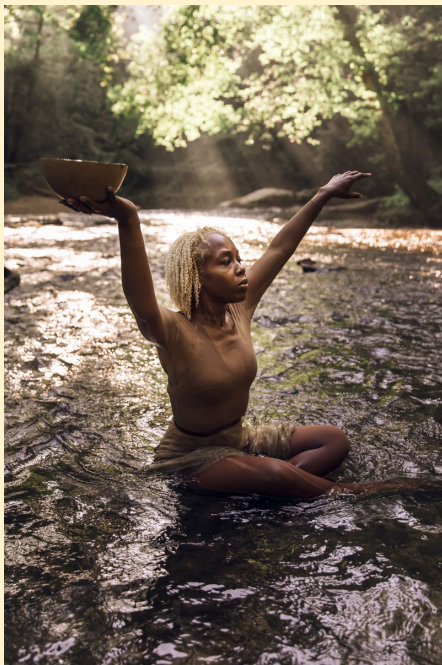


Medical Anthropology -- 134A Spring 2021

Virtual Instruction

Professor Sherine Hamdy

shamdy@uci.edu



Office Hours: Tuesdays 9am - 12 pm



Image sources: Dome Moon Art (right) Becky Staveland, Baltimore sun (left)

All course content, notifications, assignments will be managed via the Canvas Site.

Teaching Assistants: will be holding review sessions/ office hours on Zoom. It is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that you go over any questions you have about the material with your TAs. You may also approach any of the TAs for help with the course; start with the Discussion Board on Canvas if you have a question -- it will likely help everyone if we answer it, or someone else in the class might have the answer!

Kyrstin Mallon Andrews.....kmallona@uci.edu.....Office Hours Thurs 11 am
Tawfiq Alhamedi.....talhamed@uci.edu.....Office Hours Thurs 12 pm
Tenzing Wangdak.....tenzing@uci.edu.....Office Hours Wed 10:30 am
Muneira Hoballa.....mhoballa@uci.edu.....Office Hours Mon 11 am
Darwin Rodriguez.....darwinr@uci.edu.....Office Hours Wed 5pm

What is Medical Anthropology?

Medical anthropology is a holistic study of health, human bodies, illness experience, and disease in social context.

We put medical experiences in the context of people's larger life stories. We ask how disease or illness impacts and is impacted by familial, social, and political contexts -- all the while paying attention to social ideas about health, bodies, and disease and how these social ideas impact the field of medicine and illness experience.

Medical anthropologists are concerned with disease at the micro level of the pathogen, at the organismal level of the human, and at the macro level of society. The coolest thing about the anthropological lens is that its analytical tool is like the “zoom” function on a camera: Anthropology studies problems at different scales, mapping the interconnections between mind, body, personhood, society, political structure, and global environment.



Image sources: Physicians for Human Rights

*****TEXTBOOK: REQUIRED. BUY: [Hamdy and Nye Lissa](#)** (final short paper is based on this reading) AVAILABLE AT UCI bookstore (*There are two Lissa e-books available at UCI Library for check out at a single time; but since everyone will need a copy for the final assignment, buying a copy is highly recommended*)

Course Overview

- What is the relationship between our cultural environments and our health?
- What does political economy have to do **with** health and medicine?
- How do patients' illness experiences compare to biomedical understandings of disease?

The *Learning Objectives* in this course are to:

1. Understand the distinction between biomedical understandings of disease and medical anthropologists' concerns with illness experience in social context.
2. Learn how people draw on social understandings of the body and society as they make meaning of suffering and illness.
3. Learn about the cultural aspects of medical practice.
4. Learn about how the line between what is considered "normal" and "pathological" can be contested, differ by society, and change over time.
5. Understand and analyze the process of medicalization: how a particular experience that was not previously viewed to be a "medical" condition comes under the purview of biomedical management.
6. Apply medical anthropological concepts in your analyses of texts and other media.
7. Learn how to write academic prose, putting forth an argument with textual evidence and citations.

*** *Have questions about the material?*

Visit your TA office hours!

Have questions about the course assignments?

Ask it on the Canvas Discussion Board so all can benefit from the answer!



Each week will follow the following schedule:

Mondays I will post the Lecture + Lecture Quiz + all Reading/Film assignments

Tuesdays Prof Hamdy and our TAs will hold office hours on Tuesdays to review the material from the lectures and readings, and in preparation for the Assigned Content Quizzes.

