

# MIAMSG

MÀSTER INTERUNIVERSITARI  
EN ANTROPOLOGIA MÈDICA  
I SALUT GLOBAL

INTER-UNIVERSITY MASTER'S DEGREE IN MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

## FIRST-YEAR SUBJECTS

### **ANTHROPOLOGY AND THE HEALTH SCIENCES (Lecturer subject to confirmation)**

This course presents the intersection between Anthropology and the Health Sciences; the differences and similarities involved in the construction of knowledge in both fields; the basic concepts; the models for organising practice; the arenas of interdisciplinary work; the ethical implications of health sciences and the CCSS; and the protocols of informed consent in both fields (similarities and differences).

### **MEDICALIZATION AND CULTURE (Dr Josep M. Comelles Esteban, URV)**

This course discusses the concept of medicalization and its role in the processes of mediation between professionals, the public and the state; the "organic" role of the process of medicalization; the historical stages of the process of medicalization; and medicalization in local *ethnoscapes*.

### **ETHNOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATIONS OF HEALTH, ILLNESS AND CARE (Dr Susan DiGiacomo, URV)**

This course analyses ethnographic writing relating to health, illness and care: ethnographic sources, ethnographic documentation, ethnographic narrative styles and multimedia in the health, illness and care process.

### **HEALTH AND SOCIETY IN THE HISTORY OF THE WEST (Dr Jon Arrizabalaga Valbuena, CSIC)**

The contents of this course are: individual health from classical hygiene to healthy lifestyles; public health before 1750; between the municipality and the state: the organisation of health provision in the 18th century; the quantification of health: demographic and health statistics; public hygiene and the industrial revolution: health engineering and social moralisation; public health in the laboratory: experimental hygiene and microbial theory; the emergence of social medicine: social hygiene and health campaigns; from tropical medicine to global health.

### **INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION SYSTEMS APPLIED TO MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY (Dr Enrique Perdiguero Gil, Universidad Miguel Hernández)**

This subject uses bibliographic examples of applied research to discuss various projects and provide students with the tools they need to prepare their own research projects and write reports on the results of those projects.

### **MEDICAL SYSTEMS (Dr Joana Zaragoza Gras, URV, and Dr Jaume Vallverdú Vallverdú, URV)**

This course discusses the concept of the medical system, the ethnographic and historical record of medical systems, and the presentation of cases: paradigms of western medicine, eastern medicine, African medical systems, Brazilian medical syncretism, etc.

### **DIET, HEALTH AND CULTURE (Dr Mabel Gracia Arnaiz, URV)**

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This course has two objectives. The first one is to demonstrate the usefulness of approaching the study of food as a multidimensional phenomenon whose forms and content are developed in societies that are essentially heterogeneous and dynamic. In this regard, the physical, psychological and social dimensions of human beings appear to be closely linked and reciprocally involved in their dietary practices. Although their biological entities are the product of nature and are conditioned by their requirements, their spiritual entities are capable of thought and reasoning and are therefore able to transcend natural laws, particularly when they interact with other human beings within organised systems. Accepting this premise does not mean having to adopt a dualist understanding of the innate and the acquired, of physiology or the imaginary, or of the material and the cultural; rather, it means that human dietary practices constitute a privileged space for the relational analysis of this duality. Studying "people who eat" means taking a holistic and comparative view of the various forms of knowledge.

The second objective of this course is to review socio-anthropological studies of food that assert the need for dialogue between the various disciplines that study human dietary practices. There will be debate on the possibilities and limits of interdisciplinary frameworks that bring the social and the cultural closer to the biological (and vice versa) in an attempt to move beyond the recurring reductionist and decontextualized approaches of science.

## **ANTHROPOLOGY AND GLOBAL HEALTH (Dr Susana Ramírez Hita, visiting professor, URV)**

The content of this course may change from year to year. In academic year 2014-2015, our analysis has focused on the interculturality of health from a critical perspective in an epistemological framework that intends to construct knowledge for the purposes of transforming the current reality in the health arena. The main geographical area involved in this analysis is Latin America.

## **ANTHROPOLOGY AND MENTAL HEALTH (Dr. Ángel Martínez Hernáez, URV)**

This course is intended as an introduction to the relationship between anthropology and mental health, especially with regard to theories in the disciplines of biomedical psychiatry, psychoanalysis and neuroscience, etc. This intersection has led to subjects and themes such as cultural psychiatry and collective mental health, both of which are areas discussed extensively on this course. Also analysed are the relationships between social, cultural, political and economic factors on the one hand and mental health problems and psychosocial healthcare policies and practices on the other.

## **PHENOMENOLOGICAL APPROACHES: BODY AND CULTURE (Dr Susan DiGiacomo, URV)**

Because of the abundance of phenomenological schools and the limited time available, this course will focus on the use of phenomenology in the anthropology of health and illness through an approach that concentrates on the human body. We will establish the theoretical framework of embodiment and see how this is applied in ethnographical analyses of specific cases.

## **CRITICAL APPROACHES IN MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY (Dr Eduardo Menéndez, CIESAS, Mexico)**

This course will provide students with theoretical information and practical training in the relational methodological perspective for conducting research and intervention in the health,

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illness and care process and explain how to deal with specific health problems via group work experiences.

## **ETHNOGRAPHIC METHODOLOGY IN MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY (Dr Susan DiGiacomo, URV)**

This course will discuss ethnographic methodology applied to medical anthropology and qualitative research techniques. The conceptual tools used are: dense description, experience-near, experience-distant, textual metaphor, reflexivity and subject positioning.

