

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

**ANTH 4005A:
HEALTH AND GLOBALIZATION**

**ACADEMIC YEAR: 2026-27
TERM: FALL**

Dr. Megan Graham (she/her)

Method of delivery: in-person

Class time: Thursdays 11:35 am-2:25 pm

Email: megangraham@cunet.carleton.ca

Office hours: by appointment (Zoom)

Course information: see Brightspace <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/448122>

PREREQUISITES AND PRECLUSIONS: The prerequisite for this course is third year standing or permission of the instructor. There are no precluded courses.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

ANTH 4005 [0.5 credit]

Health and Globalization

An anthropological examination of the health impacts of global processes, relationships, and movements. May include topics such as economic development and disease, migration and health, medical tourism, transnational reproduction, and the global circulation of bodies, organs, medical technologies, drugs, and pathogens.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

This course uses an anthropological lens to examine the health impacts of global processes, relationships, and movements. People move globally through migration for work and school—with implications for their health—and also travel globally in the pursuit of health care services. Health care workers also travel, providing care outside of their home countries and cultures. Diseases move globally through people and the pathogens they harbor and transport, and toxins move globally through the export of waste and recyclables. Corporations operate globally, with effects on the health of their workers and local populations in the places they set up shop. Medications are produced and move globally, and are affected by patents, laws and markets in those various global spaces, with implications for people's access to life-preserving drugs. Medical technologies, human reproduction, and even body organs are pursued not only at home, but in a global arena where people travel in the pursuit of cosmetic surgeries, experimental treatments, kidney transplants, surrogate pregnancies and adoptable children. Border zones are also sites of global movements where local and national forces create their own unique health

hazards. We will examine many of these processes and global flows, and their implications for human health and well-being.

In addition to academic articles and book chapters, the course readings will include two book-length ethnographies. The first examines the U.S.-Mexico border zone and the health hazards that are produced there by a combination of the natural and political environments that render the border hazardous to both the migrants who cross it, and others living and working in border communities. The second ethnography examines the experiences of Filipino health workers who travel to Singapore for work, looking at the implications of their life and working conditions for the health and well-being of both the workers, and the patients they care for.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- describe the health impacts upon diverse populations of various global processes, relationships and movements;
- apply critical thinking and writing skills to examine the above global forces and apply this analysis to different case studies; and
- conceptualize and construct a term paper that responds to a specific research question in the area of globalization and health, as well as reflect on the relationship between the paper material and other course content.