Watching and Filling out the Lecture Quiz and the Assigned Content Quiz will be **due Wednesday Night**. Lecture quizzes consist of multiple choice or True/False questions about the lecture material. The Assigned Content Quiz are also multiple choice, True or False questions to ensure reading/film comprehension.

Our LIVE Zoom sessions will take place Thursday at 9:30 a.m. (This is the chance to ask questions, or to help clarify your ideas for your Mini-Essays/Short Answers. Attending live is strongly recommended so that you can participate; a recording will be made available for those who are unable due to illness or time zone difference, or internet access difficulties). Our TAs will hold office hours Thursdays and Fridays as well.

Your Mini- Essays every week will be due every Friday night Please turn in them in on Canvas as .doc, .docx, .txt or .pdf files.

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Class Activities	Watch pre-recorded Lecture Readings/Film assignments Office hours (Tues)			Live Zoom Sessions, 9:30 a.m.10:50 TA Office hours	TA Office hours
Assignments DUE			Wed due: Lecture Quiz ASC Quiz		Mini-Essay (due Sunday 11:59)

Grading/Assignments:

Lecture Quizzes (8)	20%
Assigned Content Quizzes (8)	30%
Mini-Essays (8)	40%
Short Paper based on <i>Lissa</i> (1)	10%

PLEASE, NO LATE WORK: if you have reasons to request for an extension for the weekly work, please contact your T.A. directly.

Mini-Essays are graded from 1-10 using this rubric:	
Does it reflect understanding of the course materials?	3 pts
Can someone not taking the class understand it? (Are all the terms described and defined?)	1pts

Is it written clearly and coherently? Do I understand the sentences? Does it make sense logically? Can I follow along?	2 pts
Does it answer the question?	2 pts
Is textual evidence provided appropriately, to back up your claims?	2 pts

COURSE SCHEDULE: (Follow the Modules on Canvas)

1. What is Medical Anthropology?

What conditions make people more or less likely to become ill? What illness symptoms are more or less likely to be recognized as “legitimate” by clinicians?

Please familiarize yourself with the Canvas content and the Syllabus. Please note that the Syllabus is a living document, check back as there may be changes as the course progresses.

[Read: Alexandra Bequez, “The dark history of hysteria” *The Nib* 2018](#)

Monday, March 29: Watch Pre-Recorded Lecture 1: Introduction to Medical Anthropology

Assigned Content:

READ the HIGHLIGHTED sections (Skim the rest) (look at my annotations on Perusall, Canvas): Dumes, Abigail 2020 “Lyme Disease and the Epistemic Tensions of ‘Medically Unexplained Illnesses’” *Medical Anthropology* Vol 39, No. 6, 441-456

READ the HIGHLIGHTED sections (Skim the rest): (look at my annotations on Perusall, Canvas): Dimeo-Ediger, Winona 2017 “Lyme Disease: Inside America’s Mysterious Epidemic” *Rolling Stones* June 20. (7 pp)

Read: [Zemel, Lawrence and Paul Auwaeter, 2019, “Treating chronic Lyme Disease: is it medical fraud?” in *The Connecticut News Project*](#)

Read: Rubin, Rita 2020 “As their numbers grow, “Covid Long Haulers”

Stump Experts” *Journal of American Medical Association* September 23.

(no Quiz or Essay this week!)

LIVE ZOOM SESSION Thursday, April 1, 9:30-10:50

2. Illness, Disease, and the Sick Role

Monday, April 5: Watch Pre-Recorded Lecture: Making Meaning of Illness and Suffering

Assigned Content:

Read: Kleinman, Arthur. 1988 *The Illness Narratives: Suffering, Healing and the Human Condition* Chapter 1 (pp. 1-30).

Read: Marchetto, Marisa. 2014. *Cancer Vixen: a true story*. Knopf (excerpt, PDF on canvas)

Watch: *Fatenah* (animated film) Ahmed Habash, 28 minutes.

Optional: Read: Gadzo, Mersiha 2017. “Gaza’s Cancer Patients: We are Dying Slowly” *Al Jazeera* Feb.

Optional: Read: Solomon, Erika, 2009 “First Palestinian animated film scans breast cancer” *Reuters* July.

*** See Sample Mini-Essays on Canvas!

Due Wednesday 4/7: Lecture Quiz 1, Assigned Content Quiz 1 (on Canvas)

LIVE ZOOM SESSION Thursday, April 8, 9:30-10:50

Due Friday, April 9: ME 1

3. Making Sense of Suffering: Metaphors and Meaning

Monday, April 12: Watch Pre-Recorded Lecture: Making Sense of Suffering

Assigned Content:

WATCH: *Pink Ribbons, Inc* (1 hr, 38 min, on kanopy)

Read: Jain, S. L. 2007 “Cancer Butch” *Cultural Anthropology*

22(4):501-538.

