

***Culture and Health (CGH: 021-010)***

***Fall 2022***

***Health, Science, and Technology Bldg. 205 - TR 1:35-2:50pm EST***

**Instructor:** Ryan Goeckner, MA, [rtgoeckner@lehigh.edu](mailto:rtgoeckner@lehigh.edu)

**Office:** STEPS 414

**Office Hours:** Tuesday, 10a-1p or by appointment

**Course Description:**

This course will introduce students to the complex and dynamic relationship between culture and health in Western and non-Western populations, communities, and societies. Cross-cultural institutions such as economics, politics, kinship, religion, and language, and their roles in sickness and illness will be discussed. The relationship between traditional and modern healing systems will also be analyzed.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to...

1. Explain the elements of an anthropological approach to understanding cultures.
2. Explain what it means to say that reality is socially constructed.
3. Apply an understanding of the social construction of health to the Western allopathic medical system and other healing traditions discussed in class.
4. Identify how factors such as gender, race, ethnicity, class, and religion impact individual and community health.
5. Explain how concepts such as health, illness, and disease are socially constructed.
6. Contrast experiences of illness between cultures discussed in class.
7. Examine how American culture impacts your own health and the health of others.

**Course Requirements:**

Challenges (4, 50%): Throughout the semester, students will complete four challenges where they will practice the skills necessary for interacting with individuals from a diversity of cultural backgrounds. For each challenge, students will write a debrief responding to the challenge prompt in addition to explaining and reflecting upon their experience. Reflections are expected to be 2-3 pages in length. Additional requirements will be provided via Course Site and in-class instruction.

Final reflection (20%): At the end of the course, students will respond to a brief prompt reflecting on the content covered in the course. They will synthesize their experiences throughout the course with those of their challenge assignments highlighting the importance of an anthropological approach to culture and health. This assignment is expected to be 3-4 pages in length. Additional requirements will be provided via Course Site and in-class instruction.

Participation (25%): It is highly unlikely that any student will do well in this class without actively participating during our in-class sessions. The nature of the content being discussed in this class requires an open-mindedness and curiosity that is most effectively explored with your peers and myself through in-class discussion. For the most part, I will not lecture over the specifics of material to be completed outside of class. You are expected to prepare these materials before you come to class. I recommend that you make every attempt to have readings and other course materials (podcasts, films, etc.) *at least* started by Tuesday of every week and finished before class on Thursdays. All readings and other materials will be made available, free-of-charge, via Course Site.

Attendance (5%): Students will be expected to attend all sessions of the class, to the best of their abilities. Each student is allowed two, unexcused absences without penalty. Any absence thereafter should be discussed with me to determine any potential makeup work. Attendance will be recorded through daily exit slips at the end of class.

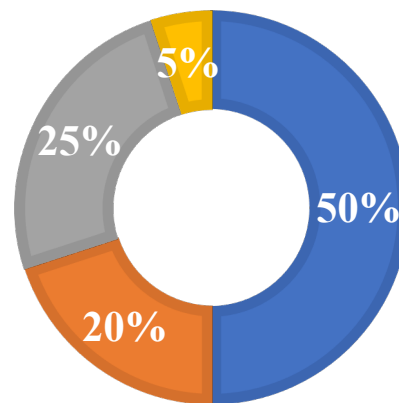
All submissions will be turned in electronically on the course's Course Site page.

### Grading:

#### Grading Scale

94-100 = A  
90-93 = A-  
87-89 = B+  
84-86 = B  
80-83 = B-  
77-79 = C+  
74-76 = C  
70-73 = C-  
67-69 = D+  
64-66 = D  
60-63 = D-  
<60 = F

■ Challenges      ■ Final reflection  
■ Participation    ■ Attendance



### Policies:

#### Statement on Academic Integrity

All students should become familiar with the rules governing academic misconduct. As we develop a community of ideas in this course it is important that we all adequately acknowledge the sources of the ideas and knowledges we will engage with in this class. These include not only the authors of texts used in this class but also your instructors and classmates. If you ever have any questions regarding plagiarism or where to draw the line between your own thoughts and those of others, please ask either of the instructors for this course and refer to the Lehigh Library's [resources](#) on the subject.

