

**ANTH 3310A:
Studies in Medical Anthropology
Winter 2007 Syllabus**

Dr. Jen Pylypa

Office: Loeb C772

Office phone: 520-2600 Extension 6329

Email and course info: use WebCT

Class location: Leeds 217

Class time: Tuesdays 2:35-5:25 pm

Office hours: Mon 12:30-2:00, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an overview of the field of medical anthropology. Most commonly viewed as a subspecialization of sociocultural anthropology, medical anthropology also intersects with the concerns of biological (physical) anthropology, medicine, and public health. Its focus is on the social, cultural, political, and economic dimensions of the human experience of the body, health, illness, and healing. In this course, we begin by looking at how the body is socially and culturally constructed. By reading an ethnography on disability in North American culture, we will examine how our own perceptions of the body are culturally constituted. We will then examine social, cultural, and political-economic issues surrounding health problems ranging from malnutrition to infectious disease and environmental health hazards. We will read a second ethnography that focuses on a holistic understanding of the problem of AIDS in Haiti, ranging from its political implications to how it is interpreted in light of local beliefs about sorcery. Finally, we will examine medical ethics, as well as discuss how medical anthropology is applied to addressing public health problems.

PREREQUISITES:

Third year standing and one of the following: Anthropology 1001 and Anthropology 1002, or Sociology 1001 and Sociology 1002

REQUIRED BOOKS AND READINGS:

Books:

Murphy, Robert F.

1990 *The Body Silent: The Different World of the Disabled*. New York: W.W. Norton.

Farmer, Paul

1992 *AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Course pack:

A course pack of articles is also required.

Both the books and the course pack are available from the campus bookstore.

EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

midterm exam	30%	February 13
final exam	35%	April exam period
term paper	35%	April 3

Exams: Exams will be essay-oriented, and draw on concepts and examples from both lectures and readings. The final exam will focus on the material covered after Winter Break. Attendance at lectures will be important to your success on exams.

Term paper: The term paper is a 6-8 page library research paper (double-spaced, excluding title page and bibliography) on a topic of your choosing relating to medical anthropology. Guidelines for the paper will be handed out early in the semester, and will also be posted on WebCT. Late papers will be penalized at a rate of 3% per day, **BUT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER APRIL 5**. After this date, an official deferral from the Registrar's Office will be required. Students who for whatever reason are unable to submit papers in class should submit them to the drop box outside the main office of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology (B742 on the 7th floor of the Loeb Building). **ALL PAPERS SUBMITTED TO THE DROP BOX (WHETHER ON TIME OR LATE) MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN EMAIL TO THE PROFESSOR TO CONFIRM THAT THE PAPER HAS BEEN SUBMITTED.**

NOTES:

- *Final grades are subject to the approval of the Dean.
- *For university evaluation procedures, consult the Undergraduate Calendar.
- *Plagiarism is an instructional offense. Consult the Undergraduate Calendar for university-wide procedures and penalties.
- *Always keep a hard copy of all take-home assignments submitted.
- *Winter break, February 19-23: classes are suspended

SOURCES OF ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE:

Please see the professor in office hours, or make an appointment, if you need assistance. For additional assistance, there are support services on campus. These include:

Writing Tutorial Service: 229 Paterson Hall; 520-6632; www.carleton.ca/wts

- for help with writing assignments and developing writing skills

Student Academic Success Centre: 302 Tory Bldg.; 520-7850; www.carleton.ca/sasc

- for help with study skills such as time management, note-taking, and exam prep (both drop-in sessions and fixed workshops available), tutoring, selecting a major, academic rules and regulations, or academic planning

International Student Services Office: 501 University Centre; 520-6600; www.carleton.ca/isa

- for international students, to help with English conversation skills or proof reading

Career Services: 508 University Centre; 520-6611; www.carleton.ca/career

- for career planning assistance

Library Reference Services Desk: MacOdrum Library; 520-2735; www.library.carleton.ca

- for help with library research

Learning Commons: 4th Floor of the Library, 520-2600 Ext. 1125

- ‘one-stop’ centre for study rooms and spaces, computer access, study skills tutoring, workshops, tutor referral, peer helpers, etc.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION:

For students with disabilities	Contact Paul Menton Centre (520-6608) to obtain letters of accommodation (www.carleton.ca/pmc).
For religious observance	To be worked out on an individual basis with the instructor. Consult Equity Services website or an Equity advisor (520-5622) for policy and list of holy days (www.carleton.ca/equity)
For pregnancy	Contact Equity Services (520-5622) to obtain letters of accommodation (www.carleton.ca/equity).

