

****Disclaimer****

This syllabus is to be used as a guideline only. The information provided is a summary of topics to be covered in the class. Information contained in this document such as assignments, grading scales, due dates, office hours, required books and materials may be from a previous semester and are subject to change. Please refer to your instructor for the most recent version of the syllabus.



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Syllabus ASB 462: Medical Anthropology

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Note: this syllabus is not a contract. It is subject to further change or revision, to best realize the educational goals of the course. Revisions will be announced in class or in course materials online with appropriate prior notice.

Course and Faculty Information

Course Description:

This 400-level course examines the intersections of culture and human biology and their role in shaping today's health issues in societies around the world. Students will develop an understanding of the significance of an anthropological perspective of health for understanding and resolving current health issues. Students will examine the various facets of the field of medical anthropology and the different techniques researchers use to investigate health using biocultural, evolutionary, cross-cultural, and political economic approaches. Next, we use these various approaches to investigate in depth a range of course themes including health care systems, the social and evolutionary factors shaping diet and nutrition, the effects of social inequalities on health outcomes, perceptions of mental illness, and cultural and evolutionary influences on the process of aging. Through hands-on activities, students will develop an understanding of how cultural behaviors, evolutionary history, and social, political, economic, and environmental context come together to shape human health.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Instructor: Dr. Sara Marsteller

Contact Info: smarstel@asu.edu

Help

For technical support, use the Help icon in the black global navigation menu in your Canvas course or call the ASU Help Desk at 1+(855) 278-5080. Support representatives employed at ASU are available to assist you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Course Goals

Students will examine biocultural and cultural approaches to health and disease utilized in medical anthropological research, learning in the process how to think critically about the applications of such approaches and their potential to aid in elucidating the complexity of human health in a globalized world.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- By the end of this course, students will demonstrate that they are able to:
 - Explain anthropological approaches to understanding patterns of health and disease around the globe
 - Compare differences in explanations, experiences, and treatments of disease in different cultures
 - Consider the evolutionary and social factors that shape current dietary-related health issues
 - Evaluate the impact of social inequalities on levels of stress and stress-related disease
 - Compare medical, evolutionary, and cross-cultural perspectives of mental illness
 - Examine the medicalization of issues associated with reproductive health and infant care

Textbooks

Medical Anthropology, 4th edition (2021) by Andrea S. Wiley and John S. Allen. New York: Oxford University Press.

ISBN-13: 978-0197515990, ISBN-10: 0197515991

*Any additional required readings will be provided as PDFs through the course website.

Course Access

Your ASU courses can be accessed in Canvas via canvas.asu.edu ([Links to an external site.](#)), my.asu.edu ([Links to an external site.](#)), and myasucourses.asu.edu ([Links to an external site.](#)); bookmark all in the event that one site is down.

Online Course

This is an online course. There are no face-to-face meetings. You can log into your course via MyASU or <https://my.asu.edu> ([Links to an external site.](#)).

Course Time Commitment

This three-credit course requires approximately 135 hours of work. Please expect to spend around 18 hours each week preparing for and actively participating in this course.

Computer Requirements

This is a fully online course; therefore, it requires a computer with internet access and the following technologies:

- Web browsers ([Chrome \(Links to an external site.\)](#), [Mozilla Firefox \(Links to an external site.\)](#), or [Safari \(Links to an external site.\)](#))
- [Adobe Acrobat Reader \(Links to an external site.\)](#) (free)
- Webcam, microphone, headset/earbuds, and speaker

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- Microsoft Office ([Microsoft 365 is free \(Links to an external site.\)](#) for all currently-enrolled ASU students)
- Reliable broadband internet connection (DSL or cable) to stream videos.

Note: A smartphone, iPad, Chromebook, etc. will not be sufficient for completing your work in ASU Online courses. While you will be able to access course content with mobile devices, you must use a computer for all assignments, quizzes, and virtual labs.

Student Success

To be successful:

- check the course daily
- read announcements
- read and respond to course email messages as needed
- complete assignments by the due dates specified
- communicate regularly with your instructor and peers
- create a study and/or assignment schedule to stay on track
- access [ASU Online Student Resources \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Communicating With the Instructor

This course uses a Discussion topic called Hallway Conversations for general questions about the course. Prior to posting a question, please check the syllabus, announcements, and existing posts. If you do not find an answer, post your question. You are encouraged to respond to the questions of your classmates.

