

"HIV/AIDS in Africa"

AFS 4905 / Section 5115
AFS 6905 / Section 8328
ANT 4930 / Section 9246
ANG 6930 / Section 9243

Spring 2007

Meeting Times & Classrooms: T4 (TUR 2354) & R8-9 (TUR 2318)

Professor: Dr. Hansjoerg Dilger
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has affected societies in sub-Saharan Africa on all levels – the national, regional, community and individual level. This course explores the impact that the growing epidemic had on the social and economic development of the region, and how states, communities and families have responded to the crisis.

The class starts with a reflection on the way AIDS has been understood in North American society and how “Western” ways of dealing with the epidemic have been shaped by stigmatization and metaphorical thinking. It goes on to explore how the politics of illness and healing in Africa's HIV/AIDS epidemic have been affected by international, national and local power relations as well as by cultural, moral and religious concepts of gender, sexuality, and kinship. The final section addresses local struggles evolving around illness, healing and death. Case studies include examples from South Africa, Namibia, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and Zambia.

BOOKS

Susan Sontag. 2002 [1978, 1989]. Illness As Metaphor and AIDS and Its Metaphors.

Karen M. Booth (2004): Local Women, Global Science. Fighting AIDS in Kenya.
Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Catherine Campbell. 2003. Letting Them Die: Why HIV/AIDS Prevention Programmes Fail.
Oxford: James Currey.

The three books should be available in area book stores. Your additional readings have been collected together in a *Course Reader* available at Orange & Blue Textbooks (309 NW 13th Street).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

10% Class participation (50 points)

This is a seminar. It is required that you participate in ALL class meetings and ACTIVELY contribute to the discussions.

Active participation means that for each class you prepare questions based on your readings and that you contribute to the discussion. You should show that you are able to engage in group discussions, which means that you listen carefully to the arguments of your colleagues and respond to them in a constructive and non-insulting manner.

PLEASE NOTE: Unapproved absence results in a 25 point reduction from your final overall grade total.

NO CELLPHONE POLICY: If your cellphone goes off in class you will be asked to leave the class and not to come back on that day. This will count as if you have not attended class on that day.

10 % Discussion leaders (50 points)

A team of 2-3 students will be assigned for each class to act as leaders of the group discussion. The team will be responsible for briefly summarizing the main arguments of the respective readings (10-15 minutes, depending on the length of the text) and formulating challenging and critical points for discussion.

If a video will be shown on the day in which you are discussion leader you should make sure to watch the movie ahead of time and discuss possible issues topics for class discussion with me.

20% Interviews on HIV/AIDS (100 points)*

For the mid-term essay (5 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. font) you are supposed to do three short interviews with people from your surroundings (friends, fellow students, relatives).

The questions for the interviews should be based on the readings and in-class discussions from week one to seven. The goal of your short fieldtrip could be to find out (please choose one of the topics or think of other relevant questions):

- How your interviewees think about AIDS in Africa and what they know about the epidemic there
- Why it is, according to their view, that the African continent (or the Third World in general) is affected so strongly by HIV/AIDS
- If your interviewees consider AIDS as still being a problem in the US and what their views of “risk groups” are
- If AIDS is still a stigmatised disease in the US and what this means for being HIV-positive
- If they know/knew people with HIV/AIDS and what experiences those people make/have made with their illness

The results of the interviews and an outline of the mid-term essay are to be presented in class. The presentation should include a general statement of the topic and its relevance for our class readings, a short summary and analysis of the interview results, and a conclusion. While the names of your interviewees are to be kept anonymous you should make clear in your presentation / essay the social background from which your interviewees speak, and what this suggests for the statements they make. Make use of direct quotations if possible. (Given the

* Graduate students registered as ANG 6930 or AFS 6905 should discuss with me about alternatives for this assignment.

consent of your interview partners you can tape the interviews). Append your interview questions to the essay.

The mid-term essay is due on March 7 (to be posted in my mailbox at the Center for African Studies until 6 pm).

30% Three short reflection essays (150 points)

You will be required to write three short “reflection essays” (50 point each) during the term. These essays should be based on the readings, videos and discussions from weeks 3, 5, and 12. In these essays (3 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. font) you should give:

- a general statement of the topic (5 points)
- a summary of the main arguments and the main theoretical / methodological approach of the readings and videos discussed in class; this should also include a statement on differences between the individual texts as well as on continuities in scholarly discussion (20 points)
- the main points raised during the entailing group discussion (15 points)
- a critical assessment of the texts based on you own opinion (10 points)

The essays are due no later than the start of class of the following week (February 1, February 22, and April 5). They are to be posted in my mailbox at the Center for African Studies.

