ANTH 312
INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Leslie Butt

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

From amulets to antibiotics, and from spirits to specialists, ideas of what it means to be sick, to be a healer, and to be healed are rooted in cultural and political values. Medical anthropology looks at traditions of diagnosis and healing across the globe, exploring sickness and health as shaped by wider cultural values, political conditions, ideas about knowledge, and notions of rights and responsibilities. This course explores the important subfield of medical anthropology in three main areas: enduring cultural traditions of healing; global health politics; and applied medical anthropology.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

- Identify key worldwide similarities and differences in ideas about sickness and healing
- Assess the place of healers within cultures
- Understand the assumptions and values embedded in biomedicine
- Explore the intersection of biomedicine and traditional medicines
- Critically assess the ethics of global health research and global health care practices
- Assess the contributions of applied medical anthropology to the field of global health
- Design a basic medical anthropology study