

Course title: ANTHROPOLOGY OF MEDICINE

ECTS credit allocation (and other scores): 4

Semester: autumn

Level of study: ISCED-6 - first-cycle programmes (EQF-6)

Branch of science: Social sciences

Language: English

Number of hours per semester: 30

Course coordinator/ Department and e-mail: dr Marta Śliwa/ Institute of Philosophy, marta.sliwa@uwm.edu.pl

Type of classes: classes and lectures

Substantive content

CLASSES /LECTURES: The phenomenon of health and disease is highly culturally modified. Cultural context determines: what is an illness/disease and what's not, right or wrong ways of treatment, gives meaning to both health and disease, and even decides when and how to die. Even in contemporary technological age of reason the terms: disease and health are not free from cultural interpretation.

The following topics will be discuss:

1. Introduction to Anthropology of Medicine. Medicine as an Ethnographic category- Ethnomedicine.
2. Illness and disease - anthropological approach to medicine.
3. Divination and Diagnosis as a Sociocultural Process (Theories of Natural Causation, Theories of Supernatural Causation, Social Consequences).
4. The role of Beliefs and Customs in medical practice.
5. Pain, Stress, Death - Cultural Conditions and Environmental Pressures.
6. The Position of Patient (afflicted) in Society.
7. Conceptions of Healing - Statuses and Roles.
8. Ethnopsychiatry and Ethnopharmacology.
- 9 . Anthropology of Bioethics. Perspectives on Culture, Medicine, and Morality .
10. Anthropology of Medicine Today – conclusions.

Learning purpose: This course is designed to introduce to the basic issues of cultural anthropology, especially anthropology of medicine. Knowledge of these issues expands the student's knowledge paying attention to issues of otherness and diversity of forms and ways of human behavior.

On completion of the study programme the graduate will gain:

Knowledge: By the end of the course student should be familiar with the basic terminology of anthropology of medicine, should know how the phenomenon of health and disease is culturally modified. Student will have knowledge of the socio-cultural aspects of patient's behavior, will know how to exam and treat culturally different patients making the patient's welfare a priority of the proceedings, and how to build the atmosphere of trust in relation doctor - patient and patient's family.

Skills: The students will have the ability: to use the correct category in the field of cultural anthropology, to critical analysis of phenomena and cultural products, to integrate knowledge from different disciplines of the humanities and social sciences, to anticipate different cultural behaviors.

Social Competencies: The students are educated to be respectful and tolerate towards otherness and to be responsible for their own decisions on professional and private level.

Basic literature

1. Eriksen, Thomas Hylland, *Anthropology, Culture and Society : Small Places, Large Issues : An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology*, Pluto Press 2010
2. Monaghan, J., Just, P., *Social and Cultural Anthropology : A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press 1999.

Supplementary literature:

1. *Cultural, Disease and Healing. Studies in Medical Anthropology*, ed. David Landy, New York – London
 2. *Introducing Medical Anthropology: A Discipline in Action*, ed. Merrill Singer, Hans Baer, 2009
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The allocated number of ECTS points consists of:

Contact hours with an academic teacher: 30 h

Student's independent work: 70h including: preparation to classes, preparation of presentation and final essay.