

University of California, Berkeley  
Department of Anthropology  
Office: 307 Kroeber  
clbriggs@berkeley.edu

Spring Semester 2019  
Charles L. Briggs  
Office hours: Tuesdays 2:30-5:10  
Telephone: 510.643.2012

Anthropology 217  
**Discourse and/of the Body**

Mondays, 4:00-6:00PM  
115 Kroeber Hall

This course explores relationships between discourse analysis, broadly defined, and approaches to health, biomedicine, and biopolitics. It queries how presupposed notions of language, communication, narrative, media, and the like provide implicit foundations for producing and naturalizing notions of health, disease, medicine, and the body and their associated practices and materialities—and vice-versa. The goal is to reread classic and recent readings in linguistic and medical anthropology and other fields in such a way as to unsettle established approaches and collectively forge new ways of thinking and writing. The course aspires to create a project enacted in both "why not" and "what if" modes, identifying the forms of boundary-work that has impeded critical thinking across these domains and conjuring the outlines of new approaches.

**Requirements**

1. Careful preparation of readings for class.
2. Active participation in seminar meetings.
3. A one-page prospectus for the research paper, due 11 March. Students are urged to come in and speak with me as soon as possible in shaping the project.
4. A research project, resulting in an approx. 25 pp. (double-spaced) research paper, due on Monday, 13 May 2018, that a) develops an approach relating to critical understandings of discourse and health/disease/healthcare, b) applies it to a problem relevant to your own research, and c) uses as many of the course readings as are relevant. A way of thinking of the assignment is to imagine that your paper will form a chapter in an edited volume that is meant to map this new project; what would the perspectives you bring and the object(s) you choose contribute? Please submit electronically.

**Texts**

(Available at the Cal Student Store and University Press Books; some available electronically through the UC Berkeley Libraries)

Biruk, Crystal. 2018. *Cooking Data: Culture and Politics in an African Research World*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Bulled, Nicola. 2015. *Prescribing HIV Prevention: Bringing Culture into Global Health Communication*. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press.

Garcia, Angela. 2010. *The Pastoral Clinic: Addiction and Dispossession along the Rio Grande*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Good, Byron J. 1994. *Medicine, Rationality, and Experience: An Anthropological Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Mattingly, Cheryl. 2010. *The Paradox of Hope: Journeys through a Clinical Borderland*. Oakland: University of California Press.

Wool, Zoë. 2015. *After War: The Weight of Life at Walter Reed*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

## Themes and Readings

### Initial Encounter

28 January

Reading:

Briggs, Charles L. 2017. Towards Communicative Justice in Health. *Medical Anthropology*.36(4): 287-304.

### 1. Performativity, Language (Games), and Pain

4 February

Readings:

Austin, J. L. 1962. *How to Do Things with Words*. (second edition, ed. By J.O. Urmson and Marina Sbisa). Harvard University Press, 4-38, 94-108, 148-152. [bCourses]

Wittgenstein, Ludwig. 1972[1953]. *Philosophical Investigations*. G.E.M. Anscombe, trans. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, Part I, §243-305. [bCourses]

Das, Veena. 2007. *Life and Words: Violence and the Descent into the Ordinary*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1-17.

Recommended:

Peirce, Charles S. 1955 [1940]. Logic as Semiotic, the Theory of Signs. In *Philosophical Writings of Peirce*, ed. by Justus Buchler, ed., pp. 98-119. New York: Dover.

Das, Veena. 1998. Wittgenstein and Anthropology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 27:171-195.

Benjamin, Walter. 1968. "The Storyteller" and "The Task of the Translator." In *Illuminations*, H. Arendt, ed., H. Zohn, tr. New York: Schocken.

Woolard, Kathryn, and Bambi B. Schieffelin. 1994. Language Ideology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 23:55-82.

### 2: Fractured Bodies, Broken Conversations, and Ways of Looking

11 February: Note that Zoë Wool will visit class 5:00-6:00pm

Reading:

Wool, Zoë. 2015. *After War: The Weight of Life at Walter Reed*.

18 February: UCB holiday, no class

### 3: Stories, History, and Care

25 February

Reading:

Garcia, *The Pastoral Clinic*.

Recommended readings:

Freud, Sigmund. 1925[1917]. Mourning and Melancholia. In *Collected Papers*, Vol. IV, pp. 152-170. London: Lund Humphries.

Mol, Annemarie. 2008. *The Logic of Care: Health and the Problem of Patient Choice*. London: Routledge.

