

MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY (MMA)

Program Director: Alexander Rodlach, Ph.D.

Program Office: Creighton Hall 441A

GRADUATE STUDY IN MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

The program in Medical Anthropology is designed to provide a usable skill set for health and health care in an increasingly complex world through taking seriously the important factor of culture. This cultural approach to health and health care makes the program unique and complementary with other health-related programs. With its emphasis on fieldwork and cultural analysis in the light of biomedical knowledge, the program furthers the excellence of healthcare professionals. The program promotes strategies for equitable access to effective health care both domestically and globally.

Program Goals

The Master of Arts in Medical Anthropology prepares students to:

1. Identify and examine the holistic, comparative, and ethnographic perspectives of medical anthropology. Students will be able to:
 - a. analyze social behavior and cultural beliefs within specific groups and their conceptions of and practices associated with illness, health, and healing.
 - b. apply the perspectives and approaches of medical anthropology to analyze issues of health and illness.
2. Apply the commonly used methods in medical anthropology for research. Students will be able to:
 - a. collect and analyze data based on a clear understanding of the qualitative, quantitative, and integrated mixed methods used by medical anthropologists.
 - b. conduct fieldwork, extensive library research, or a practicum. They will be skilled in consulting existing knowledge, following the scientific standards commonly accepted in anthropology, and producing original knowledge.
3. Identify and examine ethical issues in medical anthropology research and practice. Students will be able to:
 - a. identify and analyze ethical issues commonly faced by medical anthropologists in their research, writing, and the interpretation of their findings.
 - b. identify and apply the ethical standards of the Institutional Review Boards (IRB) and other ethics boards.
4. Make informed and reflexive contributions to scholarly, professional, and general communities. Students will be able to:
 - a. critically identify, examine, and interpret personal, professional, and Ignatian values and become advocates for change.
 - b. practice effective, clear, and empathic communication across diverse social and cultural perspectives.

Program Faculty

Professors: R. Bucko, SJ; D. R. Wilson;

Associate Professors: B. Dilly, R. Murray, D. Travers Gustafson;

Assistant Professors: L. Heinemann, A. Rodlach, H. Stanton Chapple.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university. An application should include:

- (1) Completed application form, with application fee.
- (2) Current resume.
- (3) Statement of purpose (5-7 pages, double-spaced) out-lining the reasons for applying for admission and the intended goals.
- (4) At least one writing sample of the applicant's prior work in any field.
- (5) Official transcripts from all educational institutions attended (no photocopies accepted).
- (6) Three recommendations by persons familiar with the applicant's academic background, achievements, and personal qualities.
- (7) A minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based) or 80 (Internet-based) for students for whom English is not their first language.
- (8) Creighton University reserves the right to request GRE scores or a personal interview.
- (9) Proof of regular access to the technology needed to take online courses.

Master of Arts (M.A.) in Medical Anthropology (36 credits)

The master's degree program requires students to take twelve of the program's courses (36 credit hours). The course offerings are primarily delivered on-line with the exception of MMA 600 and MMA 750. Students will select, together with their advisors, one of the following program paths: the thesis tracks are (1) the Field Research track and (2) the Library Research track. The non-thesis track is (3) the Practicum track, which includes a capstone paper. Students must maintain at least a 3.0 grade average throughout the graduate program. The program can be completed by full-time students within one year (summer I, fall, spring, and summer II semester). However, students can elect, in consultation with their academic advisor, to follow a different program schedule. Creighton undergraduate students can, in their final semester before graduation, take 600-level courses of this program upon approval by the Program Director.

The following courses or content equivalent courses are required to complete this degree:

(All of the following:)

MMA 600	Seminar in Medical Anthropology	3 credits
MMA 610	Public Health Anthropology: Bridging Differences	3 credits
MMA 620	Global Health: Local Realities and Global Forces	3 credits
MMA 630	Health Care and Health Services: Ant. Perspectives	3 credits
MMA 640	Rural Health Issues and Initiatives	3 credits
MMA 750	Methods I: Quantitative Research Analysis	3 credits
MMA 760	Methods II: Qualitative Field Research Methods	3 credits

(One of the following:)

MMA 770	Field Research and Thesis Writing	9 credits
MMA 771	Library Research and Thesis Writing	9 credits
MMA 772	Practicum and Program Development	9 credits

(Two of the following:)

ECO 513	Health Economics	3 credits
MHE 602	Research Ethics	3 credits
MHE 604	Social & Cultural Contexts of Health Care	3 credits
MHE 619	Dying, Death and Transplantation in American Hospital	3 credits
MMA 650	Indigenous Health Issues	3 credits
NUR 501	Global Health Issues	3 credits
NUR 684	Epidemiology	3 credits
NDR 771	Collaboration and Conflict Resolution in Health Care	3 credits
THL 534	Introduction to Liberation Theology	3 credits

Graduate Certificate Program in Medical Anthropology

The Graduate Certificate program in Medical Anthropology requires students to take six courses (18 credit hours). The course offerings are primarily delivered on-line with the exception of MMA 600 and MMA 750. Students must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA throughout the graduate program. The program can be completed by full-time students in less than a year (summer, fall, and spring semester). However, students can elect, in consultation with their academic advisor, to follow a different program schedule. Creighton undergraduate students can, in their final semester before graduation, take 600-level courses of this program upon approval by the Program Director.

