



School of Anthropology & Museum Ethnography

Institute of Social & Cultural Anthropology
51 Banbury Road, OX2 6PE
Tel: +44 (0)1865 274670
www.anthro.ox.ac.uk

MSc in Medical Anthropology & MPhil in Medical Anthropology

Course handbook 2021-22

Foreword

This course handbook is for students undertaking a MSc or a MPhil degree in Medical Anthropology.

This handbook applies to students starting the course in Michaelmas term 2021. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available at ([MSc](#); [MPhil first year](#); [MPhil second year](#)). If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations then you should follow the Examination Regulations. If you have any concerns, please contact the course director, in 2021-22 Dr Paola Esposito (paola.esposito@anthro.ox.ac.uk).

The information in this handbook is accurate as at 1st October 2021, however it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained [here](#). If such changes are made the department will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed.

In Michaelmas term, medical anthropology teaching will entail a combination of online and face-to-face lectures, tutorials and classes. In Hilary and Trinity terms, it is anticipated a return to face-to-face teaching although large group teaching may still be delivered online.

Dear Medical Anthropology Student,

Welcome to Oxford!

Our team is very much looking forward to teaching and learning from you, and we hope this coming year will bring many exciting opportunities for stimulating exchanges on issues we all feel passionate about.

Wherever you are coming from, you may feel disoriented at first with the Oxford system. Do not worry! This handbook has been written to help you navigate the course and progress smoothly into the programme. Read it carefully: it hopefully contains an answer to all the questions you may have. For instance, you will find out about the aims of the course, its learning outcomes, as well as key dates and opportunities for skill development and research training. In addition to this handbook, there are other key sources of information (Section 0). Of course, in the event that your question is left unanswered, do come forward and we will do our best to help you out.

We hope you will thrive, and wish you the very best with your studies.

On behalf of the Medical Anthropology Teaching Team,

The Course Director

Medical Anthropology Teaching Team

	Office Hours
Dr Paola Esposito	Fridays, 11.00-12.00, and by prior appointment
Prof. Elisabeth Hsu	Mondays, 9.30-10.30, and by prior appointment
Dr Paula Sheppard	Fridays, 3.00-4.00, and by prior appointment
Prof. Stanley Ulijaszek	MT on sabbatical, otherwise Fridays 11.00-12.00, and by prior appointment

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1 Introduction

Overview

The one-year MSc in Medical Anthropology allows students to engage in a broad range of health-related topics, from both social and biological anthropology frameworks, in trans-cultural perspective. Across the first two terms students enrol in two papers each term. During the third and final term they sit exams in early June, and write over the summer an original independent piece of work in a 10,000 word dissertation on a topic of their choice.

The two-year MPhil in Medical Anthropology is a research-intensive masters' degree. It provides the same broad teaching as the MSc course in the first year, while the second year allows students to engage in anthropological research methods and practice (in classes on critical reading, various field methods and statistical analysis). The main emphasis in this second year is on writing an original 30,000 word dissertation, which students develop through one-on-one supervisions with their supervisor. The MPhil dissertation makes up 70% of the overall mark.

Key sources of information

[School of Anthropology & Museum Ethnography \(SAME\) website](#)

[Medical Anthropology Programme](#)

[General Course Information](#)

[Graduate Handbook](#)

[MSc Examination Regulations](#)

[MPhil Examination Regulations](#)

[Examination Conventions and Marking Criteria](#)

[Oxford Students website](#)

[Oxford University Anthropological Society](#)

Useful department contacts

Course Director for Medical Anthropology | Dr Paola Esposito | 51 Banbury Road | paola.esposito@anthro.ox.ac.uk

Director of Graduate Studies | Dr Ramon Sarro | 61 Banbury Road | dgs@anthro.ox.ac.uk

Graduate Courses Administrator /Departmental Disability Contact | Mrs. Mel Goodchild | 51 Banbury Road | mel.goodchild@anthro.ox.ac.uk