30% Final Essay (150)

The exact format of the final essay will be discussed in class. Each of you will be asked to hand in two possible topics for the final essay in week 14 (April 12). I will then choose five topics from your submissions which I will present in class on April 19.

For the final essay I will again choose one topic on which you have to write your essay. The topic for the essay will be sent to you by email on April 25 at 5 pm.

The final essay will be around four pages long. It is due on April 26 at 5 pm and should be sent to me via email (dilger@ufl.edu).

NOTE: With the exception of the final paper, all writing assignments will be returned to students with comments before the final week of classes.

GRADING SCALE:

| | |
|-----------|----|
| 90-100% | A |
| 85-89% | B+ |
| 80-84% | B |
| 75-79% | C+ |
| 70-74% | C |
| 65-69% | D+ |
| 60-64% | D |
| below 60% | E |

GENERAL

You should always feel free to ask questions and join in the discussion in class. However, if there are any issues that we cannot resolve in class, you are encouraged to use my office hours or just send me an email. I look forward to a rewarding semester with you all.

Students with disabilities: Students with disabilities that may affect their performance in class or which require special accommodations should contact the Dean of Students' Office (www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/) immediately at the beginning of the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Academic dishonesty: Academic dishonesty of any sort, including plagiarism or handing in the work of others as your own, will be dealt with strictly in accordance with university policy. It is your own responsibility to know what constitutes academic dishonesty and university policy on it. See: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/honestybrochure.php>

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Week One, January 9

Introduction

Week One, January 11

Assignment of readings for class presentations

Movie: "6000 a Day: An Account of a Catastrophe Foretold"

Director: Philip Brooks

(France 2001, 55 minutes)

The Social, Cultural and Political Construction of HIV/AIDS

Week Two, January 16

Paula Treichler. 1999. "AIDS, Homophobia and Biomedical Discourse. An Epidemic of Signification". In: Treichler, Paula A., How to Have Theory in an Epidemic. Cultural Chronicles of AIDS. Durham: Duke University Press. Pp. 11-41.

Week Two, January 18

Susan Sontag. 2002 [1978, 1989]. Illness As Metaphor and AIDS and Its Metaphors.

Week Three, January 23

Paula Treichler. 1999. "AIDS and HIV Infection in the Third World: A First World Chronicle." In: Treichler, Paula A., How to Have Theory in an Epidemic. Cultural Chronicles of AIDS. Durham: Duke University Press. Pp. 99-126.

Week Three, January 25

John C. Caldwell, Pat Caldwell and Pat Quiggin. 1989. "The social context of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa". Population and Development Review 15 (2): 185-234.

Gilles Bibeau and Duncan Pedersen. 2002. "A Return to Scientific Racism in Medical Social Sciences." In: Nichter, Mark and Margaret Lock (eds.), New Horizons in Medical Anthropology. Essays in Honour of Charles Leslie. London: Routledge. Pp. 141-171.

From Impact to Agency: Women, Men and Young People in the Context of the Epidemic

Week Four, January 30

Tony Barnett and Alan Whiteside. 2002. "The Impact of HIV/AIDS on Societies". In: Barnett, Tony and Alan Whiteside (eds.), AIDS in the Twenty-First Century. Disease and Globalization. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, 159-315.

Week Four, February 1 [Reflection Essay from week three due]

Cont. Tony Barnett and Alan Whiteside. 2002. "The Impact of HIV/AIDS on Societies". In: Barnett, Tony and Alan Whiteside (eds.), AIDS in the Twenty-First Century. Disease and Globalization. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, 159-315.

Week Five, February 6

Paul Farmer. 1996. "Woman, Poverty and AIDS" (Chapter 1). In: Farmer, Paul, Margaret Conors & Janie Simmons (eds.), Women, Poverty and AIDS - Sex, Drugs and Structural Violence. Monroe, Maine: Common Courage Press, 3-38.

Week Five, February 8

Liv Haram. 1995. "Negotiating Sexuality in Times of Economic Want: The Young and Modern Meru Women." In: Klepp, Knut-Inge, Paul M. Biswalo and Aud Talle (eds.), Young People at Risk. Fighting AIDS in Northern Tanzania. Oslo: Scandinavian University Press, 31-48.

Fiona Scorgie. 2002. "Virginity Testing and the Politics of Sexual Responsibility: Implications for Aids Intervention." African Studies 61 (1): 55-75.

Week Six, February 13

Shanti A. Parikh. 2005. From Auntie to Disco: The Bifurcation of Risk and Pleasure in Sex Education. In: Adams, Vincanne and Stacy Leigh Pigg (eds.), Sex in Development. Science, Sexuality and Morality in Global Perspective. Durham: Duke University Press, 125-158.

Week Six, February 15 & Week Seven, February 20

No class: Use the time to do the interviews for your mid-term essay

Week Seven, February 22 [Reflection Essay from week five due]

Oral presentation of field interviews and short outline of your mid-term essay (5 minutes for each student).

