**Medical Anthropology UA35**

*Spring 2020*

*Mondays & Wednesdays, 2-3:15PM*

*Meyer Hall Psychology Building 122 (6 Washington Place)*

Helena Hansen, MD PhD Cara Ryan and Andrew Ashley

Professor Teaching Assistants

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and by appointment Office Hours Mon 1-2PM, 3:30-4:30PM

and by appointment

**Course description:** Medical anthropology is the study of how health and illness are shaped, experienced, and understood in light of global, historical, and political forces. It is one of the most dynamic subfields of anthropology and has clear relevance for health professionals and researchers interested in the complexity of disease states, diagnostic categories, and what comes to count as pathology or health. This course provides an overview of the intersection where health, culture, and political-economic power meet. It requires that you consider not only intellectually challenging materials on health and disease cross-culturally, but that you interrogate your own personal and social beliefs about bodies and the causes and responses to their vulnerabilities, as well.

**Requirements**:

* **Attend all classes and participate in discussion**. Once in the semester, you will take 2 minutes in the beginning of class to present an artifact relevant to the assigned readings – a poem, a news report, a youtube video, a personal narrative, or something else of your choosing. Participation is **10% of grade.**
* **Keep up with assigned readings and write 10 weekly one-paragraph entries** onto the corresponding Forum on Classes responding to these texts: these are due each Sunday by midnight. Your responses should show that you’ve read the assignments for Monday and Wednesday of the week for which you are writing, and are thinking critically about the readings (you are interpreting and applying the main points of the authors in your own questions or in relation to your experiences – you are going beyond summary). **WORD COUNT: 300-400 words per entry**. Your reading responses should be written in Word (or another text program), then copied-and-pasted onto the corresponding Forum on Classes. Please make sure your name is on your file. **Save a copy**; we’ve had postings disappear and need replacement. Your cumulative reading response file counts for **40% of your grade**.
* **Turn in two 5-page written projects, due** **Friday 13th of March (midterm**) **and Wednesday 13th of May (final)**. Both must be typed, paginated, double-spaced, in 12-point typeface. One entails taking an illness narrative or interviewing a health care provider. The other entails a thick description and analysis of your participant-observation in a public space where people are addressing concerns about the body and/or health. You must send an e-mail to HH, at least two weeks in advance of the paper’s due date to tell us about the topic or person you have selected, and get our approval. **These research-oriented papers will be explained in class**. **Each counts 25%, for a total of 50% of grade.**
* **Students with disabilities are entitled to all accommodations** as specified in their registration with the Moses Center. Please see me after class or in my office hours if further flexibility of this policy is needed.
* **All assigned readings are posted on our Classes website** in PDF form. To access our course Classes site, log on to NYU Home at <http://home.nyu.edu>, enter your NYU net ID and password, click the “academics” tab, look under the “Classes” channel for “medical anthropology”. The articles are in the “resources” section of the site, organized in weekly folders.

***Week 1: Culture Theory in Medicine***

**January 27**

Introduction to the Course

**January 29**

Anne Fadiman. 1997. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures* (Chapters 1-11, 17).

If you’ve already read Fadiman: read Janelle Taylor. 2003. “The Story Catches You and You Fall Down: Tragedy, Ethnography, and ‘Cultural Competence.’” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 17(2):159-181. Also read:

<http://articles.latimes.com/2012/sep/20/local/la-me-lia-lee-20120920>

<http://in-training.org/making-silver-lining-5704> <http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMp058064>

***Week 2: Origins of Medical Anthropology***

**February 3**

Claude Levi-Strauss. 1963. “The Effectiveness of Symbols.” In *Structural Anthropology*. New York: Basic Books pp. 186-205

Mary Douglas. 1966. *Purity and Danger.* New York: Routledge. excerpts

**February 5**

Nancy Scheper-Hughes and Margaret Lock. 1987. “The Mindful Body: A Prolegomenon to Future Work in Medical Anthropology.” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 1(1):6-41.

