** ≈ 40 hours

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**APPLICATION, ADMISSION AND FEES**

**Pre-requisites**

Those wishing to study this module must have regular access to the internet and should register on the LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle). The Module Organisers and tutors use Moodle as their primary means of communication with students and use it to make available a range of materials for studying the module. Students are also encouraged to participate in module-specific discussions on Moodle; make use of the online library facilities and will be required to submit assignments via an on-line assignment management system. Students are not required to have prior knowledge of anthropology or other social sciences. They will, however, be expected to acquire an aptitude for the critical analysis of key anthropological texts.

**English language requirements**

A strong command of the English language is necessary to benefit from studying the module. Applicants whose first language is not English or whose prior university studies have not been conducted wholly in English must fulfil LSHTM’s [English language requirements](https://london.ac.uk/applications/costs-your-course/course-fees), with an acceptable score in an approved test taken in the two years prior to entry. Applicants may be asked to take a test even if the standard conditions have been met.

**Student numbers**

There is no cap on the number of students who can register for this distance learning module. The number of students actively studying this module varies, but typically approximately 75 students register for the module per year.

**Student selection**

This module is available to students registered for the MSc in Public Health, where it is recommended for students studying the Environment & Health and Health Promotion streams. It can also be taken by those studying for the PG Diploma Public Health, PG Diploma/MSc Clinical Trials, Global Health Policy and Infectious Diseases programmes, and MSc Epidemiology programme. Alternatively, it can also be taken as an individual module.

This module is not available to those who have already studied module HS303 *Medical Anthropology*.

**Fees**

The current schedule of fees can be viewed at [https://london.ac.uk/applications/costs-your-course/course-fees](https://london.ac.uk/applications/costs-your-course/course-fees) (click on the Postgraduate Fees link).

**Scholarships**

Scholarships are not available for individual modules. Some potential sources of funding are detailed on the LSHTM website.

**Admission deadlines**

Applications for LSHTM distance learning programmes and modules are managed by the University of London. To apply to take either a formal award (i.e. PG Certificate, PG Diploma or MSc) or an individual module, see [https://london.ac.uk/courses/public-health](https://london.ac.uk/courses/public-health).

Key deadlines are as follows:

- Application deadline: 31 August
- Registration deadline: 30 September (new students and those registering for the project module, PHM305)
- Registration deadline: 31 October (continuing students, with the exception of those registering for the project module PHM305, and those taking individual modules).
Please note: The academic year starts 1 October. Students who register after 1 October should note that module welcome and Collaborate sessions held in October are recorded, but they cannot request an extension to assignment submission deadlines or apply for an examination extenuating circumstance as a result of registering later than 1 October.

(In-house LSHTM research students can self-enrol on the module’s Moodle area. In-house LSHTM MSc students wishing to study this module should note information given in the mixed mode study option link.)

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This module specification applies for the academic year 2017-18

Last revised/approved July 2018 by Eleanor Hutchinson

Further revisions revised

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