IT services | 51 Banbury Road | it.support@anthro.ox.ac.uk

Tylor Library | 51 Banbury Road | Mon - Fri, 9.30 - 17.30 | Saturdays, 13.00 - 16.00, term-time only | anthropology-enquiries@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

2 MSc in Medical Anthropology & MPhil in Medical Anthropology (First Year)

2.1 Course Content and Structure

General Overview

MSc and first year MPhil students in medical anthropology share taught courses. All students take three core examination papers and one option paper in the end of year examinations. MSc students also write an independent 10,000 word dissertation over the summer that reflects their engagement with the course contents, and which represents 30% of the overall mark. MPhil students go on to write their 30,000 word thesis in their second year of their course (see Section 3).

General course aims and learning outcomes

The programme in Medical Anthropology aims: (1) to provide an advanced knowledge of the theory and methodology of Medical Anthropology, and an ability to apply this knowledge to particular research objectives, (2) to prepare high quality students from the UK, EU and overseas for further research in the discipline and for employment in fields where sensitivity to and critical awareness of cross-cultural variability is required; (3) to teach all aspects of the course taking into account the recent significant advances in techniques, information and ideas in its component parts and provide students with the ability to evaluate critically a general anthropological perspective and (4) to provide research skills training that meets the British Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)'s postgraduate training guidelines.

Students will develop a knowledge and understanding of:

- a. Skills specific to Medical Anthropology arising from the comparative study of small and large-scale societies in different regions of the world;
- b. Research methods of Medical Anthropology, including qualitative and quantitative aspects; fundamental concepts, techniques, principles and theories relevant to the student's chosen areas of specialisation;
- c. The application of different theoretical principles within the subject in order to enable the students to analyse a topic of their own choice in the form of a dissertation making use of biological and sociological/anthropological principles;
- d. The role of Medical Anthropologists in society.

Structure of the course

The MSc and the first year of the MPhil programme is a taught course that consists of three core papers and one option paper. Two core papers are introductory papers, and they are taught in Michaelmas Term. One core paper is an advanced paper, and it is taught in Hilary Term. All core papers require the students to deepen their study on specific themes in

supervisions, classes and debates. The Option paper is also taught in Hilary Term. The three core papers are examined by one-week timed-essay in early June and the Option paper is examined in different ways, often by means of 5000 word long essay. Students are examined on course contents. They are prepared for the examination through a series of revision classes.

Taught Papers

Core Paper 1 (Critical Medical Anthropology) provides an introduction to medical anthropology. It is taught during Michaelmas Term through 16 lectures, 3 tutorials (Weeks 2, 4 and 8) and 1 debate (Week 6). Specifically, this paper provides an overview of the major debates in medical anthropology since its beginnings (taught in the morning by Professor Elisabeth Hsu), and presents how these discussions have developed into a commentary on biotechnology, bio-citizenship and bioethics in more recent years (convened in the afternoon by Dr Paola Esposito).

The syllabus can be found here: <http://www.anthro.ox.ac.uk/medical-anthropology>, scroll down, and click onto the blue box Paper 1.

Core Paper 2 (Biocultural Anthropology of Disease) provides an introduction to biocultural anthropology and medical ecology. It is taught during Michaelmas Term through 16 lectures, 3 tutorials (Weeks 1, 3 and 5) and 1 debate (Week 7). Specifically, this Paper comprises 8 lectures on medical ecology (convened by Professor Stanley Ulijaszek), complemented by 8 lectures on evolutionary medicine and public health (given by Dr Paula Sheppard).

The syllabus can be found here: <http://www.anthro.ox.ac.uk/medical-anthropology>, scroll down, and click onto the blue box Paper 2.

Core Paper 3 (Anthropologies of the Body) builds on Papers 1 and 2, and is taught in Hilary Term. It discusses in 16 lectures, 3 tutorials and 1 debate in total, the body and bodily processes from anthropological, phenomenological and ecological perspectives.

