

Major Concentration in Medical Anthropology

The concentration in medical anthropology offers students the opportunity to tailor a scholarly exploration of medicine, health, and illness with a foundation in anthropology. Medical anthropology is a dynamic subfield of the discipline that offers important theoretical, critical, and comparative perspectives to the study of medical systems and healing practices in different cultures, and it provides ways to shape the work and practices of medical institutions and professionals. Medical anthropology pays attention not only to biomedicine and scientific knowledge but also to diverse ways of healing, managing pain, and defining wellbeing. It also pays close attention to the different local, national, and global forces that shape the health and wellbeing of various groups and their access to resources and knowledges. This special major will be of particular interest to students interested in graduate work in medical anthropology, the study of medicine, and those planning on pursuing training and work in diverse professions of the health field.

Major Concentrations in SOAN

All concentrations in the SOAN Department are designed to help students with specific areas of interest navigate the curriculum in a particular thematic area or subfield of Sociology and Anthropology. Each concentration requires students to complete a total of ten credits at least eight of which must be in the department. Up to two courses can be counted from outside the department. Please note that no more than one credit from any single department will be counted toward the major. All majors in our department will have Sociology and Anthropology appear on their transcripts. Students who complete the requirements for a major concentration will receive a certificate from the SOAN department that verifies the focus they have charted through the curriculum.

Requirements (at least 10 credits)

SOAN Core Requirements (Five credits):

ANTH 001. Foundations: Culture, Power, and Meaning

SOCI 001. Foundations: Self, Culture, and Society

At least one Methods course in the SOAN department

Senior Research Project (two credits)

Must complete at least one of the following two courses in the SOAN department:

ANTH 043E. Culture, Health, and Illness

ANTH 049B. Comparative Perspectives on the Body

Four elective credits:

At least two additional courses in SOAN and up to two courses outside the department in the thematic area. Students should consult with their advisor when selecting courses.

- **Please note** that no more than one credit from any single department will be counted toward this concentration.

Recommended courses:

ANTH 002F. Anthropology of Childhood and the Family
ANTH 003G. First-Year Seminar: Development and its Discontents
ANTH 039C. Food and Culture
ANTH 053B. Anthropology of Public Health
ANTH 133. Anthropology of Biomedicine
SOC 001. Foundations: Self, Culture, and Society
SOAN 035. Environmental Justice: Theory and Action
ECON 075. Health Economics
ENGL 002M. Medical Writing and Rhetoric
ENVS 035. Environmental Justice: Theory and Action
HIST 050. Healing in the Black Atlantic
HIST 055. The Black History of Public Health in Philadelphia
HIST 066. Making Sense of Being Sick: the Social Construction of Diseases in the Modern World
HIST 067T. The Pandemic of Cigarette Smoking: Habit, Addiction and Public Health in the Big Tobacco Archives
HIST 080. History of the Body
POLS 048. The Politics of Population
POLS 068. Politics of Public Health
PSYC 038. Clinical Psychology
RELG 031. Healing Praxis and Social Justice

Additionally, students are encouraged to explore course offerings in the [Bi-co Health Studies Program](#) and the [Health and Societies Program at Penn.](#)