

ANTH 115: Introduction to Medical Anthropology

Tues-Thurs, 2-3:30pm
Kroeber 155
Professor Cori Hayden

GSI: Mauricio Najarro
Discussion sections held in Kroeber 221

Professor Hayden's office hours (Kroeber 327)
10:30am-12pm Monday (drop-in: no sign-ups required)
These hours are reserved for Anth 115 students

Mauricio Najarro's office hours (Barrows 53)
Thursdays 12-2
mauriciojnajarro@berkeley.edu

Course description

The field of medical anthropology has long seen medicine as a site of encounter, at once both intimately lived and broadly scaled. The way this “encounter” has been understood has changed quite a bit from the field’s inception in the mid 20th century. Medical anthropology had its beginnings as a field geared towards helping medical practitioners and public health workers better understand and negotiate gaps between medical “knowledge” and cultural or even personal “beliefs.” Culture and cultural difference were important to understand, but they were often understood as an obstacle, or a source of resistance that had to be overcome (“why do urban Sri Lankans refuse to boil their drinking water?”). Subsequent critical approaches, starting in the 1970s and 1980s, turned to economics and politics (rather than culture), and they attended to “social” or structural causes of disease and experiences of suffering. In the process, anthropologists (engaged with lines of critique in the world around us) argued that biomedicine itself is suffused with culture, politics, and power. The effects of global epidemics (eg HIV/AIDS), the rise of pharmaceuticalization, and transformations in public health in the name of “global health” have further transformed the political, economic, and experiential topographies of health, illness, and intervention. This course offers an intensive introduction to medical anthropology through these shifts in problems and approaches, with additional foci on contemporary questions of addiction, disability, metabolism, and care, in and beyond the U.S.

Communication

Please ensure that you are set up to receive notifications via the bCourses site for this class. bCourses will be the primary way we communicate with you outside of class and section, and it is also where any additions or changes to the readings will be announced and posted.

Readings

Course reader: The majority of the required readings can be found in the **course reader**, which will be available for purchase at **Copy Central (2411 Telegraph Avenue, 510-848-8649)**. Additional articles, whether required or recommended, will be posted via bCourses and will be noted as such in the syllabus and/or in lecture.

Books: There are two required books for this course, already available at the Cal student store.

Fadiman, Anne. 2012. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*. Farrar, Strauss and Giroux.

Stevenson, Lisa. 2014. *Life Beside Itself: Imagining Care in the Canadian Arctic*. University of California Press.

Course requirements

This is a concept-driven course that demands close readings, preparation, and active participation in class discussion. Please come to lecture having read the assignments listed for that day on the syllabus.

Your attendance and participation in all class meetings is expected.

Your grade will be based on the following:

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| Fieldwork exercises | 25% |
| Participation and attendance (Includes any supplemental in-class or out-of-class exercises, or group work) | 25% |
| Midterm exam | 25% |
| Final exam | 25% |

Assignments

This course has a central field component. Over the course of the semester, you will have four assignments that require you to do both actual and speculative ethnographic thinking, planning, research design, and engagement. We ask you to keep a field notebook documenting this work and your developing arguments. The GSI and the professor will engage your work in the notebook and it should be brought both to class and to section. The following exercises will be discussed ahead of time in class and in section.

Assignment 1: Curiosity and Building an Archive. **Due in section** week of Feb 12-14

Assignment 2: Illness narrative. **Due in lecture** Tuesday March 5

Assignment 3: Developing a Research Question. **Due in section** week of April 2-4

Assignment 4: Developing a Research Plan. **Due in section** week of April 23-25

We will provide a supplemental list of key anthologies, journals and other sources that can help you get a broader feel for medical anthropology, and that may be useful in your fieldwork exercises.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disability-related accommodation requests should contact the Disabled Students' Program [<https://dsp.berkeley.edu/>] immediately, so we have time to prepare lectures, assignments, and examinations accessibly. Any students with a potential disability-related request but uncertain of whether it can be accommodated are urged to contact DSP to find out (for example, if you have a history of depression, bipolar, or anxiety disorder that may lead you to miss a course deadline, you are responsible for arranging DSP accommodation in advance).