Read: [Bessie, Sulik, Parenteau, 2017 "I'm not the perfect cancer survivor, but I've learned to live with that" Narrative.ly, Feb.](#)

Due Wednesday 4/14: Lecture Quiz 2, ASQ 2 (on Canas)

LIVE ZOOM SESSION Thursday, April 15, 9:30-10:50

Due Friday, April 16: ME 2

4. Cultures of Biomedicine

Monday, April 19: Watch Pre-Recorded Lecture: Cultures of Biomedicine

Assigned Content:

Read: [Hanson, Isabel and Safdar Ahmed, 2019. "Healing Alone" The Guardian June 14.](#)

Watch: Short Video on Michel Foucault (France)

Read: Payer, Lynn. 1996. *Medicine and Culture: Varieties of Treatment in the United States, England, West Germany, and France*, pp. 23-43.

Read: Good, Byron. 1994. "How Medicine Constructs its Objects." pp. 65-87 in *Medicine, Rationality, and Experience*. Cambridge University Press.

Read: 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.

Due Wednesday 4/21: Lecture Quiz 3, ASQ 3 (on Canas)

LIVE ZOOM SESSION Thursday, April 22, 9:30-10:50

Due Friday, April 23: ME 3

5. Normal and Pathological: The Case of Gender Variance

Monday, April 26: Watch Pre-Recorded Lecture: Who gets to define "normal"? What is behind pathologization? This week, we will be asking these questions while focusing on gender variance.

Assigned Content:

WATCH: *embedded in lecture*, Julius and Julia (Uganda)
<https://positivenegatives.org/story/born-julius-and-julia/animation/> (4 minutes) (embedded in Lecture)

WATCH: *embedded in lecture*, Guevedoces, (Dominican Republic)
<https://vimeo.com/145344626>

READ: Bongiovanni, Archie and Sarah Mirk, 2019 “Gender Isn’t Binary, and Neither is Anatomy” “The Nib”
<https://thenib.com/gender-isn-t-binary-and-neither-is-anatomy/>

READ: Edgerton, R.B., 1964. “Pokot intersexuality: An East African example of the resolution of sexual incongruity.” *American Anthropologist*, 66(6), pp.1288-1299.

READ: Preves, S.E., 2002. “Sexing the intersexed: an analysis of sociocultural responses to intersexuality.” *Signs: Journal of women in Culture and Society*, 27(2), pp.523-556.

READ: Pyne, Jake. “Gender independent kids: A paradigm shift in approaches to gender non-conforming children.” (2014): 1-8.

OPTIONAL READ: Geertz, C., 1975. “Common sense as a cultural system.” *The Antioch Review*, 33(1), pp.5-26.

OPTIONAL READ: Dreger, A.D. and Herndon, A.M., 2009. Progress and politics in the intersex rights movement: Feminist theory in action. *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, 15(2), pp.199-224.

Due Wednesday 4/28: Lecture Quiz 4, ASQ 4 (on Canas)

LIVE ZOOM SESSION Thursday, April 29, 9:30-10:50

Due Friday, April 30: ME 4

6. Pathologization and Medicalization

Monday, May 3: Watch Pre-Recorded Lecture: Process of medicalization: forces and consequences

Assigned Content:

Read: Rosenhan, D.L., 1973. On being sane in insane places. *Science*, 179(4070), pp.250-258.

Read: Szalai, Jennifer, 2019. "Investigating a Famous Study About the Line Between Sanity and Madness." *New York Times* November 27, 2019.

Read: [Chen, Angus 2016: "For Centuries, a Small Town Has Embraced Strangers With Mental Illness"](#)

WATCH: [Geel and its centuries-old tradition of caring for those with mental illness](#) (5 min)

Read: Braslow and Messac. 2019. "Medicalization and Demedicalization: A Gravely Disabled Homeless Man with Psychiatric Illness." *New England Journal of Medicine* 381.

Read: Conrad, Peter and Deborah Potter. 2000. "From Hyperactive Children to ADHD Adults." *Social Problems* 47:559-82.

Optional Read: Kaufman, Sharon et al. 2004. "Revisiting the Biomedicalization of Aging: Clinical Trends and Ethical Challenges." *The Gerontologist* 44:731-738.

