

Module Specification



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

LONDON SCHOOL of HYGIENE & TROPICAL MEDICINE



GENERAL INFORMATION	
Module name	Medical Anthropology in Public Health
Module code	PHM211
Module Organiser(s)	Virginia Bond and Eleanor Hutchinson
Contact email	LSHTM distance learning programmes and modules are run in collaboration with the University of London International Programmes. Enquiries may be made via their Student Advice Centre at: www.londoninternational.ac.uk/contact-us . (Enquiries from face-to-face i.e. London-based LSHTM MSc or research students regarding study of DL modules should be emailed to distance@lshtm.ac.uk .)
Home Faculty	Faculty of Public Health and Policy London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/php/
Level	This module is at Level 7 (postgraduate Masters level) of the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales & Northern Ireland (FHEQ).
Credit	LSHTM award 15 credits on successful completion of this module.
Accreditation	Not currently accredited by any other body.
Keywords	Anthropology; Ethnography; Qualitative Methods; Medicalization, Political Economy of Health, Social Theory, Bio-politics.
AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE	
Overall aim	To provide an introduction to concepts, perspectives, theories and methods in medical anthropology, and illustrate their relevance to public health issues.
Intended learning outcomes	By the end of this module, students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

CONTENT	
Session content	<p>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. 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.</p> <p>This module introduces anthropological approaches to health, medicine and public health. It will cover: the history, theoretical framings and methods of social 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.</p> <p>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. The following book will provide some preliminary grounding, although just reading this text will not be sufficient to engage with and pass the module:</p> <p>http://www.amazon.co.uk/Medical-Anthropology-Understanding-Public-Health/dp/0335218504</p>
TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT	
Study resources provided or required	<p>The primary resource for this module will be the LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) – Moodle. Here, students can access a range of resources; participate in module-specific discussion forums and Collaborate sessions and access the LSHTM online library resources.</p> <p>The following specific elements are provided to students after registration for this module once a year in September/October:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brief 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, with links to papers • A series of lectures, recorded at LSHTM • A book, <i>Medical Anthropology</i> by Robert Pool and Wenzel Geissler, to provide an initial introduction for a number of the topics • A list of useful websites and other online resources <p>Please note that although the book will be sent to students all other materials must be accessed via the LSHTM VLE – Moodle.</p>
Teaching and learning methods	<p>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</p>

	<p>to listen to the recorded lectures; read specific papers detailed in the reading list or read selected sections of the book sent to all registered students. Students are also encouraged to access further online resources in order to expand their knowledge of a topic.</p> <p>A Collaborate session will accompany each block as well as a specific discussion forum thread. Students will be expected to take part in these sessions and to make active use of the discussion forums. Discussion and debate is key to studying this module.</p> <p>In addition to the above, a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document and a document detailed suggested relevant websites is provided.</p> <p>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.</p>
Assessment details	<p>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.</p> <p>If students fail the module overall, they are allowed one further attempt at the failed element (examination and/or assignment).</p>
Assessment dates	<p>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.</p> <p>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 www.londoninternational.ac.uk/community-support-resources/current-students/examinations/examination-centres.</p> <p>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 International Programmes nor the LSHTM have any control over the fee amount.</p>
Language of study and assessment	<p>English (please see 'English language requirements' below regarding the standard required for entry).</p>
TIMING AND MODE OF STUDY	
Duration	<p>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. In addition to these online materials, a book will be sent to all registered students in early autumn once fees have been paid.</p> <p>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).</p>
Dates	<p>Tutorial support for distance learning modules is available only from the beginning of October through to the end of May.</p>
Mode of study	<p>By distance learning.</p>

Learning time	<p>The notional learning time for the module totals 150 hours, consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
APPLICATION, ADMISSION AND FEES	
Pre-requisites	<p>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.</p>
English language requirements	<p>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, 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.</p>
Student numbers	<p>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.</p>
Student selection	<p>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.</p> <p>This module is <u>not</u> available to those who have already studied module HS303 <i>Medical Anthropology</i>.</p>
Fees	<p>The current schedule of fees can be viewed at www.londoninternational.ac.uk/fees (click on the LSHTM programme link).</p>
Scholarships	<p>Scholarships are not available for individual modules. Some potential sources of funding are detailed on the LSHTM website.</p>
Admission deadlines	<p>Applications for LSHTM distance learning programmes and modules are managed by the University of London International Programmes. To apply to take either a formal award (i.e. PG Certificate, PG Diploma or MSc) or an individual module, click the relevant link on the right hand side of the page at http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/lshtm/public-health-msc-postgraduate-diploma-postgraduate-certificate.</p> <p>Key deadlines are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Application deadline: 31 August each year (Note: applicants who submit applications on or after 1 June 2017 will be required to pay an application fee of £100 at the point of submission, which will be deducted from the balance of fees payable upon registration. If the application does not result in registration, the application fee will not be refunded. No application fee will apply to applications submitted on or before 31 May 2017.) ➤ Registration deadline (new students): 30 September each year

- Registration deadline (continuing students, with the exception of those registering for the project module, PHM305, and those registering for individual modules): 31 October.

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 MSc and research students wishing to study this module should note information given in the mixed mode study option links for MSc students at <https://lshtm.sharepoint.com/Teaching-and-Support/Pages/taught-programmes-handbooks-regulations-policies.aspx>.)

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This module specification applies for the academic year 2017-18

Last revised/approved March 2017 by Eleanor Hutchinson

Further revisions revised

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