Bourgois, Philippe, and Jeff Schonberg. 2009. *Righteous Dopefiend*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Knight, Kelly Ray. 2015. *Addicted.Pregnant.Poor*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Note that Angela Garcia will lecture 2:00-4:00pm on Thursday, 28 February in the Gifford Room, Kroeber Hall

### 4.Minds, Bodies, Communication, and Interaction

4 March

Readings:

Lacan, Jacques. 1977[1966]. *Écrits: A Selection*. Alan Sheridan, trans. New York: W.W. Norton, pp. 1-7. [bCourses]

Bateson, Gregory, Don D. Jackson, Jay Haley, and John H. Weakland. 1972[1956]. Toward a Theory of Schizophrenia. In *Steps to an Ecology of Mind*, by Gregory Batson, 201-227. New York: Ballantine. [bCourses]

Goffman, Erving. 1982. Response Cries. In *Forms of Talk*, 78-123. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. [bCourses]

Ochs, Elinor, Ruth C. Smith, and Carolyn E. Taylor. 1996. Detective Stories at Dinnertime: Problem Solving though Co-Narration. In *Disorderly Discourse*, Charles L. Briggs, ed., 95-113. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [bCourses]

Harvey, T. S. 2008. "Where There Is No Patient: An Anthropological Treatment of a Biomedical Category." *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry* 32(4): 577–606. <https://link-springer-com.libproxy.berkeley.edu/content/pdf/10.1007%2Fs11013-008-9107-1.pdf>

Recommended readings:

Goffman, Erving. 1961. *Asylums: Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday. 1-48.

Carr, E. Summerson. 2011. *Scripting Addiction: The Politics of Therapeutic Talk and American Sobriety*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Heritage, John, and Douglas W. Maynard. 2006. Problems and Prospects in the Study of Physician-Patient Interaction: 30 Years of Research. *Annual Review of Sociology* 32:351-374.

Waitzkin, Howard. 1991. *The Politics of Medical Encounters: How Patients and Doctors Deal with Social Problems*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, pp. 11-48.

Cicourel, Aaron V. 1992. The Interpenetration of Communicative Contexts: Examples from Medical Encounters. In Alessandro Duranti and Charles Goodwin, *Rethinking context:*

*Language as an Interactive Phenomenon*, pp. 291-310. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Davidson, Brad. 2001. Questions in Cross-Linguistic Medical Encounters: The Role of the Hospital Interpreter. *Anthropological Quarterly* 74(4):170-178.

Goodwin, Charles. 1994. Professional Vision. *American Anthropologist* 96(3):606-33.

Heritage, John, and Douglas W. Maynard. 2006. *Communication in Medical Care: Interaction between Primary Care Physicians and Patients*. Heritage, John, and Douglas W. Maynard, eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Mishler, Elliot G. 1984. *The Discourse of Medicine: Dialectics of Medical Interviews*. Norwood, NJ: Ablex.

Rapp, Rayna. 1988. Chromosomes and Communication: The Discourse of Genetic Counseling. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* n.s. 2(2):143-157.

West, Candace. 1984. *Routine Complications: Troubles with Talk between Doctors and Patients*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

11 March: research essay prospectus due

## **5. Narrative, Semiotics, Bodies, and Medicine**

11 March:

Reading:

Good, *Medicine, Rationality, and Experience*

Recommended readings:

Good, Byron J., and Mary-Jo DelVecchio Good. 2000. "‘Fiction’ and ‘Historicity’ in Doctors’ Stories: Social and Narrative Dimensions of Learning Medicine." In *Narrative and the Cultural Construction of Illness and Healing*, edited by Cheryl Mattingly and Linda C. Garro, 50–69. Berkeley: University of California Press.

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

Ochs, Elinor, and Lisa Capps. 2002. *Living Narrative: Creating Lives in Everyday Storytelling*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

## **6. Narrative, Race, Class, and Chronic Disease**

18 March

Reading:

Mattingly, *The Paradox of Hope*

Recommended readings:

Mattingly, Cheryl. 1998. *Healing Dramas and Clinical Plots: The Narrative Structure of Experience*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Mattingly, Cheryl and Garro, Linda, eds. 2000. *Narrative and the Cultural Construction of Illness and Healing*. University of California Press, 1-24.

Ochs, Elinor, and Lisa Capps. 2002. *Living Narrative: Creating Lives in Everyday Storytelling*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Briggs, Charles L., and Clara Mantini-Briggs. 2016. *Tell Me Why My Children Died: Rabies, Indigenous Knowledge and Communicative Justice*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 159-178.