Read: Haldane, Hillary and David Crawford. 2010. "What Lula Lacks: Grappling with the Discourse of Autism at Home and in the Field." *Anthropology Today* 26 (3): 24-26.

Read: Friedner, Michele et al. 2019. "Embracing Multiple Normals." *New England Journal of Medicine* 381: 2381-2384

Due Wednesday 5/5: Lecture Quiz 5, ASQ 5 (on Canas)

LIVE ZOOM SESSION Thursday, May 6, 9:30-10:50

Due Friday, May 7: ME/SA 5

7. Explain Disease, Social and Political Etiologies

Monday, May 10: Watch Pre-Recorded Lecture: Social Medicine, and Social and Political Etiologies

Assigned Content:

WATCH: *Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?* (56 minutes, Part 1 of the Unnatural Causes series; video on kanopy.com; login via VPN with your UCINet ID)

Recommended/Optional WATCH: *Bad Sugar* (29 minutes, Part 4 From the *Unnatural Causes* series, kanopy)

Read: Wiedman, Dennis. 2012. "Native American embodiment of the chronicities of modernity: reservation food, diabetes, and the metabolic syndrome among the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 26 (4): 595-612.

Read: [Lopez, Oscar and Andrew Jacobs. 2018. "In Town with Little Water, Coca-Cola is Everywhere. So is Diabetes." *New York Times*, July 14.](#)

Read: [Muhammad, Khalil Gibran, 2019. "The Barbaric History of Sugar in America," *New York Times Magazine*, August 14.](#)

Read: Sharon Levy, 2019. "To Combat Diabetes, Native Peoples Rediscover Traditional Plants: Ethnobotanists partner with indigenous communities," *BioScience*, Volume 69, Issue 9, September, Pages 689–696

Due Wednesday 5/12: Lecture Quiz 6, ASQ 6 (on Canas)

LIVE ZOOM SESSION Thursday, May 13, 9:30-10:50

Due Friday, May 14: ME 6

8. Making Change: Health Activism



Image: Black Panther Party physician screening for sickle-cell anemia, 1972, Oakland, CA

Monday, May 17: Watch Pre-Recorded Lecture: Health Activism

Assigned Content:

WATCH: *Bending the Arc* (on Partners in Health, available on kanopy.com) (1 hour and 42 minutes)

Read: Nelson, Alondra. 2016. "The Longue Durée of Black Lives Matter." *American Journal of Public Health* 106 (10): 1734-1737.

Read: Birn, Anne-Emanuelle and Theodore Brown. 2019. "Introduction: Health Comrades, Abroad and at Home" in *Comrades in Health*, Rutgers University Press, pp. 3-14.

Read: Farmer, Paul. 2008. "Challenging Orthodoxies: The Road Ahead for Health and Human Rights." *Health and Human Rights* 10 (1): 5-19.

Due Wednesday 5/19: Lecture Quiz 7, ASQ 7 (on Canas)

LIVE ZOOM SESSION Thursday, May 20, 9:30-10:50

Due Friday, May 21: ME 7

9. Medicine and Political Conflict

Monday, May 24: Watch Pre-Recorded Lecture: Doctors and Health in the Crossfire

Assigned Content:

Read: Benton, Adia, and Sa'ed Atshan. 2016. "'Even War has Rules': On Medical Neutrality and Legitimate Non-violence." *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry*: 151-158.

Read: Aciksoz, Salih Can. 2016. "Medical humanitarianism under atmospheric violence: Health professionals in the 2013 Gezi protests in Turkey." *Culture, medicine, and psychiatry* 40.2: 198-222.

Read: de Albornoz, Sara Carrillo. 2006. "On a mission: how Cuba uses its doctors abroad." *British Medical Journal*: 464.

Read: Maskey, M. 2004. "Practising Politics as Medicine Writ Large in Nepal." *Development* 47, 122–130.

Due Wednesday 5/26: Lecture Quiz 8, ASQ 8 (on Canas)

LIVE ZOOM SESSION Thursday, May 27, 9:30-10:50

Due Friday, May 28: ME 8

10. Structural Violence, Global Health, and Commodification

Monday, May 31: Watch Pre-Recorded Lecture: *Behind the Scenes, The Making of Lissa* (48 minutes)

Assigned Content:

Read: Hamdy, Sherine, and Coleman Nye. 2017 *Lissa: A Story about Medical Promise, Friendship, and Revolution*. University of Toronto Press.

LIVE ZOOM SESSION Thursday, June 3, 9:30-10:50

Due 6/8: Short Lissa Paper: Due 11:59 PM, submit on CANVAS