## *Student Senate Statement on Academic Integrity*

We, the Lehigh University Student Senate, as the standing representative body of all undergraduates, reaffirm the duty and obligation of students to meet and uphold the highest principles and values of personal, moral and ethical conduct. As partners in our educational community, both students and faculty share the responsibility for promoting and helping to ensure an environment of academic integrity. As such, each student is expected to complete all academic course work in accordance to the standards set forth by the faculty and in compliance with the University's Code of Conduct.

### Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Lehigh University is committed to maintaining an equitable and inclusive community and welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact Disability Support Services (DSS), provide documentation, and participate in an interactive review process. If the documentation supports a request for reasonable accommodations, DSS will provide students with a Letter of Accommodations. Students who are approved for accommodations at Lehigh should share this letter and discuss their accommodations and learning needs with instructors as early in the semester as possible. For more information or to request services, please contact Disability Support Services in person in Williams Hall, Suite 301, via phone at 610-758-4152, via email at [indss@lehigh.edu](mailto:indss@lehigh.edu), or online at <https://studentaffairs.lehigh.edu/disabilities>.

### Classroom Safety Policies

In our physical classrooms, Lehigh has established a policy requiring everyone to wear face coverings when in public spaces inside buildings on our campus. This policy applies to our physical classroom. Thank you in advance for following this rule. Students who do not wear a face covering during in-class meetings will be reminded to put their face covering on. If they do not do so, they will be asked once again to do so or leave the classroom. Students who do not comply with COVID safety measures will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Expectations. Should the general mask policy be lifted, professors have the right to require masks in their classrooms and students are expected to follow this requirement.

Students who do not comply with Lehigh's COVID safety requirements will face consequences through the [Lehigh Disciplinary Process](#).

Violations of classroom policies will be reported through the [Section 3 Reporting Process](#) and/or the [COVID 19 - Behavior Expectation Reporting Form](#)

## Bias, Discrimination, Harassment, Retaliation, and Sexual Misconduct (Including Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Stalking, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Exploitation)

Lehigh University upholds The Principles of Our Equitable Community and is committed to providing an educational, working, co-curricular, social, and living environment for all students, (and staff, faculty, trustees, contract workers, and visitors) that is free from harassment and discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, marital or familial status, national or ethnic origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and misconduct, not only disrupts this commitment and violates our principles, but may also violate [University policy](#) and applicable laws.

Lehigh University and its faculty are committed to providing an environment that is free from bias, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual exploitation). If you have experienced, witnessed, or become aware of any of these behaviors, you are strongly encouraged to report the incident to the Lehigh University Police Department (LUPD) at 610-758-4200 or to the Equal Opportunity Compliance Coordinator/Title IX Coordinator (EOCC) at 610-758-3535 or at [eocc@lehigh.edu](mailto:eocc@lehigh.edu).

If you would prefer to submit your report electronically, two online reporting forms are available and may be submitted to report the incident:

[Gender Violence Incident Notification Form](#)

[Discrimination, Harassment, Retaliation, or Bias Incident Reporting Form](#)

*Please note that, while the University options to respond may be limited, the online reporting forms may be submitted anonymously. Every effort will be made to address concerns reported anonymously.*

You can access support and resources even if you do not want to take any further action following the submission of a report.

## Notice Regarding Mandatory Reporting Obligations of Faculty

All faculty, staff, and administrators of Lehigh University are required by the [Policy on Harassment and Non-Discrimination](#) to report to the Equal Opportunity Compliance Coordinator/Title IX Coordinator and/or police any incident of bias, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual exploitation) that they become aware of, directly or indirectly, that involves students. Mandatory reporting helps to ensure that students are connected to the full range of resources and options afforded to them. If you would like to

Speak with someone confidentially (someone who does not have a reporting obligation to the University), you are invited to contact any or all of the following internal and external resources:

- [University Counseling & Psychological Services](#), Johnson Hall, 610-758-3880
- [University Chaplain's Office](#), Dialogue Center, 610-758-3877
- [Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley](#), 610-437-6611 (24-hour hotline)
- [Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley](#), 610-437-3369 (24-hour hotline)

More information can be found at <https://eocc.lehigh.edu/> or by contacting the Equal Opportunity Compliance Coordinator & Title IX Coordinator, Karen A. Salvemini, at [eocc@lehigh.edu](mailto:eocc@lehigh.edu) or at 610-758-3535.

