

# The AIDS Epidemic: Inequalities, Ethnography, and Ethics

## Washington University, Anthropology 4134, Fall 2005

### Dunker 1; TuTh 10-11:30

#### TAs

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E-Res website: <http://eres.wustl.edu/eres/coursepage.aspx?cid=650>

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Africa's first HIV/AIDS billboard built in 1986 outside of Uganda's capital, Kampala.

#### Overview:

HIV/AIDS is the leading infectious cause of adult death worldwide. In the early 1990s, AIDS became the leading cause of death among 18- to 24-year-olds in the U.S., and soon HIV will kill more people globally than all world wars put together. The challenge of combating HIV/AIDS is neither resources nor knowledge about condoms, safer sex or abstinence. Rather, the greatest obstacles are global inequalities, political will, economic incentives, and a lack of global human rights ethic.

AIDS emerged onto the public health agenda in 1981 and quickly became a global problem of historic dimensions. No other disease has spread so rapidly and wide, received as much public attention, and drawn the attention of a vast array of global experts and players. Anti-retrovirals combined with support can effectively manage the progression of the disease in people infected with the virus. Yet in most parts of the world the medicines are inaccessible, support systems are taxed, and the epidemic is worsening.

This course emphasizes the ethnographic and historical approach for understanding responses, the spread, and effects of the HIV pandemic. Course materials include ethnographic and historical analyses, media articles, videos, and guest speakers from the fields of medicine, social services, advocacy, and law. Topics explored include the history and trends of the epidemic, structural factors enabling virus' spread, cultural construction of AIDS and risk groups, political and government responses, ethics and responsibilities, drug testing and marketing, prevention and education strategies, living with HIV, and medical advances and hopes. This course does not provide an in-depth biological and medical understanding of the virus and AIDS. Rather, it is intended for students interested in understanding the social, political, and historical complexities underlying today's most virulent infectious disease.

Students are required to keep up with readings, write two response papers, conduct a St. Louis-based field project, participate in AIDS Week, and participate in class discussions.

### **Course Requirements and Grading:**

**Class attendance and participation (10%):** The format of the class is short lectures, small group activities, discussions, and guest speakers. Student participation will be based on attendance and general class discussion. If students are not keeping up with the readings, pop quizzes may be given and will be factored into your participation grade. Repeated absence and lack of participation will adversely affect your grade.

**Two Analysis Papers (40%):** Students will select 2 of the 3 course themes on which to write a 3- to 4-page response paper. Thematic analysis papers should include: (1) an overall argument or thesis that you will advance in your paper, (2) *brief* summaries of the readings that relate to your thesis; (3) your analysis of your topic or the main points raised. Late papers will affect your grade. Course themes and due dates are:

Theme	Dates	Paper Due Date
Epidemics & Inequalities	Sept 6 <sup>th</sup> through Sept 29 <sup>th</sup>	Friday September 30 <sup>th</sup> by 5pm
Social Research & Prevention	Oct 4 <sup>th</sup> through Oct 20 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday Oct 20 <sup>th</sup> by 10pm
Care, Medicine & Ethics	Oct 18 <sup>th</sup> through Nov 15 <sup>th</sup>	Friday Nov 16 <sup>th</sup> by 5pm

### **World AIDS Week Campaign (10%):**

From Wed Nov 30<sup>th</sup> until Fri Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> the class will conduct a campus-wide campaign for World AIDS Week. Each student is responsible for joining one activity committee, tabling for two hours during the week, and participating in at least one evening event. Campaign activities will likely include an evening forum, a movie night and discussion, campaign buttons and ribbons, t-shirts, posters, painting the South 40 underpass, and other events designed by the class. The undergraduate TA, Sean Marz, will assist the class in coordinating this campaign. Students are expected to communicate their plans to Sean.

### **Saint Louis Field Projects and Final Essay (40%):**

**Field Project:** Students will participate in a group field project in which they will gather information from various HIV/AIDS agencies, practitioners, funding agencies, and activists in the St. Louis area on a particular topic of the group's choice. Each student will make at least three field visits to different agencies or people during the semester. The instructor will pre-arrange some meetings with agencies and students are encouraged to attend one of these meetings. Groups are expected to arrange at least 2 other visits. Students will turn in individual fieldnotes on each field visit (including where the student went, what they learned or observed, and a brief analysis) to the undergrad TA no later than a week after each visit. Topics for field groups have included: education & prevention, care & support, medical treatment & research, high risk groups, vaccine development, medical trials, prisons & HIV, policy, and funding.