Week Eight, February 27

Cont. Oral presentation of field interviews

Week Eight, March 1

Margrethe Silberschmidt. 2001. "Disempowerment of Men in Rural and Urban East Africa: Implications for Male Identity and Sexual Behavior." World Development 29 (4): 657-671.

Movie: "A Miner's Tale"

Directors: Nic Hofmeyr and Gabriel Mondlane
(Mozambique/South Africa, 40 minutes)

Week Nine, March 6

Karen M. Booth (2004): Local Women, Global Science. Fighting AIDS in Kenya. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. (Chaps. 1 & 2)

Week Nine, March 8

Karen M. Booth (2004): Local Women, Global Science. Fighting AIDS in Kenya. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. (Chaps. 3, 4, 5 & Concl.)

Week Nine, March 7: Mid-Term Essay due

Week Ten, Spring Break (March 10-18)

Living with a Stigmatised Disease

Week Eleven, March 20

Angelo A. Alonzo and Nancy R. Reynolds. 1995. "Stigma, HIV and AIDS: An Exploration and Elaboration of a Stigma Trajectory." Social Science and Medicine 41 (3): 303-315.

Week Eleven, March 22

Thomas, Felicity. 2006. Stigma, Fatigue and Social Breakdown: Exploring the Impacts of HIV/AIDS on Patient and Carer Well-Being in the Caprivi Region, Namibia. In: Social Science and Medicine 63: 3174-3187.

Frederick Kaijage. 1997. "Social Exclusion and the Social History of Disease: The Impact of HIV/AIDS and the Changing Concept of the Family in Northwestern Tanzania." In: McGrath, Simon, Charles Jedrej, Kenneth King and Jack Thompson (eds.), Rethinking African History. University of Edinburgh: Centre of African Studies, 331-356.

Week Twelve, March 27

Hanne O. Mogensen. 1997. The Narrative of AIDS among the Tonga of Zambia. In: Social Science and Medicine 44 (4): 431–439.

Week Twelve, March 29

Christian Bawa Yamba. 1997. “Cosmologies in Turmoil: Witchfinding and AIDS in Chiawa, Zambia.” Africa 67 (2): 200-223.

Peter Probst. 1999. “*Mchape* ’95, or, the Sudden Fame of Billy Goodson Chisupe: Healing, Social Memory and the Enigma of the Public Sphere in Post-Banda Malawi.” Africa 67 (1): 108-38.

Week Thirteen, April 3

Robert C. Garner. 2000. “Safe Sects? Dynamic Religion and AIDS in South Africa.” The Journal of Modern African Studies 38 (1): 41–69.

Week Thirteen, April 5 [Reflection Essay from week twelve due]

Hansjörg Dilger. 2007. “Healing the Wounds of Modernity: Community, Salvation and Care in a Neo-Pentecostal Church in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania”. In: Journal of Religion in Africa 37 (1): 59-83.

Frederick Klaitz. 1998. “Making a Good Death: AIDS and Social Belonging in an Independent Church in Gaborone.” In: Botswana Notes and Records 30: 101–119.

Week Fourteen, April 10

Vinh-Kim Nguyen. 2005. “Antiretrovirals, Globalism, Biopolitics, and Therapeutic Citizenship.” In: Ong, Aihwa and Stephen J. Collier (eds.), Global Assemblages. Technology, Politics, and Ethics as Anthropological Problems. Blackwell Publishing, 124-145.

Week Fourteen, April 12 [Hand in possible topics for final essay]

Movie: It’s my Life
Director: Brian Tilley
(2001, 73 min.)

Ethical, Political and Theoretical Challenges in the Fight against AIDS

Week Fifteen, April 17

Carolyn Baylies. 2004. “Community-Based Research on AIDS in the Context of Global Inequalities – Making a Virtue of Necessity?” In: Kalipeni, Ezekiel, Susan Craddock, Joseph R. Oponng, and Jayati Ghosh (eds.), HIV & Aids in Africa. Beyond Epidemiology. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 15-28.

Susan Craddock. 2004. "AIDS and Ethics: Clinical Trials, Pharmaceuticals, and Global Scientific Practice." In: Kalipeni, Ezekiel, Susan Craddock, Joseph R. Oppong, and Jayati Ghosh (eds.), HIV & Aids in Africa. Beyond Epidemiology. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 240-251.

Week Fifteen, April 19

Catherine Campbell. 2003. Letting Them Die: Why HIV/AIDS Prevention Programmes Fail. Oxford: James Currey.

Week Sixteen, April 24

Wrap-up Session

Week Sixteen, April 26

Final Essay due at 5 pm (to be sent by email: dilger@ufl.edu)