LONDON SCHOOL of HYGIENE &TROPICAL MEDICINE

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year	2026-27
Module Code	PHM211
Module Title	Medical Anthropology in Public Health
Module Organiser(s)	Eleanor Hutchinson and Luisa Enria
Contact email	For students studying University of London awards (initial registration 2025/2026 and prior years): Enquiries may be made via their Student Advice Centre at: Student Advice Centre. For students studying LSHTM awards (registration in 2026/2027 and onwards): Enquiries should be emailed to: PHsupport@lshtm.ac.uk
Faculty	Public Health & Policy
FHEQ Level	Level 7
Credit Value	**CATS:** 15 **ECTS:** 7.5
Mode of Delivery	Distance Learning
Mode of Study	Directed self-study, through online materials (Virtual Learning Environment)
Language of Study	English
Pre-Requisites	None
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None
Module Cap (Maximum number of students)	None
Target Audience	This module is available to students registered for the DL MSc and PGDip in Public Health. For students who first registered for the MSc Public Health (UoL) prior to 2026/27 the module is recommended for those studying the Environment and Health and Health Promotion streams. The module is also open to students on the DL PGDip/MSc Health in Humanitarian Crisis; Clinical Trials; Epidemiology; Global Health Policy and Infectious Diseases programmes. It can also be taken as an individual module.

Module Description	Medical anthropology examines how health and illness are shaped, experienced, and understood both in local contexts and relation to global, political and historical forces.
Duration	Studies for distance learning modules begin in early October. At this time, module materials will be made available on Moodle once fees have been paid. Students are encouraged to commence their studies in October and work steadily through the materials over the course of the academic year and must adhere to other assessment submission deadlines.
Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	May 2026

For students studying UoL awards (initial registration in 2025/2026 and prior years)

Programme(s) This module is linked to the following programme(s)	**Status**
MSc Public Health: Environment and Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Recommended Elective
MSc Public Health: Health Promotion (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Recommended Elective
MSc Public Health (General stream) (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
MSc Public Health: Environment and Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
MSc Public Health: Health Economics (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
PGDip Public Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
PGDip/MSc Global Health Policy (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
PGDip/MSc Health in Humanitarian Crisis (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective

For students studying LSHTM awards (registration in 2026/2027 and onwards)

Programme(s) This module is linked to the following programme(s)	**Status**
PGDip Public Health (Distance Learning)	Elective
MSc Public Health (Distance Learning)	Elective
PGDip Global Health Policy (Distance Learning)	Elective
MSc Global Health Policy (Distance Learning)	Elective
PGDip Health in Humanitarian Crisis (Distance Learning)	Elective
MSc Health in Humanitarian Crisis (Distance Learning)	Elective

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module
The overall module aim is to: • Support students to apply concepts, theories and methods from medical anthropology to public health issues.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the module a student should be able to: 1. Demonstrate an analytical understanding of a range of concepts, principles and definitions used in medical and social anthropology; 2. Apply these concepts and principles in the analysis of public health issues across different contexts; 3. Evaluate the role of anthropological inquiry and analysis in public health arenas; 4. Critically evaluate, from an anthropological perspective, epidemiological, medical and public health approaches.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content
• Key methods and theory: participant observation, ethnographic approaches and the history of anthropology; • Illness and Cross-Cultural Ideas about health, sickness and the body; • Anthropology and Biomedicine: disease and post-coloniality; • Anthropology and the Politics of Public Health: biopolitics and governmentality; global medical research.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Directed self-study	110	73.3
Self-directed learning	0	0
Assessment, review and revision	40	26.7
Total	**150**	**100**

Teaching and Learning Strategy
Learning is via directed self-study. The course is organised into learning sessions and uses Moodle books to direct learning. Each session has a recorded lecture, a set of readings and an exercise. Discussion forums are provided for each learning session and online webinar discussion sessions. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the module-specific discussions and online webinar discussion sessions to obtain tutor support, and to make use of the LSHTM on-line library resources. Written feedback is provided on submitted assignments. This course is focused on reading and analysing texts and students are advised that to complete the course effectively, students need to read intensively over the 10 months. Many of the learning hours are spent reading, making notes from, and reflecting on the relevant papers and book chapters. Students are expected to learn to structure their reading (we provide a matrix with a list of questions in which to make notes and a 30-minute video providing details of how to read effectively) and we ask them to share their notes from one reading online. Specific reading guides are provided for more difficult texts. Students will listen to the recorded lectures; read specific papers detailed in the reading list. Students are also encouraged to access further online resources in order to expand their knowledge of a topic. We will have one online webinar discussion each term. The time of the discussion will be set at the beginning of the academic year. These collaborate sessions are important to clarify the complex ideas that students are presented with and those who attend are much more likely to do well in their assessed assignments. Discussion and debate are critical to studying this module and students who are not active in these discussions often struggle with the assignment. Tutors cover topics during the course of the year on Moodle.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy
This module is assessed via a summative assessed assignment (100%), to be submitted no later than May 31st (including resits).
Formative assessment We provide a formative assessment for students to support their learning. The formative assessment offers an opportunity to receive feedback from the module organisers on their analysis of key anthropological concepts and ethnographic case studies. We strongly advise students to engage with the formative assessment, as it has been created to support students to consider concepts and theories in-depth (which will assist them in scoring highly on the assessed assignment).

Assessment Type	Assessment Length	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Summative assessed Assignment	3000 words. Note: details about what to include in the word count and the referencing style to be used are provided in the Assignment Instructions. Students should follow these instructions carefully.	100	All

The summative assignment for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than **31 May** (including resits) and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.

Resitting assessment
Resits will accord with Chapter 8b of the LSHTM Academic Manual. The Resit assessment will be the same assessment type as the first attempt (see previous table).

Resources

The following materials are provided to students after registration and fee payment for this module in October:

- A guide to studying the module;
- A guide for each block in the form of a Moodle book, providing text (and links) to guide the lecture, reading and exercise, also specifying the learning materials;
- A reading list including details of both required and optional readings, which are available either as scans to download, or via the LSHTM's subscription to journals;
- A series of lectures, recorded at the LSHTM;
- A list of useful websites and other online resources;
- A structured guide to support and improve students' reading.

All materials are provided in e-format and may be accessed via the LSHTM VLE – Moodle.

Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

The module-specific site on Moodle provides students with access to the majority of the module learning materials, including a study guide and online reading list (detailing both essential and recommended readings), and additional resources including supplementary exercises, the option to listen to recordings of selected lectures taking place in London. In this module, materials provided include a textbook that is made available to students in e-format. All materials posted up on Moodle areas, including computer-based sessions, have been made accessible where possible. The LSHTM Moodle has been made accessible to the widest possible audience, using a VLE that allows for up to 300% zoom, permits navigation via keyboard and use of speech recognition software, and that allows listening through a screen reader. All students have access to "SensusAccess" software which allows conversion of files into alternative formats.

For students studying University of London awards (initial registration 2025/2026 and prior years: For students with special needs, reasonable adjustments and support can be arranged – details and how to request support can be found on the University of London Worldwide website at: Inclusive practice and Access arrangements | University of London

For students studying LSHTM awards (registration 2026/2027 and onwards): For students who require learning or assessment adjustments and support this can be arranged through the Student Support Services – details and how to request support can be found on the LSHTM Disability Support pages.