8 lectures are on anthropological approaches to the phenomenology of the body (Paper 3.1. given by Professor Elisabeth Hsu and Dr Katherine Morris):

<http://www.anthro.ox.ac.uk/medical-anthropology>, scroll down, and click onto the blue box Paper 3.1.

8 lectures are on nutritional anthropology (Paper 3.2. convened by Professor Stanley Ulijaszek): <http://www.anthro.ox.ac.uk/medical-anthropology>, scroll down, and click onto the blue box Paper 3.2.

Option papers are taught in Hilary Term. Medical Anthropology students must choose one option paper. The list of options can be found on the [SAME website](#). Note that although Supervisors need not formally approve choices, students are strongly advised to consult them before making their final decisions and are expected to inform them accordingly. The

option choices form will be available online (details will be circulated at the Options Fair), and must be completed by noon on Friday of 3rd Week.

Lectures in Social Anthropology

In addition to the examined course work in 4 Papers, students are expected to attend 16 lectures in Social Anthropology, because these contextualise the materials taught in medical anthropology and provide the theoretical foundations for framing them (but they will not be examined on them):

‘Theories and Approaches in Social Anthropology’ in Michaelmas Term, weekly.

‘Fieldwork Theory and Methods’ in Trinity Term; tbc.

Medical Anthropology Seminars

In the academic year 2021-22, there are five different medical anthropology seminar series on offer, some of which are organised through post-doctoral research activity: the Anthropology Research Group at Oxford on Eastern Medicines and Religions (ArgO-EMR), the Evolutionary Medicine and Public Health seminars (EMPH), the Fertility and Reproduction Study Group (FRSG), the Green Templeton College Medical Anthropology Film and Discussion Group, and the Unit for Biocultural Variation and Obesity (UBVO).

- [ArgO-EMR seminars](#) (fortnightly, in MT, HT and TT, in weeks 1,3,5,7), generally on Wednesdays 5-6:30 pm, Pauling Centre and on Teams.
- [EMPH seminars](#) (in MT and HT), generally weekly on Fridays 2pm, Pauling Centre.
- [FRSG seminars](#) (weekly in HT), generally on Mondays, 11 am - 12.30 pm.
- [GTC Medical Anthropology Film seminars](#) (fortnightly, in MT, HT and TT, in weeks 2, 4, 6, 8), generally on Tuesdays 3.30-5pm, at Green Templeton College and on Teams.
- [UBVO seminars](#) (weekly in MT, HT and TT), generally on Thursdays 1-2 pm (4-5pm in MT 2021).

Other Seminars

The **[SAME Departmental Seminars](#)** are on Fridays at 3:30-5 pm; these are intended to bring all members of SAME together for both the seminar and following discussions and drinks at a local pub or venue.

A range of undergraduate and postgraduate lectures and specialist seminars is offered both in the School of Anthropology and elsewhere in the University. Students are advised to consult their supervisor as to which seminars and lectures are best geared toward their research interests before deciding which to attend regularly.

Dissertation

MSc students write a 10,000 word dissertation. This is an independent piece of research, generally written after the June exams during the long vacation and to be submitted on the last Wednesday of August. Students are assisted with the design of it through four dissertation classes, which are held during Trinity Term, weeks 1-4, generally on Tuesdays 10am – 12 pm. Furthermore, they are granted two supervisions during full term with a member of the medical anthropology teaching team (this person becomes their dissertation supervisor for no more than two hours in total).

Dissertation classes in preparation for the MSc dissertation or MPhil thesis are held in weeks 1-4 of Trinity Term. For the first class (in Week 1 of Trinity Term), each student is expected to present a dissertation title. By Thursday of the second week of Trinity Term, the student should complete a form with the proposed title for approval by the Chairman of Examiners. This form should be signed by the Supervisor and the Dissertation Supervisor (sometimes the same person), and should be handed to the Course Director, Dr Paola Esposito, who will collate the dissertation themes before submitting them altogether to the Chairman of Examiners.