Whenever possible, use the Canvas Inbox feature to ask questions of a personal nature to your instructor or assigned TA. You can expect a response within 1 business day.

ASU email is an official means of communication among students, faculty, and staff. Students are expected to read and act upon messages in a timely fashion. Students bear the responsibility of missed messages and should check their ASU-assigned email regularly.

All instructor correspondence will be sent to your ASU email account.

Course Format

This course is organized into a series of weekly learning modules each focused on a specific topic as listed below. Within each module, students will review a series of required lectures, readings, and videos; participate in a group discussion; and complete a quiz on assigned materials. In addition, students will complete weekly assignments that consist of applying the materials studied through hands-on activities. Students also will submit a final project, an 'anatomy' of a research paper, constructed piece by piece each week.

Module 1: Culture and Health – Why Study Health from an Anthropological Perspective?

Module 2: Health Care – How Does Culture Influence Treatment of Disease?

Module 3: Diet and Nutrition – What Factors Shape Dietary Related Health Issues?

Module 4: Social Inequality – How Do Social Inequalities Impact Health?

Module 5: Mental Illness – How Does Culture Shape Perspectives of Mental Health?

Module 6: Reproductive Health – What Is the Impact of the Medicalization of Reproductive Health and Infant Care

Final Project: Anatomy of a Research Paper

Coursework and Grade Assessment

Final grades for the course will be assigned on basis of the assignments described below. Detailed step-by-step instructions for each assignment are posted on the course site. Due dates are posted in the Course Summary.

1. *Quizzes (150 points)*: Each module will have one quiz (6 total). All you have to do to prepare for the quiz is complete the assigned reading and view the assigned videos for each module. These quizzes are open-book and open-video, but it will be difficult to find all the right answers if you have not done the reading beforehand because the quizzes are timed.
 - 1 Required Readiness (Syllabus) Quiz (10 points)
 - 6 Module Reading/Video Quizzes (20 points each; 120 total)
2. *Discussion Posts (20 points)*: In response to a prompt in Module 1, students will make one Discussion Post (around 50-200 words). Each student's post should have an interesting or provocative title so that others will want to read and respond to the post. Posts are graded on a pass/fail basis. To earn full points, posts must (1) adhere to the word limits; and (2) be relevant to the discussion topic. Students must post a response to two other classmates' initial posts that are around 50-100 words and engage in critical or substantive ways with the initial post (e.g., exemplar, critique, question). These responses are graded on a pass/fail basis.
 - Module 1 Discussion Post (20 points)
3. *Assignments (300 points)*: There will be five hands-on activities that apply the materials we study. These assignments are listed below.
 - Module 2 Assignment – Healing Systems in the News (60 points)
 - Module 3 Assignment – Human History Meal Plan (60 points)
 - Module 4 Assignment – Social Inequalities Research Evaluation (60 points)
 - Module 5 Assignment – Mental Illness and Cultural Competencies (60 points)
 - Module 6 Assignment – Documentary Evaluation (60 points)
4. *Anatomy of a Term Paper Project (150 points)*: Each week students will construct a piece of a research paper, culminating in the final project submission: a complete paper outline with opening and concluding paragraphs. Each student will also conduct a peer review of another student's final project.
 - Module 1: Develop a research question (10 points)
 - Module 2: Research question and bibliography (10 points)
 - Module 3: Two annotations (10 points)
 - Module 4: Two additional annotations (10 points)
 - Module 5: Two additional annotations (10 points)
 - Module 6: Thesis statement (10 points)
 - Final Project: Paper outline with opening and concluding paragraphs (80 points)
 - Peer review (10 points)

Summary of Course Assignments and Final Grade Assessment

• 1 Required Readiness (Syllabus) Quiz	10 points
• 6 Module Quizzes	20 points x 6 = 120 points
• Module 1 Discussion Post	20 points
• Module 2 Assignment	60 points
• Module 3 Assignment	60 points
• Module 4 Assignment	60 points
• Module 5 Assignment	60 points
• Module 6 Assignment	60 points
• <u>Anatomy of a Term Paper & Peer Review</u>	<u>150 points</u>
• Total:	600 total points

Grading

Your grade will be determined based on the following grading schema:

Grade	Percentage
A+	97.5 - 100%
A	92.5 - 97.4%
A-	89.5 - 92.4%
B+	87.5 - 89.4%
B	82.5 - 87.4%
B-	79.5 - 82.4%
C+	77.5 - 79.4%
C	69.5 - 77.4%
D	59.5 - 69.4%
E	<59.50%
XE	Failure due to Academic Dishonesty

Extra Credit

No extra credit is available in this course.