If you require more information on academic accommodation, please see the professor.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND TOPICS:

Week 1: January 9: Introduction

Week 2: January 16: The Field of Medical Anthropology

Brown, Peter J., Ronald L. Barrett, and Mark B. Padilla

1998 Medical Anthropology: An Introduction to the Fields. In *Understanding and Applying Medical Anthropology*. Peter J. Brown, ed. Pp. 10-19. Mountain View: Mayfield Publishing Company.

Janzen, John M.

2002 Three Classical (and Continuing) Projects in Medical Anthropology. Excerpt from Chapter 1: Introducing Medical Anthropology. In *The Social Fabric of Health: An Introduction to Medical Anthropology*. Pp. 6-11. Boston: McGraw Hill.

Week 3: January 23: The Body and the Self

Kulick, Don and Thais Machado-Borges

2005 Leaky. In *Fat: The Anthropology of an Obsession*. Don Kulick and Anne Meneley, eds. Pp. 121-137. New York: Jeremy P. Tarcher/Penguin.

Murphy, Robert F.
1990 *The Body Silent: The Different World of the Disabled*. New York: W.W. Norton.
*Prologue+Chapters 1-3

Week 4: January 30: The Body and the Self, cont.

Murphy, Robert F.
1990 *The Body Silent: The Different World of the Disabled*. New York: W.W. Norton.
*Chapters 4-9

Week 5: February 6: Nutrition, Malnutrition, and Child Survival

Helman, Cecil G.
2001 Chapter 3: Diet and Nutrition. In *Culture, Health and Illness*. Fourth Edition. Pp. 32-49. London: Arnold.

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy
1998[1985] Culture, Scarcity, and Maternal Thinking: Maternal Detachment and Infant Survival in a Brazilian Shantytown. In *Understanding and Applying Medical Anthropology*. Peter J. Brown, ed. Pp. 375-387. Mountain View: Mayfield Publishing Company.

Week 6: February 13: midterm exam – no reading

February 19-23: Winter Break – no classes

Week 7: February 27: Social and Cultural Perspectives on Illness and Healing

Hewlett, Barry S. and Richard P. Amola
2006 Cultural Contexts of Ebola in Northern Uganda. In *Health and Healing in Comparative Perspective*. Elizabeth D. Whitaker, ed. Pp. 353-362. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Education.

Nichter, Mark
1996 Chapter 12: Drink Boiled Cooled Water: A Cultural Analysis of a Health Education Message. In *Anthropology and International Health: Asian Case Studies*. Mark Nichter and Mimi Nichter. Pp. 393-400. Amsterdam: Gordon and Breach.

Week 8: March 6: Social and Cultural Perspectives, cont.; Infectious Disease; AIDS

Opong, Joseph R. and Ezekiel Kalipeni
2004 Chapter 3: Perceptions and Misperceptions of AIDS in Africa. In *HIV and AIDS in Africa: Beyond Epidemiology*. Ezekiel Kalipeni, Susan Craddock, Joseph R. Opong, and Jayati Ghosh, eds. Pp. 47-57. Malden: Blackwell Publishing.

Farmer, Paul
1992 *AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
*Chapters 1-6

Week 9: March 13: Infectious Disease; AIDS, cont.

Farmer, Paul
1992 *AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
*Chapters 7-14

Week 10: March 20: Infectious Disease; AIDS, cont.

Farmer, Paul
1992 *AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
*Chapters 15-22

Week 11: March 27: Environmental and Occupational Health

Clapp, Jennifer
2002 Seeping Through the Regulatory Cracks. *SAIS Review* 22(1):141-155.

Schlosser, Eric
2002 Chapter 8: The Most Dangerous Job. In *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal*. Pp. 169-190. New York: Perennial.

Week 12: April 3: Medical Ethics; Applications of Medical Anthropology

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy
2001 Commodity Fetishism in Organs Trafficking. *Body & Society* 7(2-3):31-62.

April 4-5: Review period – No class activities are scheduled for this course during this time.