Dissertation Supervision: Students consult with their Supervisor before the end of Hilary Term about who would be most suited as Dissertation Supervisor for their topic of research, and then approach this person. Dissertation Supervisors give no more than two supervisions on the dissertation. They are ideally lecturers involved with the teaching of the medical anthropology master's courses: Professor E. Hsu, Dr P. Esposito, Dr P. Sheppard and Professor S. Ulijaszek; and in addition, Dr T. Cousins, Dr M. Clarke, Professor D. Gellner and Dr J. Lezaun. Supervision for dissertations will not be available over the summer months, so students should ensure that they have taken all the advice needed from their dissertation supervisor before week 8 in Trinity Term. Over the summer months, during which the Balfour and Tylor Libraries will be open at specified times, advice on purely technical matters may be sought from any available member of staff, as appropriate.

Writing up the MSc dissertation: The maximum length of an MSc dissertation is 10,000 words, footnotes included, but bibliography, abstract and appendices excluded (see [Graduate Handbook, Appendix 3](#) for writing guidelines, and the [Examination Conventions](#)). Submission date is on the last Wednesday of August and dissertations are submitted electronically via [Inspira](#). The word count should be stated on the front of the dissertation, which should also give the candidate number and college (not the candidate's name). The dissertation shall be provided with an abstract of up to 250 words, to be placed immediately after the title page. Candidates are required to tick a box confirming that the dissertation is their own work. All submissions are checked against [plagiarism](#) via Turnitin.

Bibliography: All works cited in the text must be included in the bibliography. No works should appear in the bibliography if they are not cited in the text. Adopt a standard style for bibliographical entries and use it consistently, for instance, the style in *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*. The bibliography should be in alphabetical order by the author's last name. A good guide to the preparation of dissertations should be consulted, for example, Kate L. Turabian, *A manual for writers of term papers, theses, and*

dissertations. Be aware that referencing software can introduce mistakes; results must be carefully checked.

The word count should be stated on the first page of the dissertation. The dissertation shall be provided with an abstract of up to 250 words, to be placed immediately after the title page.

Fieldwork Methods Clinic for first year MPhil students. In Trinity Term, week 8, Wednesday-Friday, first year MPhil students who plan to do fieldwork over the summer are encouraged to attend a three-day fieldwork methods clinic. This is to gain hands-on practice of ethnographic skills, such as interviewing, participant observation and note-taking, in a local setting and on a small scale. It also includes discussion of the specific ethical and logistical challenges. It follows on from the Fieldwork Theory and Methods lectures in HT, reprising some of the themes raised in it and giving the students a chance to discuss some of the recommended readings (especially in the introductory plenary session and the small-group work). Students will be expected to complete some of this reading before the Clinic.

2.2 Teaching and learning activities

Supervisions and tutorials

In a supervision or tutorial a student gets individual attention from their teacher and peers. For first year MSc and MPhil students a supervision usually comprises three students and the supervisor (most often a lecturer), and usually takes place in the supervisor's office for one hour. For each supervision, the supervisor will assign several essay questions or prompts, one week in advance of the submission deadline (on Tuesdays before 3.30 pm), and the student will write an essay or other piece of work of approximately 2,500 words in length, unless otherwise stated, to cover the assignment. These essays form the basis for the discussions during the supervision. These essays are not normally graded, and should invite the student to be inventive and bounce off ideas: supervisors will provide written feedback (usually on a printout of the essay) and/or verbal feedback. The contents and standard of the essay will normally enter into the group discussion at some point. Students are not expected to read all the readings on the reading lists, but rather to choose 5 to 10 for each tutorial. They are invited to refer to works that are not on the reading list and to interweave them with the recommended readings. Supervisions are grounded in a commitment to long term personalized learning, and they are tailored to the student's intellectual interests and capacities. Historically, they were the principal means of knowledge transmission at this University.