Merrill Singer “Why Does Juan Garcia Have a Drinking Problem?” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 14(1):77-108

***Week 3: Method in Medical Anthropology***

**February 10**

Arthur Kleinman. 1988. The Illness Narratives. Chapters 1, 2, 15

**February 12**

Clifford Geertz. 1973. “Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture.” In *The Interpretation of Cultures: Selected essays.* New York: Basic Books

Philippe Bourgois. 1998. “Just Another Night in the Shooting Gallery.” *Theory, Culture and Society* 15(2):37-66

Philippe Bourgois. 1999. “Theory, Method and Power in Drug and HIV-Prevention Research: A Participant-Observer’s Critique.” *Substance Use and Misuse* 34(14):2155-2172

***Week 4: What is the Body, Disease and Health?***

**February 19 (No class President’s Day February 17)**

Susan Sontag. 1978. *Illness as Metaphor*. New York: Vintage

Thomas Csordas. 1993. “Somatic Modes of Attention.” *Cultural Anthropology* 8(2):135-156

***Week 5: Social Structure and the Self***

**February 24**

Comaroff, Jean. 1993. “The Diseased Heart of Africa: Medicine, Colonialism and the Black Body.” In *Knowledge, Power, and Practice: The Anthropology of Medicine and Everyday Life*, Lindenbaum and Lock, Eds., 305-329. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Margaret Lock. 2015. Comprehending the Body the in Era of the Epigenome. *Current Anthropology* 56(2).

**February 26**

*Guest Lecture: Kim Hopper, Sociomedical Sciences, Columbia University*

Kim Hopper. 1994. “Homelessness, Severe Mental Illness, and the Institutional Circuit.” *Psychiatric Services* 48:659-665

Kim Hopper. 2007. “Rethinking Social Recovery in Schizophrenia: What A Capabilities Approach Might Offer.” *Social Science and Medicine* 65(5): 868–879

**February 28: *Email proposal for Illness Narrative to HH, CR and AA by midnight***

***Week 6: Biopolitics, Neuropolitics and Biocapital***

**March 2**

*Guest Lecture: Kim Sue, MD PhD, NY Harm Reduction Coalition*

Kim Sue. 2019. *Getting Wrecked: Women, Incarceration, and the American Opioid Crisis.* Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapters 1, 3, 4.

**March 4**

Fassin, Didier. 2007. "Humanitarianism as a Politics of Life." *Public Culture* 19(3):499- 520.

Kaushik Sunder Rajan. 2003. “Genomic Capital: Public Cultures and Market Logics of Corporate Biotechnology.” *Science as Culture* 12:1, 87-121

***Week 7: The Modern Colony***

**March 9**

Julie Livingston. 2012. *Improvising medicine: an African oncology ward in an emerging cancer epidemic*. Duke University Press. Chapters 1, 2, 3

**March 11**

Carolyn Rouse. 2010. “Patient and practitioner noncompliance: rationing, therapeutic uncertainty, and the missing conversation.” *Anthropology & Medicine*, *17*(2), 187-200.

Michael Oldani. 2004. “Thick Prescriptions.” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 18(3).

**March 13: *Illness Narrative due by email to Hansen, Ryan and Ashley by midnight***

***Week 8: Resistance and Decolonization***

**March 23** (No class week of March 16: Spring Break)

Patricia Zavella. 2016. "Contesting Structural Vulnerability through Reproductive Justice Activism with Latina Immigrants in California." *North American Dialogue* 19(1): 36-45

Alondra Nelson. 2011. *Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight Against Medical Discrimination.* University of Minnesota Press. Introduction, Chapters 2, 3.

**March 25**

Cheryl Mattingly. 2010. *The Paradox of Hope*. University of California Press. Chapters 1, 2, 5, 8.

***Week 9: Producing Gender***

**March 30**

*Guest Lecture: Sahar Sadjadi, MD PhD. Women and Gender Studies, Amherst.*

Sahar Sahadi. In Press. *The Brain, Authenticity and Underwear. The Clinical Management of Gender Dysphoria in Children.* Duke University Press. Excerpts.

**April 1**

*Guest Lecture: Rebecca Jordan-Young, PhD, Professor of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Barnard College*

Rebecca Jordan-Young and Katrina Karkazis. 2019. Testosterone: An Unauthorized Biography. Introduction, Chapters 1, 3, 4

***Week 10: Anthropology of Care***

**April 6**

Annemarie Mol. 2008. The logic of care. *Health and the problem of Patient Choice*. Routledge. Chapters 1, 2, 3.

