**BBS 3103 Medical anthropology**

**Course description**

This course introduces students to medical anthropology. It covers the history of Anthropology and brings out the relationship between culture, tradition, rituals, myth and medicine. The course involves tutorials and lectures

**Course Objectives:**

At the end of this course students will be able to:

* Discuss the relationship between culture, traditions and health delivery systems.
* Explain the indigenous health delivery systems.

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**Content outline:**

Introduction to history of anthropology, cultural theory and relevant anthropological themes: concept of culture; identity; tradition; ritual; myth; memory; horal and writing culture. Introduction to different traditional knowledge systems: kinship; political organizations; resolution of conflicts; economical systems and management of resources.

Introduction to medical anthropology, different medical knowledge and fundamental medical anthropological concepts: health; illness, sickness and disease; body; therapeutic knowledge and practices; perceptions and definitions of human being; different categories for organic aspects; individual perception and social recognition of diseases; classification and denomination of diseases; differences between traditional and biomedical nosological categories; perception of etiology and therapy; political aspects of therapeutic resources.

Introduction to traditional medicine: traditional healers and their relationship with patients; traditional healing; traditional perception and definition of health and disease; symbolic and therapeutic efficacy of traditional medicine.

Symbolic value of plants to people; how people classify plants; relation between traditional and scientific medicine; political implications of medical knowledge.

Description of Ugandan ethnographical case: history of political recognition of traditional medicine; traditional healers categories; difference between traditional medicine and witchcraft; importance of culture to plant conservation and sustainable use.

**Requirements:**

**4weeks, 60 CH**

**Mode of assessment**

Progressive assessment 40%

Written summative examination 60%