Lectures

At the core of all taught master's courses are the lectures. In Medical Anthropology each of the three core papers comprises 16 lectures. While lectures are not formally compulsory, their attendance provides the framework for the proper study of the degree. Many lectures

are now being recorded for podcasts available through Canvas and students are not permitted to record any lecture without the express permission from the lecturer, which they have to seek before each and every lecture (see [policy for recording lectures](#)). Main venues for lectures are the lecture rooms in 61 Banbury Road and 64 Banbury Road), the Pitt Rivers Museum Research Centre, and the Institute for Human Sciences (behind the main COMPAS building in 58 Banbury Road). In general lectures are open to all students.

Classes

Classes are designed to facilitate group discussions, and can take varied formats. Students may be asked to give a short presentation on readings assigned previously, followed by a class discussion, guided by the lecturers organizing the class. All the students attending the class are expected to have done assigned readings so that they can contribute to the discussion.

Seminars

School seminars are events led by a speaker (ca. 50-60 minutes) followed by a discussion of the research presented (ca. 30 minutes). Seminars are generally convened by a chair, who makes sure the speaker is comfortable and speaks within the allocated time, has the necessary equipment to make their presentation and can be heard without difficulty by the audience. The chair sometimes invites a discussant to comment on topical issues in the paper (often a specialist on the theme) and moderates the discussion. There are many different seminars that speak to the interests of medical anthropology students (see links at the right of <https://www.anthro.ox.ac.uk/medical-anthropology-0>).

Expectation of study

Students are responsible for their own academic progress. During term time, the program requires a substantial amount of reading and writing, which may sometimes be difficult to combine with other activities or duties. Do talk to your supervisor if you meet difficulties.

The School, like the University as a whole, considers full-time courses to require full-time study. Accordingly, studying at Oxford does not allow sufficient time to earn one's living from paid employment simultaneously. Guidelines of the School for students wishing to take paid employment during term time are in the [Graduate Handbook](#). Note that it is not possible to study for any taught master's degree within the School on a part-time basis.

2.3 Assessment

Assessment structure

General information on assessment and examination processes can be found [here](#). Formal assessment takes the form of one-week timed-essays examinations in the three Medical Anthropology Papers. Formal assessment of the option paper will be according to the option chosen. For the MSc degree, formal assessment also involves the submission of a dissertation at the end of August. For the MSc degree, each of the four papers has equal weight but the dissertation is doubly weighted. For the MPhil degree, the four first year

papers constitute a qualifying exam for the second year. Full details of all aspects of the examination process for the MSc and MPhil degrees are found in the Examination Conventions for the degrees (see below). Information on past examination papers can be found on [Oxam](#).

Examination Conventions

The [Examination Conventions](#) are the formal record of the specific assessment standards for the course or courses to which they apply. They set out how your examined work will be marked and how the resulting marks will be used to arrive at a final result and classification of your award. They include information on: marking scales, marking and classification criteria, scaling of marks, progression, resits, use of viva voce examinations, penalties for late submission, and penalties for over-length work.

Marking guidelines: Details of the marking guidelines used by examiners in assessing coursework and examinations can be found in the appendices of the [Examination Conventions](#).

Examination regulations

The Examination Regulations are the University's formal description of the course, how it is constituted and assessed. The course Handbook and course Examination Regulations elaborate upon these. In the case of any ambiguity in information provided, the Examination Regulations are treated as the definitive source.

MSc: Examination regulations can be found in full [here](#)

MPhil first year: Examination regulations can be found in full [here](#)

2.4 Key dates and deadlines

Options Fair: Friday of Week 2 of Michaelmas Term.

Choice of an option paper and submission of the relevant form: Friday of Week 4 of Michaelmas Term.

Presentation of Dissertation title to class: Week 1 of Trinity Term.