Statement on Academic Integrity

We affirm the Berkeley Center for Teaching and Learning's principles of integrity: as a member of the campus community, you are "expected to demonstrate integrity in all of your academic endeavors. Any test, paper or report submitted by you and that bears your name is presumed to be your own original work that has not previously been submitted for credit in another course unless you obtain prior written approval to do so from your instructor. In all of your assignments, you may use words or ideas written by other individuals in publications, web sites, or other sources, but only with proper attribution."

Course schedule

Tues Jan 22

Course introduction

Part 1: "Encounter"

Thurs Jan 24

"Knowledge vs. belief:" witchcraft and back again

Evans-Pritchard, E.E. *Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic among the Azande*, chapters: "Witchcraft is an Organic and Hereditary Phenomenon;" "The Notion of Witchcraft Explains Unfortunate Events;" and "Witchcraft-Substance is Revealed by Autopsy" (roughly 50 pages, total).

Uploaded on **bCourses**

Amy Moran Thomas, 2013 "A Salvage Ethnography of the Guinea Worm" in *When People Come First: Critical Studies in Global Health*, Biehl and Petryna, eds. Biehl and Petryna, eds. Princeton University Press. Uploaded on **bCourses**.

Tues Jan 29

Medicine, culture

Fadiman, Ann, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, selections (**Book** available for purchase at the Cal Student Store)

Thurs Jan 31

Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You*, selections

Metzl, Jonathan M., and Helena Hansen. "Structural Competency: Theorizing a New Medical Engagement with Stigma and Inequality." *Social Science & Medicine*, Structural Stigma and Population Health, 103 (February 1, 2014): 126–33. **Uploaded onto bCourses.**

Tues Feb 5

Critical medical anthropology

Illich, Ivan 2003 (1974). "Medical Nemesis," *Journal of Community Epidemiological Health* 57:919–922. **R**

Scheper Hughes, Nancy, 1990. "Three Propositions for a Critically Applied Medical Anthropology," *Social Science and Medicine* 30 (2):189-197. **R**

Thurs Feb 7

Medicine and power: Our bodies, ourselves

Murphy, Michelle. 2012. *Seizing the Means of Reproduction: Entanglements of Feminism, Health, and Technoscience*. Durham: Duke University Press. Chapter 1, "Assembling Protocol Feminism," pp. 25-67. **R**

Martin, Emily. 2001. *The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction*. Boston: Beacon Press. Chapter 4 (pp. 54-67) and 8 (pp. 139-155). **R**

Tues Feb 12

Medicine and power: Race and medicine in America

Nelson, Alondra *Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight Against Medical Discrimination*. Preface (pp. ix- xvi) and Chapters 2 and 3 (pp. 49- 114). **R**

Thurs Feb 14

(Post)colonialism and medicine

Fanon, Frantz. 2008 [1952]. *Black Skin, White Masks*. Translated by Richard Philcox. Berkeley: Grove Press. Chapter 4, "The So-Called Dependency Complex of the Colonized," pp. 64-88. **R**

Giordano, Cristiana. 2014. *Migrants in Translation: Caring and the Logics of Difference in Contemporary Italy*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Introduction (pp. 1-26) and Chapter 1 (pp. 27-70). **R**

PART 2: Bodies politic

Tues Feb 19

{Illness narrative assignment provided in lecture, due March 5}.

Nancy Scheper-Hughes and Margaret M. Lock, 1987. "The Mindful Body: A Prolegomenon to Future Work in Medical Anthropology," *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 1(1): 6-4. **R**

Good, Byron, 1994. *Medicine, Rationality, and Experience*. Cambridge MA: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 6, "The narrative representation of illness," pp. 135-165. **R**

Thurs Feb 21

In class film: "Safe"

Readings to be posted on **bcourses**

Tues Feb 26.

Dumit, Joseph 2006. "Illnesses you have to fight to get," *Social Science and Medicine* 62(3):577-90. **R**

Thurs Feb 28

Care and its complexities

Stevenson, Lisa, 2014. *Life Beside Itself: Imagining Care in the Canadian Arctic*. University of California Press (selections). **Book** available for purchase at the bookstore.

Foucault, Michel. *History of Sexuality, Volume 1* (excerpts). **bCourses**.