Incompletes

A mark of "I" (incomplete) is given by the instructor when you have completed most of the course and are otherwise doing acceptable work but are unable to complete the course because of illness or other conditions beyond your control. You are required to arrange with the instructor for the completion of the course requirements. The arrangement must be recorded on the [Request for Grade of Incomplete form \(Links to an external site.\)](http://students.asu.edu/forms/incomplete-grade-request) ([http://students.asu.edu/forms/incomplete-grade-request \(Links to an external site.\)](http://students.asu.edu/forms/incomplete-grade-request)).

Submitting Assignments

All assignments, unless otherwise announced, **MUST** be submitted to the designated area of Canvas. Do not submit an assignment via email, unless you are unable to submit the document via Canvas and need to demonstrate its completion by the deadline.

Assignment due dates follow Arizona Standard time. Click the following link to access the [Time Converter \(Links to an external site.\)](#) to ensure you account for the difference in Time Zones. Note: Arizona does not observe daylight savings time.

Grading Procedure

Grades reflect your performance on assignments and adherence to deadlines. Grades on assignments will be made available in the Gradebook.

Late or Missed Assignments

Course deadlines are set to help students to complete the entire course in the allotted period of the academic term. As we face challenges and stressors associated with current events, however, **please know that extensions are available to anyone who needs one.** Please always put your and your family's health and wellbeing first and contact me for an extension when you are able.

Without an extension, late assignments and discussion posts will not be accepted more than 3 days late (including weekends) and will be docked 5% of the total points for each day they are late. Late quizzes are not accepted, unless an extension is requested.

Please note: If there is a system-wide outage when an assignment is due you will not be punished for not turning it in on time, but will be required to turn it in by the newly stated day and time.

Follow the appropriate University policies to request an [accommodation for religious practices \(Links to an external site.\)](#) or to accommodate a missed assignment [due to University-sanctioned activities \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

Grade Appeals

Grade disputes must first be addressed by discussing the situation with the instructor. If the dispute is not resolved with the instructor, the student may appeal to the department chair per the [University Policy for Student Appeal Procedures on Grades \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

Course Information & Policies

Honors Contracts

Students are not permitted to complete an honors contract for this course.

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Student Standards

Students are required to read and act in accordance with university and Arizona Board of Regents policies, including:

The ABOR Code of Conduct: Arizona Board of Regents Policies 5-301 through 5-308: <https://students.asu.edu/srr> (Links to an external site.)

Expected student behavior in the course

In the online course platform, students are expected to be courteous and show respect to their fellow classmates, teaching assistant, and instructor in all discussion fora and other forms of communication. Please avoid emoticons, abbreviations, or all capital letters. Note that it can often be difficult to read someone's tone on a discussion board or via email; students should monitor their messages to ensure that they are respectful and appropriate. Any disrespectful, threatening, or inappropriate posts will be removed and the author will be subject to disciplinary action.

Policy against threatening behavior

All incidents and allegations of violent or threatening conduct by an ASU student (whether on-or off campus) must be reported to the ASU Police Department (ASU PD) and the Office of the Dean of Students. If either office determines that the behavior poses or has posed a serious threat to personal safety or to the welfare of the campus, the student will not be permitted to return to campus or reside in any ASU residence hall until an appropriate threat assessment has been completed and, if necessary, conditions for return are imposed. ASU PD, the Office of the Dean of Students, and other appropriate offices will coordinate the assessment in light of the relevant circumstances.

Academic Integrity

Academic honesty is expected of all students in any materials intended to be used for an academic evaluation, including, but not limited to: all examinations, papers, presentations, laboratory work, academic transactions and records.