Submission of Dissertation title: MSc students have to declare the title of their dissertation (with a supporting description) on the Thursday of the fifth week of Trinity Term for approval by the Chairman of the Examiners. First year MPhil students must declare the *provisional* title of their dissertation (with a supporting description) on the Thursday of the fifth week of Trinity Term. In each case forms should be returned in hard copy to the course director before this date.

Taught papers examinations: Provisionally around Week 6 of Trinity Term. The definitive dates will be circulated by email at the end of Hilary Term.

Submission of MSc dissertation: last Wednesday of August.

3 MPHIL IN MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY (Second Year Coursework)

3.1 Course Content and Structure

General overview

The second year of the MPhil degree culminates in the submission of a 30,000 word MPhil dissertation and a dossier of written coursework. The MPhil dissertation makes up 70% of the final mark, and the graded coursework 30%. Students do not sit a final examination.

The coursework includes the attendance of three classes: (a) two classes on methods modules in Michaelmas, Hilary and (exceptionally) Trinity Terms and (b) one critical-reading class in Michaelmas Term. Attendance of these three classes results in written coursework that is graded at the end of the year. In addition, students are *requested to regularly attend* the (c) Medical Anthropology Research Seminars in Michaelmas Term, or, in 2021-22, one of the above five seminar series.

Students work on the MPhil dissertation throughout the second year of the MPhil course, with assistance from their Supervisor during regular supervisions throughout the year. In addition to supervisions in connection with the dissertation, students will attend the MPhil writing-up class that is held throughout Hilary Term. In the MPhil writing-up class, each week, one student will present an outline of her or his dissertation project to the other MPhil students and selected members of staff for discussion and feedback. Regardless of the prolonged assistance from supervisors, tutors and peer, the 30,000-word MPhil dissertation remains a piece of independent research.

General aims and learning outcomes

The programme in Medical Anthropology aims: (1) to provide an advanced knowledge of the theory and methodology of Medical Anthropology, and an ability to apply this knowledge to particular research objectives, (2) to prepare high quality students from the UK, EU and overseas for further research in the discipline and for employment in fields where sensitivity to and critical awareness of cross-cultural variability is required; (3) to teach all aspects of the course taking into account the recent significant advances in techniques, information and ideas in its component parts and provide students with the ability to evaluate critically a general anthropological perspective and (4) to provide research skills training that meet ESRC's postgraduate training guidelines.

Students will develop a knowledge and understanding of: (a) Skills specific to Medical Anthropology arising from the comparative study of small and large-scale societies in different regions of the world; (b) Research methods of Medical Anthropology, including qualitative and quantitative aspects; fundamental concepts, techniques, principles and theories relevant to the student's chosen areas of specialisation; (c) The application of different theoretical principles within the subject in order to enable the students to analyse a topic of their own choice in the form of a dissertation making use of biological and sociological/anthropological principles; (d) The role of Medical Anthropologists in society.

Coursework

In the second year of the MPhil programme, coursework is kept at a minimum in order to give the students time to work on their dissertation. Coursework centres on (a) the acquisition of practical skills in anthropological field methods and statistical methods and/or other methods of numerical assessment. Students sign up for at least two methods modules. The assigned work students completed during the two methods modules are graded (the mark for each methods module is weighted at 10%). They are to be submitted via Inspira on Thursday of the fifth week of Trinity Term).

Methods modules on offer in the academic year 2021-22

2nd year MPhil students are required to attend the introductory PRS (Probationer Research Student – first year DPhil) dissertation classes in Michaelmas Term, in weeks 1-4. These will be given by Prof Ramon Sarro and Prof David Zeitlyn.

2nd year MPhil students only attend the first four PRS classes on Mondays 11 am -1 pm. These feature a range of procedural and skill acquisition matters that will form a foundation for fieldwork and/or other forms of data collection. Topics include: doctoral training approaches and resources; fieldwork and data collection; library and research resources; ethical research practice in the field; and fieldwork health and safety.

