

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD1323F

Date of Senate Approval 12/07/2023

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 9 (ANTH/SSCI): Addition of new course, ANTH 346, Medical Anthropology

Effective Date: Fall 2024

1. Add: On page 295, new course, **ANTH 346, Medical Anthropology:**

346 Medical Anthropology (4)

Looks at how diverse cultures--including the culture of biomedicine and popular health culture--understand, experience, and treat illnesses. How are sickness and healing culturally constructed? How is the health of individuals shaped by cultural norms, social institutions, and the forces of globalization? How do different peoples in the world understand notions of health and well-being? By reading ethnographies and viewing documentaries, we will consider the cultural construction of illness and how social and cultural factors influence pandemics and epidemics, medical ethics, and social justice issues. Odd years Fall.

Impact: The addition of this course has no impact on staffing as it has already been offered as a Special Topics course at least 4 times with enrollments from 9-26 students. It provides students with an additional elective toward completing their major or minor in Anthropology and Sociology.

The student learning objectives are:

- Understand the ways in which ideas regarding health, illness, and treatment are socially constructed.
- Distinguish between illness and disease.
- Recognize different medical systems—including biomedicine--as cultures.
- Comprehend how structural violence and social inequality cause and shape health problems.
- Learn to integrate material covered in class with your own experience and the experiences of others in an anthropological way.
- Hone skills in critical thinking, clear writing, effective participation in discussion, and successful oral presentations.

The class, taught by one faculty member, is anticipated to enroll between 15-25 students.

As a 4-credit course, students are in class 3:20 per week and have additional reading and assignment work an average of 4-7 hour per week.

No additional space or specialized equipment is required.

Faculty contact hours are the same as any 4-credit course, depending on total student enrollment.

Rationale: This course has been offered as a Special Topics course 4 times. We propose to shift it to a regular catalog course. It serves as an elective for the Anthropology and Sociology majors and minors.