

ANTHRO 139 MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Spring 2019

Instructor: S. Can Aciksoz

Email: aciksoz@ucla.edu

Course Description

We often take for granted the experience of having a body and the meanings of wellness and sickness. Nevertheless, our bodily experiences and understandings of health and illness are profoundly shaped by and in return, influence our social, cultural, and political circumstances. Medical anthropology examines affliction and healing across different cultural and historical contexts. In this course, we will study the complex interactions between biology, culture, ideology, and society in the construction of “medical facts.” Topics covered include embodiment, disability, mental health, organ transplantation, medicalization, health effects of racism, poverty, and war, humanitarianism and infectious diseases. By the end of the course, students will have a better grasp of the theories and methods of medical anthropology, and will also be able to critically reflect on their own and others’ experiences of dis-ease and healing, as well as on representations of human suffering and medical technologies.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 (April 4): Introduction to Class

No readings assigned

WEEK 2 (April 9, 11): Introduction to Medical Anthropology

Hahn, Robert A., and Marcia Claire Inhorn. 2009. “Introduction.” *Anthropology and public health: Bridging differences in culture and society*. Oxford University Press.

Evans-Pritchard, E. E. "The notion of witchcraft explains unfortunate events." Good, Byron J. et al.(Hg.): *A Reader in Medical Anthropology. Theoretical Trajectories, Emergent Realities*. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell (2010): 18-25.

Kleinman, Arthur and Adriana Petryna. 2002. “Health: Anthropological Aspects.” *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*. London: Elsevier Science Ltd, pp. 6495-6499.

WEEK 3 (April 16, 18): Interpreting Illness

Kleinman, Arthur. 1988. *The Illness Narratives: Suffering, Healing & the Human Condition*. New York: Basic Books, pp.3-55.

Mattingly, Cheryl. "The concept of therapeutic 'emplotment'." *Social science & medicine* 38.6 (1994): 811-822.

Martin, Emily. "The Body at War." *In Flexible bodies: Tracking immunity in American culture from the days of polio to the age of AIDS*. Beacon Press, 1994.

WEEK 4 (April 23, 25): Culture of Biomedicine

Kleinman, Arthur. 1995. "What is Specific to Biomedicine?" *Writing at the Margin: Discourse between Anthropology and Medicine*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 21-40.

Conrad, Peter. "The shifting engines of medicalization." *Journal of health and social behavior* 46.1 (2005): 3-14.

Good, Byron J., and Mary-Jo DelVecchio Good. "Learning medicine: the constructing of medical knowledge at Harvard Medical School." *Knowledge, Power and Practice: The Anthropology of Medicine and Everyday Life* (1993): 81-107.

Blumhagen, D.W. 1979. *The Doctor's White Coat: The Image of the Physician in Modern America*. *Annals of Internal Medicine* 91(1):111-116.

In Class Documentary: *Becoming a Doctor*

WEEK 5 (April 30, May 2): Health and Inequality

Gravlee, Clarence C. "How race becomes biology: embodiment of social inequality." *American journal of physical anthropology* 139.1 (2009): 47-57.

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. *Death without weeping: The violence of everyday life in Brazil*. Univ of California Press, 1993. (excerpts)

Farmer, Paul. 1996. 'On Suffering and Structural Violence: A View from Below', *Daedalus* 125: 261-283

Karandinos, George, and Philippe Bourgois. "The Structural Violence of Hyperincarceration-A 44-Year-Old Man with Back Pain." *The New England journal of medicine* 380.3 (2019): 205.

In Class Documentary: *Unnatural Causes*

WEEK 6 (May 7, 9): Midterm & Biotechnology

***** May 7, IN-CLASS MIDTERM**

May 9: Biomedicine, Technology, and the Body

Crowley-Matoka, Megan, and Margaret Lock. "Organ transplantation in a globalised world." *Mortality* 11.2 (2006): 166-181.

Hamdy, Sherine. 2013. 'Not Quite Dead: Why Egyptian Doctors Refuse the Diagnosis of Death by Neurological Criteria', *Journal of Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics* 34(2): 147-160

WEEK 7 (May 14, 16): Gender, Sexuality, and the Politics of Reproduction

Martin, Emily. "The egg and the sperm: How science has constructed a romance based on stereotypical male-female roles." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 16.3 (1991): 485-501.

Martin, Emily. "Medical metaphors of women's bodies: Menstruation and menopause." *In The woman in the body: A cultural analysis of reproduction*. Beacon Press, 2001

Kahn, Susan Martha. 2000. *Reproducing Jews: A cultural account of assisted conception in Israel*. Duke University Press. (excerpts)

WEEK 8 (May 21, 23): Mental Health

Rosenhan, D.L. 1973. "On Being Sane in Insane Places." *Science* 179(4070):250-8.

Kleinman, Arthur. "Medical anthropology and mental health: five questions for the next fifty years." *Medical anthropology at the intersections* (2012): 178e196.

Kleinman, Arthur. "Do psychiatric disorders differ in different cultures." *Understanding and applying medical anthropology* (1998): 185-196.

Braslow, Joel T., and Luke Messac. "Medicalization and Demedicalization—A Gravely Disabled Homeless Man with Psychiatric Illness." *New England Journal of Medicine* 379.20 (2018): 1885-1888.

In Class Documentary: *The New Asylums*

WEEK 9 (May 28, 30): War and Global Health

Levy, Barry S., and Victor W. Sidel, eds. 2007. *War and public health*. Oxford University Press. (selections)

Dewachi, Omar, et al. "Changing therapeutic geographies of the Iraqi and Syrian wars." *The Lancet* 383.9915 (2014): 449-457.

Finley, Erin P. *Fields of combat: Understanding PTSD among veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan*. Cornell University Press, 2011 (selections).

Summerfield, Derek. "A critique of seven assumptions behind psychological trauma programmes in war-affected areas." *Social Science & Medicine* 48.10 (1999): 1449-1462.

WEEK 10 (June 4, 6): Global Crises and Interventions

Fassin, Didier. "Humanitarianism as a Politics of Life." *Public culture* 19.3 (2007): 499-520.

Farmer, Paul, and Nicole Gastineau Campos. "New malaise: bioethics and human rights in the global era." *The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics* 32.2 (2004): 243-251.

Kalofonos, Ippolytos Andreas. "'All I eat is ARVs': the paradox of AIDS treatment interventions in central Mozambique." *Medical anthropology quarterly* 24.3 (2010): 363-380.