Tues Mar 5

{Illness narrative due in lecture}

Read: Stevenson, *Life Beside Itself* (continued)

Additional readings to be posted on **bCourses**

Thurs Mar 7

Lisa Stevenson, *Life Beside Itself* (finish)

Tues Mar 12

Bodies, injury, disability

Laurence Ralph, 2014 *Renegade Dreams* (University of Chicago Press), Preface (pp. xvii-xxi), Chapter 1 (pp. 21-52), and Chapter 4 + Fieldnotes pp. 119-142). **R**

Zoe Wool with Nick Dupree, 2014, "Life Support," with Nick Dupree,

<http://somatosphere.net/2014/02/life-support.html> Link here and on **bCourses**.

Thurs Mar 14

Toxic worlds

Michelle Murphy, 2017 “Alterlife and Decolonial Chemical Relations,” *Cultural Anthropology* 32 (4): 494-503. **R**

Eve Tuck, 2009. “Suspending Damage: A letter to Communities,” *Harvard Educational Review* Vol. 79 No. 3. **R**

Tues Mar 19

Midterm exam review

Thurs Mar 21

Take-home midterm exam due at 11:00am, submitted via bCourses.

No class meeting today.

Tues Mar 26 - Thurs March 28 (spring break)

Tues Apr 2

Pharma: addiction (1)

Lovell, Anne. 2013. “Elusive Travelers: Russian Narcology, Transnational Toxicomanias, and the Great French Ecological Experiment,” in *Addiction Trajectories*, eds. Raikhel and Garriott, pp. 126-159. Durham: Duke University Press. **R**

Netherland, Julie and Helena Hansen. 2015. “White Opioids: Pharmaceutical Race and the War on Drugs that Wasn’t.” *BioSocieties* 12(2): 217-238. **R**

Thurs Apr 4

Pharma: addiction (2)

Guest lecturer: Mauricio Najarro

Garcia, Angela. 2013. “The Elegiac Addict,” in *Addiction Trajectories*, eds. Raikhel and Garriott, p. 36-60. Durham: Duke University Press. **R**

Hansen, Helena. 2018. *Addicted to Christ: Remaking Men in Puerto Rican Pentecostal Drug Ministries*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Preface (pp. ix-xv), Introduction (pp. 1-24), Chapter 1 (pp. 25-45).

Tues Apr 9

Metabolism

Soloman, Harris 2016. *Metabolic Living: Food, Fat and the Absorption of Illness in India*. Duke UP. Chapter 1, “The thin-fat Indian,” pp. 30-67. **R**

Landecker, Hannah. 2013. “Postindustrial Metabolism: Fat Knowledge.” *Public Culture* 25(3): 495-522. **R**

Cousins, Thomas. 2015. "A Mediating Capacity: Toward an Anthropology of the Gut." *Medicine Anthropology Theory* 2 (2): 1-27. **R**

Part 3: The makings of global health

Thurs Apr 11

HIV/AIDS: A Gay Men's Health Crisis?

Epstein, Steven. 1996. *Impure Science: AIDS, Activism, and the Politics of Knowledge*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Introduction (pp. 1-41) and Chapter 6, "Drugs into Bodies," pp. 208-234). **R**

Tues Apr 16

Guest lecture: Professor Nancy Scheper Hughes (tbc)

Thurs Apr 18

HIV/AIDS: Brazil's response

Biehl, João. 2007. *Will to Live: AIDS Therapies and the Politics of Survival*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Introduction (pp. 1-49) and Chapter 6 (p. 339- 371). **R**

Tues Apr 23

Cancer as epidemic

Livingston, Julie. 2012. *Improvising Medicine: An African Oncology Ward in an Emerging Cancer Epidemic*. Durham: Duke University Press Books. Chapters 1-3 (pp. 1-84). **R**

Thurs Apr 25

Global pharma: trials, making markets

Petryna, Adriana. 2006. "Globalizing Human Subjects Research" in *Global Pharmaceuticals: Ethics, Markets, Practices*, eds. Adriana Petryna, Andrew Lakoff, and Arthur Kleinman, pp. 34-60. Durham: Duke University Press. **R**

Dumit, Joseph 2012. *Drugs for Life: How Pharmaceutical Companies Define Our Health*. Durham: Duke University Press Books. Introduction (pp. 1-25) Chapter 3 (pp. 87-103).

Tues Apr 30

Metrics: who and what counts in Global Health?

Adams, Vincanne. 2016. *Metrics: What Counts in Global Health*. Durham: Duke University Press. Introduction (pp. 1-19) (**R**), and additional excerpts, **bCourses**.

Thurs May 2

Last day of class: wrap up and review