Copyrighted Materials

All content in this course, including but not limited to video lectures, presentations, assignments, discussions, quizzes and exams, is protected by copyright and may not be shared, uploaded, sold, or distributed. Students must refrain from uploading, submitting or distributing any course content or material to any website or to any persons for any reason unless given written permission by the copyright holder. Violations of copyright may result in the sanctions listed below.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

[Plagiarism \(Links to an external site.\)](#) is strictly prohibited. Students must refrain from obtaining, uploading or submitting material that is not the student's original work to any course assignment or discussion used in this course or any other course unless the students first comply with all applicable citation guidelines and copyright laws; faculty members reserve the right to delete materials on the grounds of suspected plagiarism and copyright infringement and impose sanctions as listed below.

Academic dishonesty includes any act of academic deceit, including but not limited to possessing, reviewing, buying, selling, obtaining, posting on a site accessible to others, reviewing materials from a site

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accessible to others, or using, without appropriate authorization, any materials intended to be used for an academic evaluation.

Prohibition of Distributing or Selling Class Notes

Students may not share outside the class, upload, sell, or distribute course content or notes taken during the course. In accordance with [ACD 304-06 Commercial Note Taking Services \(Links to an external site.\)](#), written permission must be secured from the official instructor of the class in order to sell the instructor's oral communication in the form of notes. Notes must have the notetaker's name as well as the instructor's name, the course number, and the date.

Sanctions for Academic Integrity Violations

Possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification and dismissal from ASU. For more information, see <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity> [\(Links to an external site.\)](#).

Student Conduct and Appropriate Behavior

Additionally, required behavior standards are listed in the [Student Code of Conduct and Student Disciplinary Procedures \(Links to an external site.\)](#), [Computer, Internet, and Electronic Communications policy \(Links to an external site.\)](#), [SSM 104-02 \(Links to an external site.\)](#) policy against threatening behavior, per the *Student Services Manual*, "Handling Disruptive, Threatening, or Violent Individuals on Campus", and outlined by the [Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities \(Links to an external site.\)](#). Anyone in violation of these policies is subject to sanctions. [Students are entitled to receive instruction free from interference \(Links to an external site.\)](#) by other members of the class. An instructor may withdraw a student from the course when the student's behavior disrupts the educational process per [Instructor Withdrawal of a Student for Disruptive Classroom Behavior \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

Netiquette --appropriate online behavior-- is defined by the instructor and includes keeping course discussion posts focused on the assigned topics. Students must maintain a cordial atmosphere and use tact in expressing differences of opinion. Inappropriate discussion posts may be deleted by the instructor.

If you deem content shared by an instructor or student offensive, bring it to the attention of the instructor or, alternatively, to the unit chair or director.

The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities accepts [incident reports \(Links to an external site.\)](#) from students, faculty, staff, or other persons who believe that a student or a student organization may have violated the Student Code of Conduct.

[Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation \(Title VII and Title IX\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Policy on Discrimination

Arizona State University is committed to providing an environment free of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation for the entire university community, including all students, faculty members, staff employees, and guests.

Title VII

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is a federal law that provides that no person be discriminated against based on certain specified characteristics: sex, race, color, national origin and religion, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and genetic information. ASU expressly

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prohibits [discrimination \(Links to an external site.\)](#), [harassment \(Links to an external site.\)](#), and [retaliation \(Links to an external site.\)](#) by employees, students, contractors, or agents of the university based on any protected status.

Inappropriate conduct need not rise to the level of a violation of federal or state law to constitute a violation of this policy and to warrant disciplinary action/sanctions.

Title IX

Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited.

Reporting Title VII and IX Violations

Your instructor is a mandated reporter and therefore obligated to report any information regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence.

[An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at \(Links to an external site.\) <http://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs>. \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

ASU Counseling Services, <https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling> (Links to an external site.), is available if you wish to discuss any concerns confidentially and privately.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to complete the course evaluation. The feedback provides valuable information to the instructor and the college and is used to improve student learning. Students are notified when the online evaluation form is available.

Accessibility Statement

In compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act as amended (ADAAA) of 2008, professional disability specialists and support staff at the Disability Resource Center (DRC) facilitate a comprehensive range of academic support services and accommodations for qualified students with disabilities.

[Qualified students with disabilities may be eligible to receive academic support services and accommodations \(Links to an external site.\)](#). Eligibility is based on qualifying disability documentation and assessment of individual need. Students who believe they have a current and essential need for disability accommodations are [responsible for requesting accommodations and providing qualifying documentation \(Links to an external site.\)](#) to the DRC. Every effort is made to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities.