**Final Essay with Revised/Expanded Field Notes:** Students will write a 5- to 6-page (double-spaced, 1" margins, 12 pt font) research paper on one aspect of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The paper should build on the student's St. Louis-based field project **and must** include outside research articles and other materials. The paper does not have to be confined to HIV in Saint Louis. Rather, the field visits are to compliment and serve as a comparative to outside research on your selected topic. Students are strongly encouraged to use course readings and materials. You should append revised field notes from your visits to HIV agencies.

### **Field Project Due Dates:**

**Tuesday September 13<sup>th</sup>**—Students form groups based on their topical interests.

**Week of September 21-23**--Groups will meet with the Professor and undergraduate TA.

**Friday September 16<sup>th</sup>**—2-page topic proposal and a list of academic articles related to the topic.

**Monday December 12<sup>th</sup>**—Final paper and appendix of field notes is due.

**\* \* All written work is to be turned in to the Anthropology Office, McMillan 112 \* \***

### **Student Resources:**

**Writing Centers:** Students are strongly encouraged to take their papers to the writing centers. One is located in Eads and there is another one at Cornerstone in Gregg Hall on the South 40.

**Disability Services:** Students who are seeking disability information or support should contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 935-5970 or [drc@aismail.wustl.edu](mailto:drc@aismail.wustl.edu). The DRC is located at Cornerstone in Gregg Hall on the South 40.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Students are expected to adhere to the University's academic integrity and plagiarism policies, found on: [https://acadinfo.wustl.edu/WUCRSLFrontMatter/WebWUCRSLInfo\\_AcadIntegrity.htm](https://acadinfo.wustl.edu/WUCRSLFrontMatter/WebWUCRSLInfo_AcadIntegrity.htm). The policy states that: "In all academic work, it is important that the ideas and contributions of others be appropriately acknowledged, and that work that is presented as original is in fact original."

### **Course Materials:**

#### **Required Books (available at the campus bookstore)**

Chris Beyer. 1998. *War in the Blood: Sex, Politics, and AIDS in Southeast Asia*. Zen Press.

Héctor Carrillo. 2001. *The Night is Young: Sexuality in Mexico in the Time of AIDS*. U Chicago Press.

Paul Farmer. 1990. *AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame*. Berkeley: U California Press.

**Required Articles are available on electronic reserve at Olin Library.**

#### **Optional Books:**

Garrett, Laurie. 1994. *The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance*. NY: Penguin Books.

Shilts, Randy. 1987. *And the band played on: Politics, People, and the AIDS epidemic*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

#### **Videos (Watched in-class)**

And the Band Played On (based on book by Randy Shilts)

A State of Denial

## Course Schedule

Date	Reading	In-Class
1-Thursday September 1 <sup>st</sup>  <u>Introduction</u>		
<b>Theme #1 – Epidemics and Inequalities</b>		
<b>Week #2</b>		
2-Tuesday September 6 <sup>th</sup>  <u>Global Emergence of HIV/AIDS</u>  Early 1980s the history and politics of the identification of HIV in the U.S. and East Africa	Garrett, Laurie. 1994. "Hatari: Vinidogodogo (Danger: A Very Little Thing): The Origins of AIDS." In <i>The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance</i> . NY: Penguin Books. pp 281-389. (Skim 281-334; <b>Read 334-389</b> )  Articles from MMWR, <i>New York Times</i> , and gay journalists	HBO movie, <i>And the Band Played On</i> (ABPO), based on Randy Shilts' book
3- Thursday September 8 <sup>th</sup>  <u>Global Emergence of HIV/AIDS (continued)</u>	Finish Garrett's "Hatari"	Finish ABPO movie
<b>Week #3</b>		
4-Tuesday September 13 <sup>th</sup>  <u>Epidemics, Methods, and Contexts</u>  Overview, trends, and politics of the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. Overview of anthropology and HIV/AIDS. Introduction to Saint Louis field projects.	Tony Barnett and Alan Whiteside. 2002. "The Disease and its Epidemiology" in <i>AIDS in the Twenty-First Century</i> by Barnett and Whiteside. New York: Palgrave. Pages 24-64.	Discuss ABPO movie and Garrett article. Lecture.  Form groups for Saint Louis field project.
5- Thursday September 15 <sup>th</sup>  <u>HIV 101: The Biology and Trends</u>  The Biology of HIV. Case Study: An overview of HIV/AIDS in Saint Louis, changing demography, treatments, and medical advances.	Readings on HIV/AIDS trends in the USA and Saint Louis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>New York Times</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "In AIDS War, New Weapons and New Victims"</li> <li>○ "When AIDS Hits Home"</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Riverfront Times</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "The Great Imitator"</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Speaker:</b> Dr. Kristin Mondy, HIV Specialist, Washington University School of Medicine  <b>Due Friday Sept 16<sup>th</sup>:</b> 2-page proposal for final paper and field project, including key research question(s), outside sources, agencies to visit, and information to find out from agencies.

