

## **Anthropology 232B: Medical Anthropology**

**Wed 9-11:50am**  
**SBSG 3200**

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### **Course Description and Objectives:**

Since its emergence in the 1950s, medical anthropology has become one of the largest and fastest growing subdisciplines. This graduate seminar traces the emergence and development of central areas of inquiry and methodological movements in the field, including the nature of belief and ways of knowing; the meanings and experiences of affliction; biomedical knowledge, practice, and power; and normalization and governance. Our objectives throughout the course will be to 1) situate the history of medical anthropology within the context of broader theoretical trajectories in the field; 2) examine the theoretical and methodological contributions that have emerged from medical anthropology; and 3) develop a genealogy of contemporary research in medical anthropology.

### **Course Readings:**

All required readings can be downloaded from the course website: <https://eee.uci.edu/15s/60720>

Medical anthropology is a broad and growing field, and unfortunately, we will not be able to cover all important issues. A list of recommended readings and references for further inquiry will be included on the course website. This syllabus and assigned readings may change over time according to student interest. Any updates will be announced in class and revisions will be posted to the course website.

### **Course Requirements:**

Your grade will be based on the following components:

#### **1) Attendance and Participation (20%)**

This class depends on student presence and engagement. You are expected to attend each class session having completed the assigned readings and prepared to constructively discuss and critique them. In pairs or small groups, you will facilitate discussions during two class sessions.

## 2) Critical Reading Reactions (30%)

You will complete critical reaction papers discussing the assigned readings for **six (6)** class sessions of your choosing.

Responses should be approximately **500 words** and should be posted to the EEE forums no later than **5pm on Tuesday evening** before class.

## 3) Term project: Construct a syllabus on a topic of your choosing (50%)

Research and teaching are complementary intellectual activities. As your final project in this course, you will design an upper-division undergraduate course on a medical anthropology-related topic of your choosing (for example, courses offered at UCI include HIV/AIDS in Global Context; Disease, Health, and Inequality; Race, Gender, Science, and Medicine; and Anthropology of Biomedicine and Biotechnology).

Designing this course will require you to review the literature in the field and identify significant figures, debates, methods, and theoretical approaches. You will then create learning objectives and determine appropriate readings and assignments that will assist students in achieving those objectives.

In addition to a completed syllabus, you will turn in a 1,000-word discussion explaining your decisions and course design. Both components of this assignment should be turned in to the EEE dropbox by **Friday, June 5**.

### Course Schedule:

#### Week 1, April 1      Introductions, Genealogies, and Orientations

Recommended readings:

Wellin, Edward. 1977. "Theoretical Orientations in Medical Anthropology: Continuity and Change over the Past Half-Century." In *Culture, Disease, and Healing: Studies in Medical Anthropology*. David Landy, ed. Pp. 47-58. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, Inc.

Young, Allan. 1982. "Anthropologies of Illness and Sickness." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 11:257-285.

Leslie, Charles. 2001. "Backing into the Future." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 15(4):428-439.

**Week 2, April 8      Science, Rationality, and Ways of Knowing**

Evans-Pritchard, E.E. 1976. "Witchcraft is an Organic and Hereditary Phenomenon" and "The Notion of Witchcraft Explains Unfortunate Events." In *Witchcraft, Oracles, and Magic Among the Azande*. Pp. 1-32. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Good, Bryon. 1994. "Medical anthropology and the problem of belief." In *Medicine, Rationality, and Experience: An Anthropological Perspective*. Pp. 1-24. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Tambiah, Stanley J. 1990. "Magic, science, and religion in Western thought: anthropology's intellectual legacy." In *Magic, Science and Religion and the Scope of Rationality*.

Young, Allan Young, 1976. "Some Implications of Medical Beliefs and Practice For Anthropology." *American Anthropologist* 78:5-24.

**Week 3, April 15      Etiology, Diagnosis, and Treatment**

Douglas, Mary. 1966. "Symbolic Pollution." In *Purity and Danger*.

Frake, Charles. 1961. "The Diagnosis of Disease among the Subanum of Mindanao." *American Anthropologist* 63:113-32.

Lévi-Strauss, Claude. 1963. "The Effectiveness of Symbols" and "The Sorcerer and His Magic" In *Structural Anthropology*. New York: Basic Books.

Turner, Victor. 1968. "A Performance of Ihamba Analysed." In *Drums of Affliction*. Pp. 156-197. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Romanucci-Ross, L. 1969. "The Hierarchy of Resort in Curative Practice: The Admiralty Islands, Melanesia." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 10:201-209.

**Week 4, April 22      Narrative, Experience, and Phenomenologies of Suffering**

Kleinman, Arthur. 1988. "The Meaning of Symptoms and Disorders" and "The Personal and Social Meanings of Illness." In *The Illness Narratives: Suffering, Healing, and the Human Condition*. Pp. 3-55. New York: Basic Books.

Mattingly, Cheryl. 1994. "The Concept of Therapeutic Emplotment." *Social Science and Medicine* 38(6):811-22.

Becker, Gay. 1997. "Narratives as Cultural Documents." Pp. 25-36 in *Disrupted Lives: How People Create Meaning in a Chaotic World*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Csordas, Thomas J. 1988. "Elements of Charismatic Persuasion and Healing." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 2(2):121-142.

Kirmayer, L.J. 1992. "The Body's Insistence on Meaning: Metaphor as Presentation and Representation in Illness Experience." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 6(4):323-46.

### **Week 5, April 29      Normal and Abnormal**

Canguilhem, Georges. 1989[1966]. *The Normal and the Pathological*. Exerpts.