In addition, each student is required to attend a minimum of two methods modules, totalling no less than 12 classes. The information about the modules offered in this academic year will be circulated in MT week 1, and students are expected to sign up for them no later than by Wednesday noon in MT week 2. They are held in MT and HT (except for ethnobiology held in TT). Most methods modules classes are 90 mins long and held throughout six weeks. Please discuss your Methods Module choices with your supervisor, who will be happy to advise.

All methods modules will be presented in the dissertation class in Michaelmas Term, Week 1, by Dr Zuzanna Olszewska (zuzanna.olszewska@anthro.ox.ac.uk), the School's Research Methods Training Convenor. Some methods modules convenors may have to cap the numbers of the participants they can accept, hence students are requested to sign up for and rank three modules in the order of their preference. 2nd year MPhil students choose two of the methods modules on offer in the School this year. Those who wish to take, as one of their two methods modules, another course from within the university that is appropriate to their needs in place of one of the modules offered in SAME, should first seek endorsement from their supervisor and then approach Dr Zuzanna Olszewska for approval.

Assessment: at the end of each module, each participant is asked to write up a practical task (minimum length: one A4 page) and/or submit a 2,500 word essay, following the instructions of the module convenor. Those taking Practical Quantitative Methods will have a take-home assignment with exam-style questions and practical tasks. For Medical Anthropology 2nd year MPhil students each of these writings will be assessed (they make up 2 x 10% of the overall mark).

[Ethics and CUREC](#): any practical work with people outside the Department requires the methods module convenor to list the project and name the participant conducting this practical work. This list must be sent to Kate Atherton (kate.atherton@anthro.ox.ac.uk) for approval by the CUREC team *before* any fieldwork for the respective methods module is carried out.

Critical-Reading Classes in Medical Anthropology

The critical-reading classes are held weekly in Michaelmas Term, on Tuesdays from 11-12 pm. In these classes publications in medical anthropology, or otherwise relevant to the degree, are discussed with a view to how the argument is constructed, the evidence provided and the methods used to generate this evidence. The readings are circulated one week in advance and the discussions in these seminars prepare students for understanding what makes a good research project. The skills acquired in these classes are assessed through a research proposal, of no longer the 2500 words length, written by the MPhil candidates themselves, on a research project of their choice (to be submitted on Inspira on Thursday of the fifth week of Trinity Term).

The Medical Anthropology Research Seminars

The Medical Anthropology Research Seminars constitute an integral part of the MSc and MPhil course. First and second year MPhil students in Medical Anthropology are expected to attend them regularly.

This academic year, there are instead five different medical anthropology seminar series on offer, some of which are organised through post-doctoral research activity:

- [ArgO-EMR seminars](#) (fortnightly, in MT, HT and TT, in weeks 1,3,5,7), generally on Wednesdays 5-6:30 pm, Pauling Centre and on Teams.
- [EMPH seminars](#) (in MT and HT), generally weekly on Fridays at 2pm, Pauling centre.
- [FRSG seminars](#) (weekly in HT), generally on Mondays, 11 am - 12.30 pm.
- [GTC Medical Anthropology Film seminars](#) (fortnightly, in MT, HT and TT, in weeks 2, 4, 6, 8), generally on Tuesdays 3.30-5pm, at Green Templeton College and on Teams.
- [UBVO seminars](#) (weekly in MT, HT and TT), generally on Thursdays 1-2 pm(4-5pm in MT 2021).

Other Seminars

The [SAME Departmental Seminars](#) are on Fridays at 3-5 pm; these are intended to bring all members of SAME together for both the seminar and following discussions and drinks at a local pub.

A range of undergraduate and postgraduate lectures and specialist seminars is offered throughout in the University. Students are advised to consult their supervisor as to which are best geared toward their research interests before deciding which to attend regularly.