<b>Week #4</b>		
6-Tuesday September 20 <sup>th</sup> <u>Asia—Epidemics, Contexts &amp; the Culture of Shame</u> Urbanization, migration, instability, mobility, violence, and initial political and public responses to HIV.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris Beyer. 1998. <i>War in the Blood: Sex, Politics, and AIDS in Southeast Asia</i>. Zen Press. <b>Read:</b> Preface (vii-ix), Intro (p 3-15), Ch 2 (Thailand), Ch 4 (Cambodia), Ch 8 (Yunnan, China)</li> <li>Update articles on Asia</li> </ul>	Lecture & short video.  Meet in field project groups.
7-Thursday September 22 <sup>nd</sup> <u>Asia—Categories of Risk</u> Asia and the epidemiology of transmission, the construction and limits of risk categories. Lessons from Uganda and the USA.	Chris Beyer. 1998. <i>War in the Blood: Sex, Politics, and AIDS in Southeast Asia</i> . Zen Press. <b>Read:</b> Part 2—Chs 9-18 (pages 119-193).	Lecture & discussion
<b>Week #5</b>		
8-Tuesday September 27 <sup>th</sup> <u>Haiti: Political Economy &amp; History</u> Poverty, colonial legacy, trade, and global racism and stereotypes	Farmer, Paul. 1990. <i>AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame</i> . Berkeley: U California. <b>Read</b> Chs 1-3, 6-10	Lecture & discussion
9-Thursday September 29 <sup>th</sup> <u>Haiti: Political Economy &amp; History</u> The politics and culture of accusations, stigma, and coping.	Paul Farmer's <i>AIDS and Accusation</i> . <b>Read</b> Chs 14, 18-22	Lecture & discussion  <b>Paper #1 Due: Friday Sept 30<sup>th</sup> by 5pm in the Anthro Office, McMillan 112</b>
<b>Theme #2 — Prevention and Research</b>		
<b>Week #6</b>		
10-Tuesday October 4 <sup>th</sup> <u>Prevention: Why Does Research Matter?</u> How to collecting data to design an intervention—gender, sexuality and community	Héctor Carrillo. 2001. <i>The Night is Young: Sexuality in Mexico in the Time of AIDS</i> . U Chicago Press. <b>Read:</b> Preface (ix-xii), Intro, Chapters 1, 2, 3, and begin 5.  "New City Trick" in the <i>Riverfront Times</i> (optional)	<b>Speaker:</b> Dr. Linda Cottler, Professor of Epidemiology and Director of Epidemiology and Prevention Research Group, Washington University School of Medicine
11-Thursday October 6 <sup>th</sup> <u>Does Prevention Work?</u> Sexuality, change and denial. Education vs prevention, types of intervention.	Héctor Carrillo. 2001. <i>The Night is Young: Sexuality in Mexico in the Time of AIDS</i> . U Chicago Press. <b>Read:</b> Chpts 5 (finish), 6, 7	Lecture & discussion.  Begin campus research activity for World AIDS Week Campaign