Obeyesekere, Gananath. 1985. "Depression, Buddhism and the Work of Culture in Sri Lanka." In *Culture and Depression*. Arthur Kleinman and Byron Good, eds. Pp. 134-152. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Estroff, Sue. 1981. "The Social Construction of a Crazy Reality" and "The Sociocultural Context of Illness and Craziness." In *Making it Crazy*. Pp. 213-249.

Davis, Lennard. 1995. "Constructing Normalcy." In *Enforcing Normalcy: Disability, Deafness, and the Body*. New York: Verso.

Lock, Margaret. 2000. "Accounting for Disease and Distress: Morals of the Normal and Abnormal." In *Handbook of Social Studies of Health and Medicine*. Albrecht, Fitzpatrick, and Scrimshaw, eds. Pp. 259-275.

### **Week 6, May 6      Critical Interventions**

Taussig, Michael. 1980. "Reification and the Consciousness of the Patient." *Social Science and Medicine* 14B(1):3-13.

Singer, Melville and Hans Baer. 1989. "Toward an understanding of capitalist and socialist health." *Medical Anthropology* 11(3):97-108.

Frankenberg, R. 1988. "Gramsci, Culture, and Medical Anthropology: Kunry and

Parsifal? Or Rats' Tail to Sea Serpent." In *Gramsci, Marxism, and Phenomenology: Essays for the Development of Critical Medical Anthropology*. Pp. 324-337.

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy and Margaret Lock. 1987. "The Mindful Body: A Prolegomenon to future work in medical anthropology." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 1:6-41.

### **Week 7, May 13      Interrogating Biomedicine**

Comaroff, Jean. 1993. "The Diseased Heart of Africa: Medicine, Colonialism, and the Black Body." In *Knowledge, Power & Practice: The Anthropology of Medicine and Everyday Life*. S. Lindenbaum and M. Lock, eds. Pp. 305-329. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Gordon, Deborah R. 1988. "Tenacious Assumptions in Western Medicine." In *Biomedicine Examined*, Margaret Lock and Deborah R. Gordon, eds. Pp. 19-56. Boston: Kluwer.

Lupton, Deborah. 1994. "Representations of Medicine, Illness, and Disease in Elite and Popular Culture." In *Medicine as Culture*. Pp. 50-78.

Martin, Emily. 1992. "The End of the Body?" *American Ethnologist* 19(1):121-140.

Rapp, Rayna. 2000. *Testing Women, Testing the Fetus*. Excerpts.

### **Week 8, May 20      Biopower and Governing Bodies**

Foucault, Michel. 1984. "The politics of health in the 18<sup>th</sup> century." In *The Foucault Reader*. Paul Rabinow, ed. Pp. 273-290.

Armstrong, David. 1998. "Bodies of knowledge, knowledge of bodies." In *Reassessing Foucault: Power, Medicine, and the Body*. Colin Jones and Roy Porter, eds. Pp. 17-27.

Ong, Aihwa. 1988. "The Production of Possession: Spirits and the Multinational Corporation in Malaysia." *American Ethnologist*, 15(1):28-42.

Rhodes, Lorna A. "Dreaming of Psychiatric Citizenship: A Case Study of a Supermax Confinement." In *A Reader in Medical Anthropology*. Good Fischer, Willen, and Good, eds. Pg. 181-198.

### **Week 9, May 27      Biotechnology and Global Health**

Biehl, João and Adriana Petryna. 2011. "Bodies of Rights and Therapeutic Markets." *Social Research* 78(2):359-386.

Brada, Betsey. 2011. "Not *Here*." Making the Spaces and Subjects of "Global Health" in Botswana. *Culture, Medicine & Psychiatry* 35: 285-312.

Fassin, Didier. 2007. "Humanitarianism as a Politics of Life." *Public Culture* 19(3):499-520.

Farmer, Paul. 2005. "The New Malaise: Medical Ethics and Social Rights in the Global Era." In *Pathologies of Power*. Pp. 196-212.

### **Week 10, June 3      Medical Anthropology at UCI**

Choose **AT LEAST 3** of the following:

Boellstorff, Tom. 2011. "Placing the Virtual Body: Avatar, Chora, Cypherg." In *A Companion to the Anthropology of the Body and Embodiment*. Frances E. Mascia-Lees, ed. Pp. 504-520. New York: Wiley-Blackwell.

Chavez, Leo. 2009. "Wasting Away in Neoliberal-ville: Mexican Immigrant Women's Views of Cervical Cancer, Social Inequality, and Gender Relations." In *Confronting Cancer: Metaphors, Advocacy, and Anthropology*. Juliet McMullin and Diane Weiner, eds. Santa Fe: School for Advanced Research.

Jenks, Angela C. 2011. "From 'Lists of Traits' to 'Openmindedness': Emerging Issues in Cultural Competence Education." *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* 35(2):209-235.

Montoya, Michael. 2007. "Bioethnic Conscription: Genes, Race and Mexicana/o Ethnicity in Diabetes Research." *Cultural Anthropology* 22(1):94-128.

Olson, Valerie. 2010. "The Ecobiopolitics of Space Biomedicine." *Medical Anthropology* 29(2):170-193.

Peterson, Kristin. 2014. "On the Monopoly: Speculation, Pharmaceutical Markets, and Intellectual Property Law in Nigeria." *American Ethnologist* 41(1):128-142.

Zhan, Mei. 2005. "Civet Cats, Fried Grasshoppers, and David Beckham's Pajamas: Unruly Bodies after SARS." *American Anthropologist* 107(1):31-42.