Language training

Students aiming to continue their studies in the doctoral programme at ISCA after receiving their MPhil degree are encouraged to engage in language learning during their second year of their master's studies, in the language they need for conducting their doctoral fieldwork. The University's Language Centre on Woodstock Road (ten minutes' walk from ISCA) offers language training in a number of languages. If a language course in another Department or University is on offer, and a student plans to regularly attend that language course, ISCA has limited discretionary funds available for this purpose (these are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to the application of certain checks). Students are expected to discuss any language training needs they may have with their Supervisor.

Thesis

Supervision. MPhil students should begin planning this during their first year of studies. They are expected to attend the four dissertation classes held during their first year in Trinity Term (weeks 1-4). They may also have two supervisions with their Dissertation Supervisor during full term of Trinity Term and begin to work towards the dissertation after the June qualifying examination in the first year. Supervision for dissertations will not be available over the summer months, so students should ensure that they have taken all the advice they need from their Supervisor before the end of Trinity Term. In the first week of Michaelmas Term of the second year, MPhil students are expected to contact their Supervisor, and discuss the final title of their dissertation with them, before submitting it for approval to the Chairman of Examiners on Monday of the second week of Michaelmas Term of the second year.

Fieldwork is not a requirement for the MPhil. The summer of the first year of the MPhil course is ideally spent by reading widely and deeply in order for the student to gain a good foundation in the field of medical anthropology and beyond. Students should take into account that fieldwork involves human beings with whom a field working anthropologist ideally should work for a minimum of one full year. Nevertheless, depending on the project, some MPhil students may wish to conduct brief field enquiries during the summer months between the two years of the degree. They then should discuss feasibility with the person who will be their Supervisor in the second year of their degree course, ideally at the end of Hilary Term. First year MPhil students who plan to do fieldwork should attend the three-day Fieldwork Methods Clinic in Trinity Term, week 8 (see end of Section 2.1 of this Handbook)

With the future Supervisor's approval, first year MPhil candidates then fill out a Fieldwork in Safety and Ethics (CUREC) form. Any fieldwork project, however small, that is carried out in connection with the University requires the completion of Fieldwork in Safety and Ethics (CUREC) [forms](#), which are available online or from the ISCA General Office. Approval of these forms by the CUREC committee takes up to six weeks, and must be obtained before fieldwork starts. It is important to allow plenty of time for the ethics approval process and avoid submitting forms for approval immediately prior to a period when committee staff are likely to be away (e.g. Christmas break). Foreign and Commonwealth Office advisories on travel to unsafe areas should also be observed.

3.2 Assessment

Structure

The MPhil degree is awarded on the basis of submission of the 30,000-word MPhil dissertation (70% of the overall mark), and a dossier of coursework on *Methods of Fieldwork and Social Research*. This dossier contains three components, consisting of a choice of **two** essays of no more than 2500 words, written at the end of attending a methods module (2 x 10%) and an independently-composed research plan of no more than 2500 words, on a research theme and project that is of the candidate's choice (10%).

Examination regulations

The [Examination Regulations](#) are the University's formal description of the course, how it is constituted and assessed. The course Handbook and course Examination Regulations elaborate upon these. In the case of any ambiguity in information provided, the Examination Regulations are treated as the definitive source.

Examination Conventions

The [Examination Conventions](#) are the formal record of the specific assessment standards for the course or courses to which they apply. They set out how your examined work will be marked and how the resulting marks will be used to arrive at a final result and classification of your award. They include information on: marking scales, marking and classification criteria, scaling of marks, progression, resits, use of viva voce examinations, penalties for late submission, and penalties for over-length work.

Marking guidelines: Details of the [marking guidelines](#) used by examiners in assessing coursework and examinations.

3.3 Key dates and deadlines

Submission of MPhil dissertation title: not later than noon on Monday of the second week of the Michaelmas Term.

Submission of MPhil dissertation not later than noon on Thursday of the fifth week of the Trinity Term.

Submission of MPhil coursework not later than noon on Thursday of the fifth week of the Trinity Term.