(All of the following:)		
MMA 600	Seminar in Medical Anthropology	3 credits
(One of the following:)		
MMA 750	Methods I: Quantitative Research Analysis	3 credits
MMA 760	Methods II: Qualitative Field Research Methods	3 credits
(Twelve credits from the following:)		
MMA 610	Public Health Anthropology: Bridging Differences	3 credits
MMA 620	Global Health: Local Realities and Global Forces	3 credits
MMA 630	Health Care and Health Services	3 credits
MMA 640	Rural Health Issues and Initiatives	3 credits
MMA 650	Indigenous Health Issues	3 credits

MMA 600 Seminar in Medical Anthropology (3)

This course explores meanings of health, disease, and the body. These ideas are profoundly shaped by culture, transnational flows of people, ideas, and resources, histories of colonialism and structural inequalities, and the development of new technologies. An informed understanding of health and illness must begin by exploring these multiple dynamics, processes, and contexts. Further, during this course, students will meet the program faculty, familiarize themselves with resources available to them through the library, online, and on campus, and become acquainted with online and on-campus learning as well as individual mentoring by advisors.

MMA 610 Public Health Anthropology: Bridging Differences (3)

This course, examines three types of relationships between anthropology and public health. Anthropology and public health will examine complementary and competing concepts fundamental to each discipline. Anthropology of public health takes a critical look at public health's cultural assumptions in its praxis. Anthropology in public health will focus on ways that anthropology theory and methods inform the practice of public health. Using these three approaches, we will examine topics in public health.

MMA 620 Global Health: Local Realities and Global Forces (3)

This course explores the field of global health, particularly the health problems facing populations in developing countries. The course provides an overview of the major initiatives and issues in international public health such as those by the World Health Organization, as well as in-depth case studies of individual nations' approach to health. The underlying purpose of the course is to develop students' awareness of the political, socioeconomic, ecological, and cultural complexity of health problems in developing nations and the need for anthropological involvement in the field of global health.

MMA 630 Health Care and Health Services: Anthropological Perspectives (3)

From birth to death, medical decisions pervade our lives. From macroeconomic controversies over private vs. managed care to micro-cultural decisions over whether and how to incorporate various healing traditions into our lives, all of us make decisions, on a daily basis, over types of medical treatment. This course takes a historical and comparative anthropological approach to studying health services and healthcare systems. The course especially emphasizes three topics: (a) controversies precipitated by new medical technologies; (b) continuities and dislocations between western and non-western medical traditions; (c) appropriate responses to chronic and global diseases, such as AIDS. We consider the broad plurality of ways of diagnosing and treating illness throughout the world, as well as the specific historical and local contexts of new treatments and technologies.

MMA 640 Rural Health Issues and Initiatives (3)

This course examines the environmental, cultural, and systemic economic and political factors that contribute to health, wellness, illness, and healing in rural American settings. It identifies the health effects of air and water pollution as a result of agricultural and industrial production as well as natural environmental hazards and extremes. The course interprets the cultural behaviors of rural people related to health and illness within the contexts of income disparities and the geographic isolation that influences access to health care. It examines and critiques the federal and state level policies that attempt to address inequities and injustices in rural health. Students will understand how medical anthropological field methods are applied to identify rural issues in specific local contexts and applied to further appropriate initiatives.

MMA 650 Indigenous Health Issues (3)

This course examines indigenous health issues and solutions around the globe. After considering and defining the term the course examines groups and individuals within these groups in specific geographic regions such as the Americas, Oceania, Africa and Asia with a focus on population, culture, health resources and challenges, integration with and separation from the outside world particularly in relationship to the Nations in which these groups are located. The class also examines each group's relationship with their heterogeneous health care options.

MMA 750 Methods I: Quantitative Research Analysis (3)

This course will combine an in-depth exploration of quantitative research techniques with a variety of statistical assessments. Particular emphasis will be paid to collection, coding and analysis of original data. Issues concerning ethical expectations and considerations in the collection, analysis and reporting of quantitative data will also be fully addressed. Undergraduate statistics course suggested.

MMA 760 Methods II: Qualitative Field Research Methods (3)

This course will introduce the field research methods used by anthropologists to collect and interpret data. The course will begin by discussing ethical and epistemological issues in research. Then, through a variety of in-class and out-of-class exercises, students will gather and analyze data. By the end of the course, students should be able to evaluate the research of others and plan and conduct their own research through 1) identifying research problems, 2) selecting appropriate research methods, 3) developing a research proposal, and 4) practicing data collection and analysis.

MMA 770 Field Research and Thesis Writing (9)

This course is taken by students who opt for the field research track with writing a thesis based on the field research findings. Students will closely interact with and be mentored by their advisor in collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data and when they write the thesis. **P: MMA 750 and MMA 760.**

MMA 771 Library Research and Thesis Writing (9)

This course is taken by students who opt for the library research track with writing a thesis based on the library research findings. Students will closely interact with and be mentored by their advisor in searching for, analyzing, and interpreting data and when they write the thesis. **P: MMA 750 and MMA 760.**

MMA 772 Practicum and Program Development (9)

This course is taken by students who opt for the practicum track with developing a program, assessment tool, educational material, etc. for a practicum organization supervised by someone within the organization and by the academic advisor. Both the academic advisor and the organization's supervisor will assess the developed "product" and the academic advisor will assign the grade. **P: MMA 750 and MMA 760.**