25 March: spring break, no class

## 7. Multiplying Embodied and Disembodied Voices

1 April

Readings:

Bakhtin, M. M. 1981. *The Dialogic Imagination: Four Essays*, tr., Caryl Emerson and Michael Holquist, ed. Michael Holquist. Austin: University of Texas Press. Pp. 259-300. [bCourses]

Vološinov, V. N. 1986[1930] *Marxism and the Philosophy of Language*. L. Matejka and I. R. Titunik, eds. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 115-140. [bCourses]

Hill, Jane H. 1995. The Voices of Don Gabriel: Responsibility and Self in a Modern Mexicano Narrative. In *The Dialogic Emergence of Culture*. Dennis Tedlock and Bruce Mannheim, eds. Pp. 97–147. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. [bCourses]

Recommended readings:

Hill, Jane. 1986. "The Refiguration of the Anthropology of Language," *Cultural Anthropology* 1(1):89-102.

Todorov, Tzvetan. 1984 *Mikhail Bakhtin: The Dialogical Principle*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. "Theory of the Utterance" pp. 41-59; "Intertextuality," pp.60-74; "History of Literature," pp. 75-93.

Agha, Asif. Voice, Footing, Enregisterment. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 15(1):38-59.

## 7: Communicating Health

8 April

Reading:

Bulled, Nicola. 2015. *Prescribing HIV Prevention: Bringing Culture into Global Health Communication*. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press.

Recommended readings:

Dutta, M. J. 2008 *Communicating Health: A Culture Centered Approach*. Cambridge, UK: Polity.

Lupton, Deborah. 1997. *Moral Threats and Dangerous Desires: AIDS in the News Media*. London: Falmer Press.

Pigg, Stacy Leigh. 2001. Languages of Sex and AIDS in Nepal: Notes on the Social Production of Commensurability. *Cultural Anthropology* 16(4):481-541.

Nguyen, Vinh-Kim. 2010. Confessional Technologies: Conjuring the Self. In *The Republic of Therapy: Triage and Sovereignty in West Africa's Time of AIDS*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. Pp. 35-60.

Briggs, Charles L. 2003. Why Nation-States and Journalists Can't Teach People to be Healthy: Power and Pragmatic Miscalculation in Public Discourses on Health. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 17(3):287-321.

## 8: Languages of Science

15 April

Readings:

- Latour, Bruno, and Steve Woolgar. 1986[1979]. *Laboratory Life: The Construction of Scientific Facts*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 151-186. [bCourses]
- Latour, Bruno. 1999. Circulating Reference. In *Pandora's Hope: Essays on the Reality of Science Studies*, pp. 24-79. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. [bCourses]
- Goodwin, Charles. 1994. Professional Vision. *American Anthropologist* 96(3):606-33.  
<https://anthrosource-onlinelibrary-wiley-com.libproxy.berkeley.edu/doi/epdf/10.1525/aa.1994.96.3.02a00100>
- Montoya, Michael J. 2011. *Making the Mexican Diabetic: Race, Science, and the Genetics of Inequality*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 112-139. [bCourses]

Recommended readings:

- Shapin, Steven. 1994. *A Social History of Truth: Civility and Science in Seventeenth-Century England*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Haraway, Donna. 1997. *Modest\_Witness@Second\_Millennium.FemaleMan©\_Meets\_OncoMouse<sup>TM</sup>*. New York: Routledge.
- Knorr Cetina, Karin. 1999. *Epistemic Cultures: How the Sciences Make Knowledge*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Hayden, Cori. 2003. *When Nature Goes Public: The Making and Unmaking of Bioprospecting in Mexico*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Ong, Aihwa. 2016. *Fungible Life: Experiment in the Asian City of Life*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

## 9. Languages of Numbers

22 April

Reading:

Biruk, *Cooking Data*

Recommended readings:

- Cicourel, Aaron V. 1974. *Theory and Method in a Study of Argentine Fertility*. New York: Wiley.
- Briggs, Charles L., and Clara Mantini-Briggs. 2003 *Stories in the Time of Cholera: Racial Profiling during a Medical Nightmare*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 256-268.
- Adams, Vincanne. 2013. Evidence-Based Global Public Health: Subjects, Profits, Erasures. In *When People Come First: Critical Studies in Global Health*, João Biehl and Adriana Petryna, eds., 54-90. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Adams, Vincanne, ed. 2016. *Metrics: What Counts in Global Health*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

## 10: Presentation of seminar papers, symposium style

29 April

13 May

Final papers due