

Degree programme	Type	Course
Social and Cultural Anthropology	OB	3

Contact lecturer

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Teaching staff

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Group languages

You can consult this information at the [end](#) of the document.

Prerequisites

This course has no prerequisites.

Objectives

1. Describe the scope of the anthropology of health and medical anthropology, through the description of their theoretical areas and with examples of ethnographic research.
2. Analyze how the relationship between biology and culture constructs and produces health systems.
3. Analyze the social constructions of illness, well-being, and sickness and disease.
4. Apply the anthropological perspective to contemporary health problems.
5. Incorporate a gender and intersectional perspective in the analysis of health systems.

Learning outcomes

- CM20 (Evaluate contemporary phenomena with the use of concepts, theories and methods from specialised thematic fields in anthropology.) Evaluate contemporary phenomena with the use of concepts, theories and methods from specialised thematic fields in anthropology.
- CM21 (Acquire knowledge related to specialised topics in anthropology for use in conveying information.) Acquire knowledge related to specialised topics in anthropology for use in conveying information.
- KM20 (Identify interdisciplinary trends in the specialised thematic areas of anthropology.) Identify interdisciplinary trends in the specialised thematic areas of anthropology.
- KM21 (Identify the theoretical proposals of the thematic fields specialised in Anthropology for the understanding of social and cultural phenomena or problems.) Identify the theoretical proposals of the thematic fields specialised in Anthropology for the understanding of social and cultural phenomena or

problems.

- KM23 (Identify the contributions of specialised areas of anthropology to face contemporary challenges.) Identify the contributions of specialised areas of anthropology to face contemporary challenges.
- KM24 (Compare and contrast information related to practical cases of interventions in different contexts and specialised thematic areas of anthropology.) Compare and contrast information related to practical cases of interventions in different contexts and specialised thematic areas of anthropology.
- SM27 (Explain current interdisciplinary developments in specialised anthropological fields to analyse knowledge of local and global contexts.) Explain current interdisciplinary developments in specialised anthropological fields to analyse knowledge of local and global contexts.
- SM28 (Apply the concepts, methods and theories of the specialised thematic fields in anthropology to the interpretation of current problems.) Apply the concepts, methods and theories of the specialised thematic fields in anthropology to the interpretation of current problems.
- SM29 (Use the ethnographic corpus in specialised anthropological fields for cultural criticism and reflection on complex problems.) Use the ethnographic corpus in specialised anthropological fields for cultural criticism and reflection on complex problems.
- SM30 (Apply theoretical knowledge to the study of complex problems related to the specialised thematic fields of anthropology.) Apply theoretical knowledge to the study of complex problems related to the specialised thematic fields of anthropology.

Contents

1. Basic concepts in anthropology of health
2. Social determinants of health and inequalities
3. Anthropology of health and medical anthropology
4. The body in biomedicine
5. Anthropology of reproductive health
6. Hospital ethnography
7. Applications of anthropology in biomedicine

Learning activities and methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Theoretical lectures	30	1.2	CM20, CM21, KM20, KM21, KM23, KM24, SM27, SM28, SM29, SM30
Group tutorials and information sessions	5	0.2	CM20, CM21, KM20, KM21, KM23, KM24, SM27, SM28, SM29, SM30
Individual study	36	1.44	CM20, CM21, KM20, KM21, KM23, KM24, SM27, SM28, SM29, SM30

This Teaching Guide contains all the information related to the course, which is why it is the only document to consult regarding any doubts about the course and its assessment.

The protagonist of the teaching-learning process is the student, and under this premise, a methodology based on continuous work has been planned.

Regarding the sessions:

The course will be developed through face-to-face directed sessions, supervised sessions, and autonomous work.

Attendance is compulsory, with a minimum of 80% of the sessions required, if not the course cannot be evaluated.

Face-to-face sessions will always be held with the entire class group and will be dedicated to the presentation of the course contents by the teaching staff and invited professionals.

