

RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

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GENERAL PRACTICE: MEDICINE AS CULTURE

An introductory course on the Social Study of Medicine

Dr. phil. Julie Sascia Mewes & Jun.-Prof. Dr. sc. med. Ina Otte

DATES, FORMAT, & ENROLLMENT

Dates

11.01.2022 4-8 pm Medicine as Culture (Theory)

17.01.2022 4-8 pm Intercultural Perspectives on Illness & Disease (Empirics)

18.01.2022 4-8 pm Intercultural awareness in general practice (Practice)

Place

virtual format, zoom link via mail.

Enrollment

The course is aimed at medical students (12 participants max) and can be attended by students in the preclinical stage of their studies.

Please enroll by sending an **e-mail to lecturer Dr. phil. Julie Mewes**, julie.mewes@rub.de. Please include your full name, student number ('Matrikelnummer'), and the semester you are enrolled in. Please also indicate which of the presentation options and topic you opt for.

This seminar is an introductory course to the **Social Study of Medicine**, conducting research on Medicine as a socially and culturally embedded practice.

The course is divided into three block seminars (4 units each) giving first insights into **theoretical perspectives** and **empirical findings** as well as an exploration on how these potentially allow general practitioners to increase their **cultural awareness during (future) patient-practitioner-interaction**.

Students will **learn how ‘culture’ comes into play** during illness experience, narratives, and treatment, reflect on (and expand upon) their own cultural awareness and intercultural competencies

I. Perspectives on Medicine and Society (Theory)

How to transfer and embed key concepts of social studies of Medicine into local medical practice?

How can these concepts be empirically researched in more detail?

II. Perspectives on (medicalized) Bodies (Empirics)

The second block is dedicated to one of the social study of Medicine's key concepts: Gender. Students' presentations (b) will set the ground for further discussion of the provided readings, their similarities and differences, key insights, and limitations, as well as their methodological approaches.



III. Intercultural awareness in general practice (Practice)

What can be learned when medical practice is seen through ‘different eyes’?

Based on a discussion and application on different case studies, we will together explore ways to transfer the increased cultural awareness into the treatment of (future) patients.

AIMS

Students should understand and be able to analyze and make use of the key theoretical concepts and empirical findings for their future practice,

... increase their social and cultural awareness as future practitioners and researchers,

.... learn to assess and, if necessary, critically question scientific evidence in studies for their future professional life, and

... improve their written and verbal scientific English skills as the most important language of the international scientific community.

CREDITS

To pass, select between:

- Written single-authored essay: Describing and analyzing the key concepts of two papers (cf. literature), 1000 words max, to be handed in during the last session.
- Oral presentation: Describing and analyzing the key concepts of the readings assigned to the first or second session (cf. literature), 15 minutes (or 30 minutes for groups) and facilitation of the discussion.
- Creative presentation: Presenting a case study relating the literature to medical practice and facilitating the discussion on how GP can act socially and culturally aware during patient-practitioner-interactions, during the last session, 15 minutes (or 30 minutes for groups). Students choosing to present a case study will be asked to choose one of the 10 topics described in the reading for this session (Block 3, pp.8-19) and present one of the belonging case studies listed at the end of each chapter and moderate a discussion about possible reactions to provide good care within the scenario.

Students can opt to work in groups of a maximum of three for b) and c).

THE HUMAN LIFE