## **GLOBAL HEALTH: EPIDEMIOLOGY AND DEMOGRAPHY (Dr Joan Guix Oliver of the Department of Health of the Generalitat (Autonomous Government of Catalonia) (1) and Dr Fernando Gil Alonso of the University of Barcelona (UB) (2)).**

1. EPIDEMIOLOGY. This part of the course presents the bases for epidemiology in relation to global health. This eminently practical course involves performing several studies of a specific nature.

2. DEMOGRAPHY. This part of the course analyses aspects of demography that are associated with concepts related to health, illness and care. More specifically, aspects of mortality and morbidity in several populations are studied via practical exercises.

## **ADVANCED TECHNIQUES IN ETHNOGRAPHY (Dr Alberto López Bargados, UB)**

Concepts, analyses and ethnographical evaluation will be handled by studying the processes of social exclusion. Once this concept has been clarified, case studies will be conducted in the field of health.

## **SECOND-YEAR COURSES**

### **APPLIED MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY (Dr Susan DiGiacomo, URV)**

From bibliographic examples taken from applied research studies, this course discusses various projects in order to provide students with the tools they need to prepare research projects and draft papers and reports, etc. on those projects.

### **HEALTH, DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT (Dr Cristina Larrea Killinger, UB)**

This subject focuses on the anthropological analysis of the intersections between health, development and the environment. The main objective of the course is to reflect on the discourse and sociocultural practices with regard to environmental pollution that derive from the processes of industrial, chemical, petrochemical, agricultural and urban development and the effects of this development on human health. These reflections are based on how societies organize themselves in the face of environmental pollution (precautions, prevention, risk and treatment, etc.), how pollution, toxicity, risks and waste are perceived and classified socially, and how societies look for solutions or withstand this global health problem.

### **DRUGS, DRUG USERS, HEALTH ISSUES AND RISK MANAGEMENT (Dr Oriol Romani Alfonso, URV)**

This course discusses the model for limiting harm and risk in the context of analyses of drug

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use and drug addiction. We focus on the advent of a new form of social conflict management in a specific aspect of our contemporary societies that focuses on the concept of risk but which, as the current debate on the regulation, de-penalization and legalization of drugs appears to demonstrate, has to take into account a model that is a component of a broader strategy – governability – and can therefore be applied to other areas of social life.

## **CULTURE AND THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF ILLNESS (Dr Angel Martínez Hernáez, URV)**

This course is intended as an advanced seminar on psychiatric anthropology, cultural psychiatry, the “neuro” phenomenon, neurosciences and the movements of neurodiversity. The hegemony strategies of the neurosciences will be analysed and how these strategies extend beyond expert systems will be discussed. Also discussed will be the cultural and political economy factors associated with illness in the era of super- or hyper-modernity.

## **CULTURE AND THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF HEALTH: HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS (Lecturer subject to confirmation)**

This course takes students on a journey to discover the roots and trace the development of the welfare state in Europe from a perspective that combines both historiographical and ethnographic sources. Concepts such as hospitality, philanthropy, charity and welfare are discussed and the political economy of healthcare mechanisms is analysed from the Middle Ages to the policies introduced after the 1973 economic crisis and the denationalisation of the 1980s.

## **DIETARY CONTROVERSIES: SUBJECTS, PRACTICES AND DISCOURSES (Dr Mabel Gracia Arnaiz, URV)**

Political agendas today are full of topics that focus on diet and whose importance has made them the subject of analysis by researchers from a wide range of disciplines. Anthropology has highlighted several paradoxes inherent to the agroindustrial food system. Although on the one hand in some countries this system has led to both a reduction in social differences regarding food consumption and an increase in food safety, it has also raised uncertainties about the harmlessness of processed foods and generated controversies in relation to the high environmental and social costs associated with their production. It is also a system that emphasises, not without a certain tension or opposition, the processes involved in the globalisation of products and cooking methods, the intensification of food production, the accumulation of foods, and the diversification of foods in the markets and on tables while at the same time coexisting with and contributing to malnutrition and a lack of food sovereignty for millions of people. This course presents a range of studies that highlight these paradoxes from several perspectives and discusses both their various causes and their effects on people's daily dietary habits. Taking into account a range of social actors, these studies analyse the multiple practices and discourses that are generated by processes such as individualisation, commercial exploitation, medicalisation and economic instability. Such processes have led to the specialisation and particularisation of production and the consumption of food items for religious, ethical, ideological, financial or ecological reasons as forms of food standardization caused by increasing globalisation and transnational interconnection.

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## ADVANCED STUDIES SEMINAR

This course comprises a series of presentations and discussions on a range of topics by numerous professors in one- or two-credit seminars. The themes proposed for 2015-2016 are:

- Museology in healthcare (2 ECTS) (Dr Alfons Zarzoso, Museum of History of Medicine of Catalonia)
- Inequality in healthcare (1ECTS)
- Health and communication (2 ECTS)
- Tuberculosis and migration (2 ECTS)
- Ethnocinematography in socio-health sciences (1ECTS) (Dr Josep M Comelles, URV)
- Self-ethnographies in healthcare (2 ECTS) (Dr Susan Digiacomio, URV)

## MASTER'S DEGREE FINAL PROJECT

The Master's Degree Final Project involves the completion of an original and supervised research study or intervention project on a topic to be chosen by the student and approved by the supervisor and subject coordinator. Within this general framework, and incorporating the relevant theoretical, ethnographic and interpretive bases, the Final Project may be exclusively or largely research-based or focused on reflection and proposals for intervention in the areas studied or empirical cases selected for the project.