In face-to-face sessions, the active participation of the student group in the analysis and discussion of the topics proposed by the teaching staff will be valued.

Autonomous work:

It includes activities such as the comprehensive and analytical reading and study of texts, the analytical viewing of audiovisual materials, the search for bibliographic references, information research, observation, and writing, among others.

Tutorials:

The supervised sessions will be face-to-face or virtual (by prior appointment), aimed at monitoring the course and carrying out assessment activities. It is recommended to attend at least one tutorial throughout the course for proper follow-up.

Regarding communication:

Communication regarding the course will be carried out through the Virtual Campus.

Regarding written assignments:

Written assignments will be completed in the classroom:

- They must be identified with the NIU (University Identification Number).
- They may be written in Catalan, Spanish, or English.
- No spelling or grammatical errors.
- With citations, notes, references, and bibliography in APA 7 format.

Correction criteria:

- Quality of presentation, format, writing, and bibliographic references in APA 7.
- Comprehension, breadth, and depth of the analysis of the bibliography, presentations, and viewings.
- Connection with the concepts of the course.
- Presentation of an articulated text through coherent and academically substantiated argumentation.
- Linking the presentations, bibliographies, and/or viewings with ethnographic examples from the press, one's own experience, or ethnographic observation.

Grading scale:

- 0: Submission after the deadline without a duly accredited justification.

- 1-4.9: Submission not based on the required analytical materials or based solely on a description/summary of the proposed materials.
- 5-6.9: Submission of an articulated academic text based on the proposed materials.
- 7-8.9: Submission based on the proposed materials, incorporating additional materials or ethnographic examples, experience, press, and observation.
- 9-10: Submission based on the proposed materials, incorporating additional materials and ethnographic examples, experience, press, and observation.

Fifteen minutes of one class session will be reserved, within the schedule established by the center/degree program, for students to complete the teaching staff and course/module evaluation surveys.

Use of AI

Restricted use: For this course, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is permitted exclusively for support tasks such as text correction, translations, or other specific situations that must be agreed upon with the teaching staff through a tutorial. The student must clearly identify which parts have been generated with this technology, specify the tools used, and include a critical reflection on how these have influenced the process and the final result of the activity. The lack of transparency in the use of AI in assessable activities will be considered academic dishonesty and may result in a partial or total penalty on the grade for the activity, or major sanctions in serious cases.

Annotation: within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continuous assessment activities

Title	Weight	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
A1: reading assignment	20%	12	0.48	CM20, CM21, KM20, KM21, KM23, KM24, SM27, SM28, SM29, SM30
A2: Essay	40%	30	1.2	CM20, CM21, KM20, KM21, KM23, KM24, SM27, SM28, SM29, SM30
A4: Attendance and participation	10%	12	0.48	CM20, CM21, KM20, KM21, KM23, KM24, SM27, SM28, SM29, SM30
A3: Audiovisual product	30%	25	1	CM20, CM21, KM20, KM21, KM23, KM24, SM27, SM28, SM29, SM30

Continuous Assessment

ACTIVITY 1: Questions on each compulsory reading (20%)

This individual activity aims to encourage the reading of the compulsory texts and the extraction of their key concepts, and it carries a weight of 20% of the final grade for the course.

Each student will have to formulate a critical question about the reading that could open up a debate with the

class group.

The compulsory readings are listed in the Bibliography section of this teaching guide.

In order to obtain the percentage corresponding to Activity 1, it is necessary to have completed at least 7 of the 9 available readings within the established deadline.

The dates for completing the readings are: February 11, February 23, March 4, March 16, April 6, April 15, April 27, May 6, and May 13.

ACTIVITY 2: Individual essay (40%)

This is an individual activity aimed at learning to recognise and relate three key concepts arising from three compulsory readings, through a previously prepared essay that will be written in the classroom. Students have the option of bringing whatever materials they deem necessary for writing the essay, on paper and without using any electronic devices. It carries a weight of 40% of the final grade for the course.

The detailed instructions for this activity, as well as its assessment rubric, will be posted on the virtual campus at the start of the course.