<b>Week #7</b>		
<p>12- Tuesday October 11<sup>th</sup></p> <p><u>Prevention and the Ironies of Politics</u>                      Why is there more resistance to sex ed for youth than a public campaign for gay men? The politics of sex education, creative prevention programs for MSM and youth in Saint Louis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Janice Irvine. 2000. "Doing it with Words: Discourse and the Sex Education Wars." <i>In Critical Inquiry</i> 27:58-76</li> <li>• "Where the boys are." <i>Riverfront Times</i> article on The Guardian Project.</li> <li>• Héctor Carrillo. 2001. <i>The Night is Young: Sexuality in Mexico in the Time of AIDS</i>. U Chicago Press. <b>Read:</b> Chpts 9, 10, and begin 11</li> </ul>	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paula Gianino, CEO Planned Parenthood Saint Louis Region</li> <li>• Thomas Adams, Executive Director, Saint Louis AIDS Foundation</li> </ul>
<p>13-Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup></p> <p><u>Prevention Debates and Cover-ups</u>                      The condom, abstinence debate, needle exchange, and military escapades. Global and US strategies.</p>	<p>Héctor Carrillo. 2001. <i>The Night is Young: Sexuality in Mexico in the Time of AIDS</i>. U Chicago Press. <b>Read:</b> Chpts 11 (finish) and conclusion</p>	<p>Lecture &amp; discussion.</p> <p>Student reports on preliminary campus research findings</p>
<b>Week #8</b>		
<p>14-Tuesday October 18<sup>th</sup></p> <p><u>Mother-to-Child Transmission (MTCT)</u>                      The history, politics, and biology of (MTCT). So, what can we offer the mother in poorer countries?</p>	<p>MTCT articles (on e-res)</p> <p>Chloe O'Gara and Anna Martin. 1996. "HIV and Breast-Feeding: Informed Choice in the Face of Medical Ambiguity." <i>In Women's Experiences with HIV/AIDS: An International Perspective</i>, Long and Ankrah (eds). NY: Columbia Press</p>	<p><b>Speaker:</b> Dr. Greg Storch, Professor of Pediatrics</p>
<p>15-Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup></p> <p><u>Is behavior always individual choice?</u>                      Structure or Culture? Prevention vs treatment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Richard Parker et al. 2000. "Structural barriers and facilitators in HIV prevention: a review of international research." <i>In AIDS</i> 14 Supplement 1:S22-S32</li> </ul>	<p>Lecture &amp; discussion</p> <p>Informal group field project reports on goals &amp; preliminary findings</p> <p><b>Paper #2 Due: Thur Oct 20<sup>th</sup> by 10pm via email and on Prof door.</b></p>
<b>Theme #3 — Care, Ethics &amp; Medicine</b>		
<b>Week #9</b>		
<p>16- Tuesday October 25<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>Cathering Wyatt-Morley. 1997. <i>AIDS Memoir: Journal of an HIV-</i></p>	<p>Panel of Women</p>

<p><u>Women Living with HIV in the U.S.A.</u></p>	<p><i>Positive Mother.</i> Kumarian Press, pages 1-40.</p> <p>Judy Kimberly et al. 1995. "Disclosure of HIV-Positive Status: Five Women's Stories." <i>In Family Relations</i>, 44(3): 316-322.</p>	
<p>17-Thursday October 27<sup>th</sup></p> <p><u>Men Living with HIV in the U.S.A.</u></p>	<p>Lois Takahasi et al. 2002. "Access redefined: service pathways of persons living with HIV and AIDS." <i>In Culture, Health &amp; Sexuality</i>, 4(1): 67-83.</p> <p>Gregory Freedman. 2003. "Bug Chasers: Men Who Long to be HIV+." <i>In Rolling Stone</i>, Jan 23, 2003.</p>	<p>Panel of Men</p>
<p><b>Week #10</b></p>		
<p>18-Tuesday Nov 1<sup>st</sup></p> <p><u>Reflections on Providing Care &amp; Support</u>        Changes in providing care, Ryan White and other funding, disclosure, patient stages of acceptance, stigma, stress on health provider, medical advances and new challenges</p>	<p>Sarah Yallop et al. 2002. "The Changing World of HIV Care: the impact on health professionals." <i>In Culture, Health &amp; Sexuality</i>, 4(4): 431-441.</p> <p>Milt Freudenheim. June 7, 2001. "Price of Success in AIDS Treatment." <i>In The New York Times</i>.</p>	<p>Short lecture &amp; plan for AIDS Week</p>
<p>19-Thursday November 3<sup>rd</sup></p> <p><u>Living with HIV in poorer regions</u>        Care and support in poor regions, gender, ways of coping, stigma, support, and life with HIV.</p>	<p>Matthew Steinglass. 2001. "It Takes a Village Healer." <i>In Lingua Franca</i>, 11(3)</p> <p>Excerpt from: "AIDS in the Family: We miss you all. By Noerine Kaleeba. In Ezekiel Kalipeni, Susan Craddock, Joseph R. Oppong, and Jayati Ghosh (editors). 2003. <i>AIDS in Africa: Beyond Epidemiology</i>. Blackwell.</p>	<p>Lecture</p> <p>Plan for AIDS Week        Or,        Field Group Project Meetings</p>
<p><b>Week #11</b></p>		
<p>20-Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup></p> <p><u>Ethics &amp; Access to Drugs</u>        Is access to treatment a human right? Patents, profits and profiteering.</p>	<p>Paul Farmer. 2003. "Listening to Prophetic Voices: A Critique of Market-Based Medicine." <i>In Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor</i>. Berkeley: U California Press. Pages 160-178.</p>	<p>Video, "A State of Denial"</p>