**April 8**

Lisa Stevenson. 2014. *Life Beside Itself*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3.

***Week 11: Religion and Faith Healing***

**April 13**

Thomas Csordas. 1988. “Elements of Charismatic Persuasion and Healing.” *Medical Anthropology Quarterl*y 2(2):121-142

Sarah Lewis. 2013. “Trauma and the Making of Flexible Minds in a Tibetan Exile Community.” *Ethos* 41(3):313-336

**April 15**

Helena Hansen. 2018. *Addicted to Christ: Remaking Men in Puerto Rican Pentecostal Drug Ministries*. Berkeley, University of California Press. Introduction, Chapters 1, 2.

***Week 12: Producing Ethnicity, Class and Chronic Disease***

**April 20**

*Guest Lecture: Andrew Ashley, PhD Candidate, NYU Department of Anthropology*

***“Rethinking Diabetes and Obesity in the Global Context”***

Emily Yates‐Doerr. 2012. The weight of the self: Care and compassion in Guatemalan dietary choices. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 26(1), pp.136-158.

Selections from Moran-Thomas, Amy. *Traveling with sugar: chronicles of a global epidemic*. University of California Press, 2019.

**April 22**

Michael Montoya. 2007. Bioethnic conscription: Genes, race, and Mexicana/o ethnicity in diabetes research. *Cultural Anthropology*, *22*(1), 94-128.

***Week 13: The Clinical Theater***

**April 27**

*Guest Lecture: Cara Ryan, PhD Candidate, NYU Department of Anthropology*

***“The Changing Diagnosis of Autism: From Childhood Illness to Disability and Identity”***

Jim Sinclair. 1993. "Don't Mourn for Us" Our Voice, Volume 1, Number 3, 1993.  
Full text available here:  
[https://www.autreat.com/dont\_mourn.html](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.autreat.com_dont-5Fmourn.html&d=DwMFaQ&c=j5oPpO0eBH1iio48DtsedeElZfc04rx3ExJHeIIZuCs&r=aoLVKBkIxJd4GHK3qi4gmHLik8hvnkmTEYmPcroc0UU&m=WJZW1ocIaU0oGr17P5poN9Wk-xl1HY_pwSfxIvRVlwE&s=DTxw0THt_tzzzByF1_Q8y2UNbLCTJYIyhWxsKJxlxgE&e=)  
  
Damian Miltion. 2012. "On the ontological status of autism: the ‘double empathy problem’"  Disability & Society, 27:6, 883-887

**April 29**

*In class film screening:* “¡Pa'lante Siempre Pa'lante!” Iris Morales, writer and director

**May 1: *Email proposal for Thick Description to HH, CR and AA by midnight***

***Week 14: Clinical Theater II: Re-Training the Gaze***

**May 4**

*Guest Lecturers: Judy Sugarman, Selena Sindhu, MPH, and Parth Patel NYU CAS ‘18: “NYU Psychiatry Residency Training and Community Engagement in Harlem.”*

Jonathan Metzl and Helena Hansen. 2014. “Structural Competency: Theorizing a New Medical Engagement with Stigma and Inequality.” *Social Science and Medicine* 103:76-83

Helena Hansen, Robert Rohrbaugh, and Joel Braslow. 2017. *“*Structural Competency for Psychiatry Residents: A Call to Act on Systemic Discrimination and Institutional Racism.” *JAMA Psychiatry* Online First December 20.

**May 6**

Josh Neff, Seth Holmes and the Rad Med Collective. *In Press*. “Rad Med Structural Competency Working Group Case.” In *Structural Competency in Behavioral Health: Medicine for the Inequalities that Are Making Us Sick.* Hansen and Metzl, Eds. Springer Medical Publishers.

Andrew Beck, Mallory Curran, Adrienne Henize et al. *In Press*. “Is Poverty Making Me Sick? An Example of the Impact of Medical-Legal Partnership in Keeping Children Healthy.” In *Structural Competency in Behavioral Health: Medicine for the Inequalities that Are Making Us Sick.* Hansen and Metzl, Eds. Springer Medical Publishers.

***Week 15: Sayonara***

**May 11** (No class May 7)

Video Festival + Course Feedback

***Thick Description due by email to HH, CR and AA by midnight***