

**DESCRIPTION OF COURSE UNIT FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES  
AT VILNIUS UNIVERSITY  
(Interdisciplinary Course)**

<b>Scientific Area/eas, Field/ds of Science</b>	Medicine and health sciences (M 000): Medicine (M 001), Odontology (M 002), Pharmacy (M 003), Public Health (M 004); Nursing (M 005)			
	Humanities (H 000): Ethnology (H 006)			
<b>Faculty, Institute, Department/Clinic</b>	Faculty of Medicine Institute of Biomedical Sciences Department of Anatomy, Histology and Anthropology			
<b>Course unit title</b> (ECTS credits, hours)	<b>Cultural anthropology and medicine</b> (6 credits, 162 hours)			
<b>Study method</b>	<b>Lectures</b>	<b>Seminars</b>	<b>Consultations</b>	<b>Self-study</b>
Number of ECTS credits	1	2	1	2
<b>Method of the assessment</b> (in 10 point system)	<p>Presentation at the end of the course: presentation on topic relevant to research project (systemic review of scientific publications).</p> <p>Assessment criteria (minimal score – 5):</p> <p>a) how presentation is actual, contains new materials and corresponds to research project (2 points);</p> <p>b) general structure, clear presentation, argumentation, relevance of presentation (2 points);</p> <p>c) summarizing and conclusions (1 point);</p> <p>d) raising of problematic points, perspectives of application in own research project (3 points);</p> <p>e) organization of visual materials, ability to discuss, management of questions, eloquence (2 points).</p>			
<b>PURPOSE OF THE COURSE UNIT</b>				
<p>Diagnosics, therapy and prevention of diseases is a cultural/social action, that requires more broad skills and knowledge besides technical issues (e.g., knowledge about norms of social / individual behavior of a patient, religious cannons etc.). This condensed interdisciplinary course is oriented towards cultural and social aspects of medicine. The aims are: to provide knowledge on beginnigns of social and cultural studies of medicine; to overview principal theoretical and methodological characteristics, to unveil complex interaction of cultural, social and biological factors; historical development of concepts of "health", "disease" and "illness" and their variability in different cultures.</p>				
<b>THE MAIN TOPICS OF COURSE UNIT</b>				
<p>Cultural anthropology of medicine: object, principal concepts. Cultural and social studies of human health and medical systems: problem, object, concepts, study methods to evaluate disease, illness, their biological and</p>				

cultural context. Problem of relations with other branches: medicine, ethnology, cultural anthropology and sociology.

Age as result of interaction of biological processes and social environment. Cultural-anthropological contexts of reproduction and childhood. Concepts of adolescence, maturity, old age: their biological, psychological and social components. Medical anthropology and bioethics: institutionalization of life crises, sociocultural understanding of birth, ageing, death from comparative and diachronic points of view (in hunter-gatherer, early agricultural, early urbanization, industrial and postindustrial societies). Perception of death: cultural, historical and social diversity. Anthropology of new biotechnologies. Models of disease aetiology and classification: cultural, historical and social diversity. Perception of health, beauty and hygiene: cultural, historical and social diversity. Anthropology of nutrition. Emergence of modern evidence-based medicine. Alternative and complementary medicine, their occurrence in modern society. Critical paradigm of modern medicine. Alternative and complementary medicine in Lithuania: review and analysis.

#### **RECOMMENDED LITERATURE SOURCES**

1. Allen, John S. (2012). *The Omnivorous Mind: Our Evolving Relationship with Food*. Harvard University Press.  
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/viluniv-ebooks/detail.action?docID=3301098>
2. Ariés, P. (1993) *Mirties supratimas Vakarų kultūros istorijoje*. Baltos lankos.
3. Gluckman, P., Beedle, A., Buklijas, T., Low, F., Hanson, M. (2016). *Principles of Evolutionary Medicine*. Oxford University Press.  
<https://doi.org/10.17226/9838>
4. Institute of Medicine. (2001). *Health and Behavior: The Interplay of Biological, Behavioral, and Societal Influences*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/9838>.
5. Llewellyn, C., Ayers, S., McManus, C., Newman, S., Petrie, K., Revenson, T., & Weinman, J. (Eds.). (2019). *Cambridge Handbook of Psychology, Health and Medicine* (3rd ed., Cambridge Handbooks in Psychology). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.  
doi:10.1017/9781316783269
6. Pollard, T. (2008). *Western Diseases: An Evolutionary Perspective* (Cambridge Studies in Biological and Evolutionary Anthropology). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.  
doi:10.1017/CBO9780511841118
7. Society for Medical Anthropology: <http://www.medanthro.net/>
8. Stinson S., Bogin B., O'Rourke D.H. (eds.) (2012) *Human biology: an evolutionary and biocultural perspective*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.  
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/viluniv-ebooks/reader.action?docID=693178>

#### **CONSULTING LECTURERS**

1. Coordinating lecturer: Rimantas Jankauskas (Prof. dr.)

2. Žydrūnė Miliauskienė (Assoc. prof. dr.)

**APPROVED:**

By Council of Doctoral School of Medicine and Health Sciences at Vilnius University:  
15<sup>th</sup> of June, 2022

Chairperson of the Board: Prof. Janina Tutkuvienė