	<p>Jane Galvao. 2005. "Brazil and Access to HIV/AIDS Drugs: A Question of Human Rights and Public Health." In <i>American Journal of Public Health</i>, 95(7): 1110-1116.</p> <p>Marcia Angel, MD. Editorial "The Pharmaceutical Industry: To Whom is it Accountable?" In <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i>, Vol. 342:1902-1904. June 22, 2000</p> <p>Mark Wainberg. 2005. "Generic HIV Drugs: Enlightened Policy for Global Health." In <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i>, 352:747-750.</p> <p>(Optional, background for video)                  Samantha Power. 2003. "Letter from South Africa: AIDS Rebel." In <i>The New Yorker</i>, May 19, 2003.</p>	
<p>21-Thursday November 10<sup>th</sup></p> <p><u>Ethics &amp; Access to Drugs (continued)</u>                  Strategies and obstacles to affordable anti-retrovirals (pros and cons)</p>	<p>Ilavenil Ramiah and Michael Riech. 2005. "Public-Private Partnerships in ART Treatments, Botswana." In <i>Health Affairs</i>, Vol. 24, No. 2. pages 545-551.</p> <p>Richard Harris. Oct 31, 2005 "Ghana-Global AIDS Fund Boosts Health." On National Public Radio, All Things Considered.</p> <p>Sydney Rosen, Ian Sanne, Alizanne Collier, and Jonathan Simon. Jan 22, 2005. "Hard Choices: Rationalizing Antiretroviral therapy for HIV/AIDS in Africa." In <i>The Lancet</i>, 365:354-356.</p>	<p>Lecture &amp; Debate</p> <p>Group Field Project informal presentation on goals &amp; preliminary findings</p>
<p><b>Week #12</b></p>		
<p>22-Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup></p> <p><u>Ethics &amp; Research</u>                  How should Western research ethics apply to research in poorer regions? Case studies from Uganda, Nigeria, the U.S., and Asia. The muse of clinical</p>	<p>Rothman, David. Nov 30, 2000. "The Shame of Medical Research." In <i>NY Times Book Review</i>.</p> <p>Paul Farmer. 2003. "New Malaise: Medical Ethics and Social Rights in</p>	<p>Group Field Project informal presentation on goals &amp; preliminary findings (cont.)</p> <p><b>Paper #3 Due: Fri Nov</b></p>



trials.	<p>the Global Era." In <i>Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor</i>. Berkeley: U California Press. Pages 196-212.</p> <p>Killen, Grady, Folkers, and Fauci. March 2002. "The Ethics of Clinical Research in the Developing World." In <i>Nature Reviews Immunology</i> 2: 210 - 215 (01 Mar 2002).</p>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> by 5pm in the Anthro Office, McMillan 112</b>
<b>Putting it into Practice — Campus Campaign for World AIDS Week</b>		
23-Thursday November 17 <sup>th</sup>	Reading from the UNAIDS World AIDS Day website.	Plan for World AIDS Week
<b>Week #13</b>		
24-Tuesday November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Group Oral Reports on Plans for World AIDS Week. Plan for AIDS Week	
25-Thursday November 24 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving	
<b>Week #14</b>		
25-November 29 <sup>th</sup>	Discussion about campaign. Plan for World AIDS Week	
Wed November 30 <sup>th</sup> to Fri December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>World AIDS Week Campus Campaign</b>	
<b>Week #15</b>		
26-Tuesday December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Process AIDS Week campaign Group Field Project Final Reports	
27-Thursday December 8 <sup>th</sup>	Group Field Project Final Reports Wrap-up!	

**Final Paper Due: Monday December 12<sup>th</sup> by 5:00pm  
 in the Anthropology Office, McMillan 112**