Qualified students who wish to request accommodation for a disability should contact the DRC by going to <https://eoss.asu.edu/drc> (Links to an external site.), calling (480) 965-1234 or emailing DRC@asu.edu. To speak with a specific office, please use the following information:

ASU Online and Downtown Phoenix Campus Polytechnic Campus

University Center Building, Suite 160

480-727-1165 (Voice)

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602-496-4321 (Voice)

West Campus

University Center Building (UCB), Room 130

602-543-8145 (Voice)

Tempe Campus

480-965-1234 (Voice)

Technical Support

This course uses Canvas to deliver content. It can be accessed through MyASU

at <http://my.asu.edu> ([Links to an external site.](#)) or the Canvas home page

at <https://myasucourses.asu.edu> ([Links to an external site.](#))

To monitor the status of campus networks and services, visit the System Health Portal

at <http://syshealth.asu.edu/> ([Links to an external site.](#)).

To contact the help desk, call toll-free at 1-855-278-5080.

Syllabus Disclaimer

The syllabus is a statement of intent and serves as an implicit agreement between the instructor and the student. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the

possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. Please remember to check your ASU email and the course site often.

Note on Course Content

A course focused on the global history of health necessarily includes some course materials and discussion of historical events that may be disturbing or traumatizing to some students, particularly as some such events continue to have ongoing repercussions and/or parallels with the ongoing historic global health pandemic we are experiencing currently. If you think a particular section of the course may be disturbing to you, I welcome you to contact me to share any concerns you may have in advance of reviewing those materials. I also welcome discussion of your personal reactions to any such material as an appropriate part of our coursework.

Diversity and Inclusivity

Throughout this course we seek to foster an inclusive learning environment that values students' diverse backgrounds and perspectives as a resource, strength, and benefit to all participants. We also seek to support students' diverse learning needs to give them the opportunity to succeed in the course and to gain skills that will serve them as they advance in their studies and careers.

Additionally, it is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

[ASU Charter](#) ([Links to an external site.](#)):

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“ASU is a comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom we exclude, but rather by whom we include and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves.”

Drop and Add Dates/Withdrawals

This course adheres to a compressed schedule and may be part of a sequenced program, therefore, there is a limited timeline to [drop or add the course \(Links to an external site.\)](#). Consult with your advisor and notify your instructor to add or drop this course. If you are considering a withdrawal, review the following ASU policies: [Withdrawal from Classes \(Links to an external site.\)](#), [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal \(Links to an external site.\)](#), and a [Grade of Incomplete \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

Campus Resources

As an ASU student you have access to many resources on campus. This includes tutoring, academic success coaching, counseling services, financial aid, disability resources, career and internship help and many opportunities to get involved in student clubs and organizations.

- Tutoring: <http://studentsuccess.asu.edu> (Links to an external site.)
- Counseling Services: <http://students.asu.edu/counseling> (Links to an external site.)
- Financial Aid: <http://students.asu.edu/financialaid> (Links to an external site.)
- Disability Resource Center: <http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc/> (Links to an external site.)
- Major/Career Exploration: <http://cisa.asu.edu/majorexploration> (Links to an external site.)
- Career Services: <http://students.asu.edu/career> (Links to an external site.)
- Student Organizations: <http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/mu/clubs/> (Links to an external site.)

For more information about the School of Human Evolution and Social Change, including our degree programs, research opportunities and advising information, please go to: <https://shesc.asu.edu/student-life/undergraduate-advising> (Links to an external site.). Our advisors are always willing to discuss career and guidance options with you.

Additional Educational Opportunities

Students who would like to learn more about educational opportunities and programs in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change should contact the school's undergraduate advisors at <https://shesc.asu.edu/student-life/undergraduate-advising> (Links to an external site.). The School of Human Evolution and Social Change also has a number of study abroad programs that engage with topic in global health and anthropology. SHESC's study abroad programs and field schools in anthropology & global health are running in New Zealand & Fiji, Australia, India, Guatemala, England, Peru, South Africa, and France (<https://shesc.asu.edu/abroad> (Links to an external site.)).

Course Outline

See the course Canvas website for details regarding required reading, videos, lectures, and assignments and tests. Due dates can be found in the Course Schedule.