

Syllabus

Title of course: AIDS, Behavior and Culture

Time: Monday 6-8 period (12:50-3:50 p.m.)

Instructor: Ted (Edward C.) Green

Assistant: Dawit Woldu

Blogsite: <http://aidsbehaviorandculture.wordpress.com/>

Course Format & Policies

The course will be conducted as a seminar. You will be required to complete assigned readings before class and come prepared to discuss and analyze the issues the readings address. In addition, most weeks you will have a writing assignment designed to help you think through the material and to develop your own arguments on the issues we consider.

Regarding the weekly readings, let us agree that each presenting student will mail out (or post, once I get the hang of our new blog site), at least 48 hrs. in advance:

1) a **summary** of the main points (1 to 1.5 pages), and 2) a list of **discussion topics**.

also, presenter should be prepared to discuss how she (or he) **feels** about the reading, what she **thinks** about it (**agree or disagree with the argument or issue, as presented**), and what she might **remember** in years to come about it. Critical thoughts most welcome. If you **disagree** with anything you read, lets discuss and see if you can change minds

Our discussion will follow these three areas of presentation, in order.

If any of you have comments or suggestions about this format, please share

The material we cover is highly controversial, dealing with subjects that people have deep feelings about and that often provoke strong emotions. Almost no one has ‘no opinion’ on much of our subject matter: e.g, sexual behavior, contraception, gay rights, women’s rights, free drugs for the poor, or responses to drug and alcohol addiction. Your professor has been in the epicenter of a global debate about AIDS and how to prevent it. It is of course not necessary to agree with your professor. Come to seminars ready to engage in lively, stimulating discussions, which will be kept polite, cordial, objective and evidence-based.

I will refer to the AIDS establishment, the dominant paradigm, the prevailing view, mainstream thinking, and contrast this with my own approach (myself and a small but growing group of *evidence-based* critics.)

You will note that the texts are all critical of the mainstream view, to varying degrees. Perhaps this is not fair to the mainstream. But most everyone is already familiar with it (think: all the

major funders plus Bono, radio, TV, print media, Paul Farmer, Jim Kim. And with the widespread belief that AIDS is about poverty, blame, discrimination, racism, homophobia, stigmatizing of sexual minorities, denying pleasure. And with the assumption that in Africa (with 2/3 of all infections and 3/4 of all deaths from HIV, globally), AIDS is about hyper-sexed, polygynous men and powerless women victims.

As we get into the material for the seminar, we will notice that AIDS programs were designed in the West by Westerners for Western epidemics. One basic question is: what about African hyper-epidemics? How well does the Western response fit African epidemics? There will be much focus on Africa, because that is the area of the greatest AIDS-related destruction and challenge, and in your professor's view, that is where many of the answers to effective AIDS prevention lie.

Objective of seminar: to get students to think critically and creatively about AIDS prevention: How well is it working in Africa, in the US, in Asia and elsewhere? How could the billions of dollars allocated to AIDS be better allocated? What has been the role of anthropologists in the development of the global (and US) response to AIDS? Have we been part of the solution or part of the problem?

There should be a **career-linked side benefit** of the seminar, in that students will be exposed to the world of international health, the practice of consulting in government (bilateral & multilateral) agencies, NGO and PVOs, faith-based organization, consulting firms, both US and international; the process of winning contracts and grants and then implementing programs in developing countries. And about opportunities to do research in less developed countries without the need to apply for grants or get permission from host country governments (i.e., to do various types of operations research in connection with already-funded projects.)

We will also discuss numerous example of how anthropologists are applying our discipline in global AIDS.

Required texts: Edward C Green and Allison Ruark, *AIDS, Behavior, and Culture* (Jan. 2011) <http://www.lcoastpress.com/book.php?id=294>

Supplementary texts (chronologically, by publication date)

Gabriel Rotello “**Sexual Ecology: AIDS and the Destiny of Gay Men** (1997)

Edward C Green, **Rethinking AIDS Prevention**. Westport, Ct.: Praeger (2003).

Elizabeth Pisani, **The Wisdom of Whores: Bureaucracies, Brothels and the Business of AIDS**. (2008)

Jim Chin, **The AIDS Pandemic: the collision of epidemiology with political correctness** (2007)

Helen Epstein, **The Invisible Cure** (2007)

John Kinsman **AIDS Policy in Uganda: Evidence, Ideology, and the Making of an African Success Story. (2010)**

Green, E.C., **Broken Promises: How the AIDS Establishment Has Betrayed the Developing World.** Polipoint Press (2011).

Supplemental weekly readings: these will all be posted on course website