

TENNESSEE CONSORTIUM FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
SYLLABUS OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE Culture, Health and Illness
COURSE NUMBER SOAA 4957/5957 (special topics)

Credit Hours: 3

Catalog Course Description:

Explores the interchange between health, culture and illness with a focus on the Indian medical system. Examines cultural meanings of the body and illness, inequality and suffering, traditional healers and folk medical traditions, and medical pluralism.

How Program Site Will Be Incorporated into the Course:

The course will cover basic concepts in medical anthropology in the context of Indian culture, Ayurvedic medicine and medical pluralism in contemporary India. In addition to planned visits, such as an AIDS clinic and program for street children, Jaipur offers access to one of India's oldest medical colleges, the National Institute of Ayurveda, and numerous centers for medical tourism.

Prerequisites: none

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:

Exploring Medical Anthropology, D. Joralemon
The Roots of Ayurveda, D. Wujastyk

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis: modify for number of weeks

Week	Topic
1	Health, illness and Indian culture -ritual and the life cycle -cultural definitions of the body and illness -poverty, disease and health care access
2	Traditional medicine in India -Ayurvedic medicine -traditional healers -merging of traditional medicine and biomedicine in India
3	Globalization and medical pluralism -current state of Indian health care

- Indian medicine and physicians in the west
- 4 -role of India in medical “outsourcing” and tourism
- 5
- 6

II. Course Objectives*:

- A. Learn basic medical anthropological concepts
- B. Become familiar with traditional and contemporary medicine in India
- C. Develop awareness of relationship between culture, socioeconomic conditions and health needs
- D.
- E.
- F.
- G.
- H.

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference TBR’s general education goals.

III. Instructional Processes*:

Students will:

1. Gain firsthand cross-cultural exposure
2. Develop practical skills in different cultural setting
3. Interact with citizens of India and hear firsthand accounts of their experiences
4. Visit significant historical and cultural sites in India

*Strategies and outcomes listed after instructional processes reference TBR’s goals for strengthening general education knowledge and skills, connecting coursework to experiences beyond the classroom, and encouraging students to take active and responsible roles in the educational process.

IV. Expectations for Student Performance*:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify goals of medical anthropology
2. Develop awareness and sensitivity to different beliefs and social structures
3. Understand health and illness from global perspective
4. Relate cultural experience to broader educational context

- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

*Letters after performance expectations reference the course objectives listed above.

V. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures:

There will be one comprehensive exam on the last day of classes. The exam will consist of 4 essay questions integrating reading material, lectures, and experiences. The exam will constitute 50% of the grade

B. Research Paper: If applicable

NA

C. Other Evaluation Methods:

Students will keep a journal worth 25% of their grade. Daily journal entries are expected, asking students to reflect on cultural experiences and instructional material.

Students will participate in a faculty directed service learning project for ten hours throughout the course of the program. This requirement will constitute 25% of their grade.

D. Grading Scale:

92-100	= A
89-91	= B+
82-88	= B
79-81	= C+
72-78	= C
65-71	= D
Below 65	= F

VI. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Attendance is of utmost importance in study abroad courses. There are no unexcused absences permitted. Multiple unexcused absences are grounds for removal from the program. Being in class on time is also very important. Frequent tardiness will be considered an absence and appropriate action will be taken. Absences due to illness must be reported immediately to the program

director.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices: Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments. In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed as a result of academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign either (1) an F or zero for the assignment or (2) an F for the course.

VII. Instructional Hours:

This course will consist of a minimum of 37.5 full hours of formal instruction.