The date for this activity is March 18.

ACTIVITY 3: Audiovisual product (30%)

This activity aims to apply the content of the course to a real ethnographic case. Each student must produce an audiovisual product on any medium (audio, video, photography, social media, podcast, etc.) consisting of an interview and an analysis of said interview in light of the theoretical concepts of the course.

It is advisable to attend a tutorial in order to choose the topic and the format of the audiovisual product.

The maximum duration of the audiovisual product is 10 minutes.

The ability to use the theoretical concepts from the readings in relation to the interview will be assessed using a rubric by the teaching staff.

Attendance is compulsory on the three evaluation days:

- May 20
- May 25
- May 27

The detailed instructions for this activity, as well as its assessment rubric, will be posted on the virtual campus at the start of the course.

ACTIVITY 4: Attendance and participation (10%)

Attendance is compulsory and will be taken into account for the assessment of the course.

Single Assessment

The single assessment will consist of a synchronous three-part test on the day and time established by the faculty:

- Activity 1: 4 questions on the compulsory readings (20%). Maximum time: 30 minutes.

- Activity 2: an essay equivalent to Activity 2 of the continuous assessment (40%). Maximum time: 1 hour.
- Activity 3: 2 questions on the content of the course (40%). Maximum time: 30 minutes.

Retake

For students who have failed the course, i.e., those with a final average grade lower than 5 across the set of assessment activities, a retake session will be organised within the period established by UAB regulations (from June 10 to 23).

However, students who have not achieved a minimum grade of 3.5 will not be eligible for the retake.

Not Assessable

In the event that a student has not completed at least 100% of the assessment activities, their final grade will be recorded as "Not Assessable."

Bibliography

Compulsory Readings:

1. Good, Byron (2003). Como la medicina construye sus objetos. En *Medicina, racionalidad y experiencia. Una perspectiva antropológica* (pp. 129-168). Bellaterra.
2. Davis-Floyd, Robbie (2001), The technocratic, humanistic, and holistic paradigms of childbirth. *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*, 75: S5-S23.
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0020-7292\(01\)00510-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0020-7292(01)00510-0)
3. Scheper-Hughes, Nancy & Lock, Margaret (1987), *The Mindful Body: A Prolegomenon to Future Work in Medical Anthropology*. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 1: 6-41.
<https://doi.org/10.1525/maq.1987.1.1.02a000204>.
4. Lewis-Jackson, Sasha; Iob, Eleanora; Giunchiglia, Valentina; Cabral, Jose Roberto ; Romeu-Labayen, Maria; Cooper, Silvie; Makamu, Rirhandzu ; Dorasamy, Cassandra; Ncube, Matthew; Chasara, Romeo; Bautista-González, Elysse; Pérez-Duarte Mendiola, Paulina ; Caverro Huapaya, Victoria; Davies, Megain; Rutz, Florian & Staudacher, Sandra (2022). Policies and Politics: An Analysis of Public Policies Aimed at the Reorganisation of Healthcare Delivery During the COVID-19 Pandemic. In *Caring on the Frontline during COVID-19. Contributions from Rapid Qualitative Research* (pp. 39-64). Palgrave Macmillan.
5. Cerezuela González, Ana; Remorini, Carolina & Marre, Diana (2026). Dialogues of obstetric risk in the first trimester of pregnancy: Insights from a hospital ethnography. *Social Science & Medicine*, 392, 118985. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2026.118985>
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8. Ginsburg, Faye & Rapp, Rayna (1991). The politics of reproduction. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 20, 311-343.
9. Desy, Alexandra & Marre, Diana (2025). La movilidad reproductiva transfronteriza para sortear los impedimentos a la maternidad [Cross-border reproductive travel to circumvent impediments to motherhood]. *Anuário Antropológico*, 50. <https://doi.org/10.4000/14qwl>

Supplementary Readings:

