

Department of Anthropology

**ANTHRO 2290B-650- Cultures of Health, Illness, Disability and Healing**

**BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE**

**Winter 2026**

*Version Date: June 16, 2025*

**Instructor and course information:**

Instructor: Dr. Pamela Block (she/her)

Office: SSC-3425

Email: [pblock@uwo.ca](mailto:pblock@uwo.ca)

Office Hours: By Appointment.

Method of delivery: Online

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: the former 2290F/G.

Prerequisites: Completion of first year and at least .05 credits in Social Science or Humanities

Please ensure you have the correct requisites by checking [the Academic Calendar](#).

**Course Description:**

The goal of this course is to introduce you to medical anthropology, the role that anthropologists play in helping us understand global beliefs about illness and disability. We will learn about how anthropologists influence and work with systems of health, healing, wellness for policy, research, and activism. The course will include an emphasis on how health, illness, disability and healing are understood globally and cross-culturally, and will examine the relationship between biological, social and cultural understandings of these concepts.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL Brightspace site before the first day of class.

**Course Materials:**

Required textbooks:

Singer et al. (2022) [A Companion to Medical Anthropology](#). John Wiley and Sons. The textbook costs about CA\$75. The [e-book](#) is available for free via Course Readings.

Manderson et al. (2018) [Routledge Handbook of Medical Anthropology](#). Routledge. The textbook costs about CA\$82. The [e-book](#) is available for free via Course Readings.

Students wishing to purchase these books must purchase these editions. Older editions will not be sufficient.

Required readings will be available through the Course Readings tool on the course site

**Evaluation:**

Grades will be based on the following:

**Basic Contributions** For those wishing a grade between Passing to 80%:

- Two posters each connecting a material culture item from your personal life to content from the course one due at week 5 and the other at week 11. Topics must be pre-approved. 30% x 2
- Weekly Quiz 20%

For those who want grades above 80% or who are in danger of failing and seeking an improved grade:

**Collective Access Contributions** — Do at least two activities such as those described below – each over a 6-week period during the first and second half of the course. Create a journal to document and critically reflect on these experiences (10% x 2)

- Create alternative learning methods (games, puzzles, quizzes etc.) for students to learn, test or deepen their knowledge of each week's content for 6 weeks (different type each week)
- Create a works of visual art with an artist statement or graphic notes for 6 weeks of the course
- Create, moderate, actively participate in a thematic interest group weekly for 6 weeks
- Create a 5-minute podcast or video expanding on a topic taken from one of the week's readings
- Provide 1x1 peer support and feedback to help 6 other students with one of their Poster Assignments
- Have your own idea for a Collective Access Contribution? Check with Dr. Block for approval

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