### Course Schedule:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Read</b>	<b>Watch/Listen</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Wk 1: 8/23, 25	Course Introduction  People Are Different, So What? What is anthropology? What is culture?	*Henrich et al. 2010 <b>(by Thursday)</b> *Wesch Lesson 1 & 2 <b>(by next Tuesday)</b>  <i>Page count: 43 pgs</i>	*Challenge 1 Video   <i>Duration: 6 mins</i>	*Course Pre-test *Challenge 1: Talking to Strangers (due 8/30)
Wk 2: 8/30, 9/1	Social Construction of Reality  Triad of Realization	*Wesch 6.2   <i>Page count: 23 pgs</i>	*How to Become Batman *The Matrix and the Social Construction of Reality *American Circumcision  <i>Duration: 2 hr 39 mins</i>	
Wk 3: 9/6, 8	What is health? Healthy? Illness?	*Helman Ch.2 *Miner 1956  <i>Page count: 32 pgs</i>	*How Does Culture Shape Our Bodies? *The Evolution of Beauty Standards in Western Media *Challenge 2 Video  <i>Duration: 39 mins</i>	*Challenge 2: Fieldwork of the Familiar (due 9/8)

Wk 4: 9/13, 15	Illness narratives and the sick role	*Loewe and Freeman 2000 *Williams 2005  <i>Page count: 46 pgs</i>	*Three Cancers/Two Cultures *The Hero's Journey  <i>Duration: 50 mins</i>	
Wk 5: 9/20, 22	Ethnomedical systems FLOATING WEEK	*Quinlan 2022 *Toelken 2001  <i>Page count: 37 pgs</i>	* <a href="#">What to Expect...</a>  <i>Duration: 6 mins</i>	
Wk 6: 9/27, 29	Gender and health  Patriarchy and masculinity	*Martin 1991   <i>Page count: 17 pgs</i>	*The Mask You Live In * <a href="#">Gender Identity...</a>  <i>Duration: 1 hr 36 mins</i>	
Wk 7: 10/4, 6	Gender and health  Transgender peoples' health with Jay Bohanon	*Jay Bohanon's LinkedIn   <i>Page count: 29 pgs</i>	*The Pervasiveness of Transgender... *Challenge 3 Video * <b>One</b> Challenge film  <i>Duration: 28 mins + film</i>	*Challenge 3: Get Uncomfortable (due 10/13)
Wk. 8: 10/11, 13	Race, ethnicity, and health  Structural Racism	*Bonilla-Silva Ch 1 *Gravlee 2009  <i>Page count: 29 pgs</i>	*Building the Troost Wall  <i>Duration: 13 mins</i>	
Wk. 9: 10/18, 20	Race, ethnicity, and health  Indigenous Peoples Health	*Henry et al Intro *One additional chapter  <i>Page count: 22 pgs + one chapter</i>	* <a href="#">Dr. Melissa Lewis</a>  <i>Duration: 5 mins</i>	
Wk. 10: 10/25, 27	Evolution and Culture: Biocultural Approach to Health  Mismatch diseases	*Wesch 3.1, 3.2   <i>Page Count: 42 pgs</i>	*Durgavich Ted Talk *Challenge 4  <i>Duration: 15 mins</i>	*Challenge 4 Wksht (due 10/27) *Challenge 4: Try Something New (due 11/17)
Wk. 11 11/1, 3	Religion and health  Why religion?	*Corbett-Meyer Ch. 1 *Apud and Romání 2020  <i>Page count: 29 pgs</i>	*The Anthropology of Religion   <i>Duration: 11 mins</i>	

Wk. 12 11/8, 10	Religion and health Religious healing	*Helman Ch. 9		
Wk. 13 11/15, 17	Class and health	*Gilbert 2020 Ch1, 5	*Hillbilly  <i>Duration: 1 hr 25 mins</i>	
Wk. 14 11/22	The Culture of Western Allopathic Medicine	*Gordon 1988  *One chapter from Lupton 2012 <i>Page count: 38 pgs + Lupton</i>	*Birth – Monty Python’s The Meaning of Life	
Wk. 15 11/29, 12/1	Final discussion			Final reflection (due 12/1)