

Anthropology 205 A: Introduction to Medical Anthropology

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Thinking Through Theory in Medical Anthropology

This seminar introduces students to medical anthropology by way of a questioning of its thematic and ethnographic "boundaries" traced theoretically and methodologically. It is intended to complement 240 A-B and is a required course for medical anthropology graduate students. The organization of materials enables us to work through development of key theoretical frameworks that have been used in Medical Anthropology by tracing the intellectual genealogies and analytics of contemporary ethnographies. The intention is to think through theory in the discipline as a matter of both redefining its boundaries and observing how successful these boundaries are at capturing the lived experience and structured possibilities of suffering, disease and healing, building upon previous efforts. We aim to ignite inspiration as well as rigor in our reading of the materials, and creativity in their wake. Although some students will be familiar with some of these materials, this course aims to invigorate critical analysis at the graduate level.

Evaluation

Grading is based on a final paper and on seminar participation. The latter includes individual leadership of discussions and submission of a weekly précis--a short (no more than 1-2 pages) summary and discussion of readings focusing on (1) the primary argument in relation to intellectual genealogies, (2) the evidentiary basis of analysis, and (3) a critique. Précis should be emailed to the instructors and classmates no later than the evening two days before the seminar. Participants will rotate responsibilities for leading the discussions each week.

The final paper should each be a critical review and comparative analysis of a theme or problem covered in the course and explored more thoroughly. Papers should be no more than 15 pages, double spaced. Papers are due on the final meeting of the seminar.

9/28 Week One:

Biomedicine and The Problem of Knowledge

Ruha Benjamin 2019 *Race After Technology* New York: Polity Press.

Deborah Gordon 1988 "Tenacious Assumptions in Western Medicine" In Lock and Gordon, eds. *Biomedicine Examined* Springer, pp. 19-56.

Donna Haraway 1988 "Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective" *Feminist Studies*, 14(3): 575-599.

10/5 Week Two:

Development and the Postcolonial

Julie Livingston 2019 *Self-Devouring Growth: A Planetary Parable as Told from South Africa* Durham: Duke University Press.

Crystal Biruk 2014 "Aid for gays." *Journal of Modern African Studies*. 52(3): 447-473.

Frantz Fanon 1965 "Medicine and colonialism." In *A Dying Colonialism*, trans. By Haakon Chevalier, New York: Grove Press, pp.121-45.

10/12 Week Three:

Gender and Politics of Reproduction

Khiara M. Bridges 2011 *Reproducing Race: An Ethnography of Pregnancy as a site of Racialization* Berkeley: University of California Press.

Craig R. Janes and Oyuntseteg Chuluundorj 2004 "Free Markets and Dead Mothers: The Social Ecology of Maternal Mortality in Post-Socialist Mongolia." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 18(2): 230-257.

10/19 Week Four:

Race and The Social Production of Disease

Michael Montoya 2011 *Making the Mexican Diabetic: Race, Science and the Genetics of Inequality*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Clarence Gravlee 2009 "How Race Becomes Biology: Embodiment of Social Inequality." *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 139(1): 47-57.

Sonia Mendoza, Allyssa S. Rivera & Helena Hansen, 2019 "Re-racialization of Addiction and the Redistribution of Blame in the White Opioid Epidemic." *Medical anthropology quarterly*, 33(2), 242-262.

10/26 Week Five:

Human Rights, Affect Theory, Innocence

Kamari Clark 2019 *Affective Justice* (selected chapter) Durham: Duke University Press.

Lauren Berlant 2011 *Cruel Optimism* (selected chapter) Durham: Duke University Press.

Miriam Ticktin 2017 "A World Without Innocence" *American Ethnologist*, 44 (4): 577-590.

Deborah Thomas 2011 "Deviant Bodies: 2005/1945." In *Exceptional Violence: Embodied Citizenship in Transnational Jamaica*. Durham: Duke University Press, pp. 53-86.

11/2 Week Six:

Discipline, Violence and Abolition

Elizabeth Povinelli. 2019. Driving Across Settler Late Liberalism: Indigenous Ghettos, Slums and Camps, *Ethnos*, 84(1): 113-123.

Savannah Shange 2019 "Black Girl Ordinary: Flesh, Carcerality and the refusal of Ethnography" *Transforming Anthropology*, 27(1): 3-21.

Jared Sexton 2011 The social life of social death: On Afro-pessimism and Black optimism. In *Tensions*, 5: 1-47.

11/9 Week Seven:

Environment, Exposure, Harm

Elizabeth Hoover 2016. “‘We’re not going to be guinea pigs:’ Citizen Science and Environmental Health in a Native American Community” *Journal of Science Communication*, 15(1), A05.

Nick Shapiro 2015 “Attuning to the Chemosphere: Domestic Formaldehyde, Bodily Reasoning and the Chemical Sublime” *Cultural Anthropology* 30(3): 368-93.

Michelle Murphy 2019 “Alterlife and Decolonial Chemical Relations.” *Cultural Anthropology*, 32(4):494-503

11/16 Week Eight:

Ontology Ethnography and the Anthropocene

Juno Parrenas 2018 *Decolonizing Extinction: The Work of Care in Orangutan Rehabilitation*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Maria Puig de la Bellacasa *Matters of Care*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press (selected chapter).

11/23 Week Nine:

Disability and Embodiment

Sunaura Taylor 2017 *Beasts of Burden: Animal and Disability Liberation* New York: the New Press. Prologue and Part One. pp. 1-43.

Jasbir Puar 2015 “Bodies with New Organs: Becoming Trans, Becoming Disabled” *Social Text*, 124 33(3):45-73.

Geyla Frank 1986. “On Embodiment: A Case Study of Congenital Limb Deficiency in American Culture.” *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry*, 10(3):189-219.

11/30 Week Ten:

Revisiting the Ethnographic Form

Ryan Cecil Jobson 2020 “The case for Letting Anthropology Burn” *American Anthropologist*, 122(2):259-271.

Jonathan Metzl 2010 “Introduction: Why Against Health?” In Metzl and Kirkland, eds. *Against Health: How health became the new morality*. New York: New York University Press, pp.1-14.

Audre Lorde 2017 [1988]. “A Burst of Light: Living with Cancer.” In *A Burst of Light: Other Essays* New York: Ixia Press, pp. 40-78.