- Ariès, Pierre ([1975]. 2011). *Historia de la muerte en Occidente: De la Edad Media hasta nuestros días*. El Acantilado.
- Baer, H. A., Singer, M., & Johnsen, J. H. (1986). Toward a critical medical anthropology. *Social Science & Medicine*, 23(2), 95-98. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0277-9536\(86\)90358-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/0277-9536(86)90358-8)
- Benjamin, Walter (1967). Sobre la facultad mimética. En *Ensayos escogidos* (pp. 105-107). Ed. Sur.
- Blanes, Ruy & Espírito Santo, Diana. (Eds.). (2014). *The social life of spirits*. University of Nebraska Press.
- Bloch, Maurice & Parry, Jonathan. (1982). *Death and the regeneration of life*. Cambridge University Press.
- Butler, Judith ([1993]2002). Los cuerpos que importan. En *Cuerpos que importan: Sobre los límites materiales y discursivos del "sexo"* (pp. 53-94). Paidós.
- Carrithers, Michael; Collins, Steven & Lukes, Steveb. (Eds.). *The category of the person: Anthropology, philosophy, history*. Cambridge University Press.
- Carsten, Janet. (2007). How do we know who we are? En R. Astuti, J. Parry, & C. Stafford (Eds.), *Questions of anthropology* (pp. 22-54). Berghahn Books.
- Canguilhem, G. (1971). *Lo normal y lo patológico*. Siglo XXI.
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- Degnen, Cathrine. (2018). *Cross-cultural perspectives on personhood and the life course*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Delaplace, Grégory. (2011). Enterrer, submerger, oublier: Invention et subversion du souvenir des morts en Mongolie. *Raisons Politiques*, 41, 87-103.
- Deleuze, Giles & Guattari, Felix (2007). We always make love with worlds. En M. Lock & J. Farquhar (Eds.), *Beyond the body proper: Reading the anthropology of material life* (pp. 428-433). Duke University Press.
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- Farmer, P. (2003). *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor* (1.a ed.). University of California Press. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/j.ctt1pnznf>
- Ferrándiz, Francisco. (2018). Death on the move: Pantheons and reburials in the Spanish Civil War exhumations. En A. Robben (Ed.), *A companion to the anthropology of death* (pp. 189-204). Wiley-Blackwell.
- Foucault, Michel (2000). Clase del 15 de enero de 1975. En *Los anormales* (pp. 39-59). Fondo de Cultura Económica.
- Goffman, Ervin (2001). *Estigma: La identidad deteriorada* (Obra original publicada en 1963). Amorrortu.
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- Kaufert, Patricia & O'Neil, John. (1993). Analysis of a dialogue on risks in childbirth : clinicians, epidemiologists, and Inuit women. *Knowledge, Power, and Practice : The Anthropology of Medicine and Everyday Life*.
- Landecker, Hannah. (2011). Food as exposure: Nutritional epigenetics and the new metabolism. *BioSocieties*, 6(2), 167-194.
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- Plonowska, Ewa. (2012). Bare life. En Henry Sussman (Ed.), *Impasses of the post-global: Theory in the era of climate change* (pp. 194-201). Open Humanities Press.
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Tronto, J. C., & Fisher, B. (1990). Toward a Feminist Theory of Caring. En E. Abel & M. Nelson (Eds.), *Circles of Care* (pp. 36-54). SUNY Press.

Software

Use of AI

Restricted use: For this module, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is permitted exclusively for support tasks such as text correction, translations or other specific situations, which must be agreed with the teaching staff during a tutorial. Students must clearly identify which parts have been generated using this technology, specify the tools used and include a critical reflection on how these have influenced the process and the final outcome of the activity. A lack of transparency regarding the use of AI in assessed activities will be considered a breach of academic integrity and may result in a partial or total deduction from the mark for the activity, or more severe sanctions in serious cases.

Course groups and languages

The information provided is provisional until November 30. After this date, you will be able to consult the language of each group through this [link](#). To access the information, you will need to enter the course CODE

Type of teaching	Group	Language	Semester	Shift
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan/Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan/Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed