**Anthropology 536A: THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF BODY, HEALTH AND ILLNESS**

**Fall 2001**

**Professor Mark Nichter**

**Office: Anthropology 221**

**Office Phone: 621-2665**

**Office Hours: Tuesday: 11:00-12:00 and 3:30-4:30**

 **\*10 minute appointment unless otherwise scheduled**

**Course Requirements:**

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| 1. | The course is conducted as a graduate seminar. This requires students to be familiar with required readings which averages 150 pages per week. Readings are primarily articles and book chapters. Many, but not all, will be discussed in class. Supplementary readings are suggested for those who have special interest in a particular topic or who are preparing for prelims in anthropology. Additional readings for class papers will be suggested by the professor during students meetings. Packets of required readings will be made available on a week-by-week basis. |
| 2. | One coherent, well- structured class paper on a) a subject related to the themes covered in class and negotiated between student and professor; or b) Two critical book reviews on subject related to issues raised in class -- from books suggested as supplementary reading or approved by the professor. Topics should be selected by the 1st week of November. |
|   |   | a. | length: 20 typed pages [or two 10 page book reviews] |
|   |   | b. | due date: before December 10th: this is a firm date. |
|   |   | c.  | references: to be included in AAA format. |
| 3. | Critical reviews of articles assigned to students in class. Students should be prepared to give short, concise oral reviews of these articles in class. Students are advised to speak from an outline and not read from the text. A written review (3-5 pages) will be expected either the night of the class or the week following discussion of the theme in class. This review should be submitted both as a paper copy and as an e-mail attachment. When submitting the e-mail attachment label the review: 536A wk \_ followed by your name. Written reviews should be organized by subtitle and include: |
|   |   | a. | A brief summary of the major points raised in the article (short illustrative quotes if you wish) |
|   |   | b. | Short note on methods used. |
|   |   | c. | Your impression of the study presented. This should include strengths, critical comments, and links to other articles discussed in class. It is expected that latter reviews will reflect an increased depth of knowledge. |
|   |   | d. | Questions the article raised for you/the class. |
| 4. | Class participation: |
|   |   | a. | Class discussion is required. You will be asked to comment on articles not assigned for you to review. |
|   |   | b. | Field assignment -- two to three short field assignments which generally take two-hours as a research exercise. You will be expected to write up and turn in your field notes. |
|   | This will comprise 10% of your grade. |

\*Field assignments and article reviews will not be returned to students if satisfactory. Unsatisfactory assignments will be returned with critical comments. Students will then be asked to redo the review/ assignment.

\*\*Note on grading policy of late papers: Papers that are late and handed in before the spring semester are penalized half a grade. Papers handed in after this time, are penalized one full grade.

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**Course Themes:**

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| Orientation Aug. 20 | Team assignments |
| Week OneAugust 27 | Anthropology of the Body· From Measurement to Meaning·Social Construction of the Body·Body, power, and knowledge·The body in consumer culture |
| Week TwoSept. 3 (labor day)**Sept 4th Class** | Ethnophysiology·Hydraulic models, machine metaphors, body politics, the body as microcosmGenes and free will |
| Week ThreeSept. 10  | Biopower, Gender, and Ethnic Stereotypes·Science as motivated by multiple agendas·Subjectification of women at the site of the body·Ethnicity, the body and racism |
| Week FourSept. 17 | Biocultural and Critical Approaches to Medical Anthropology: What is the debate: Is there common ground?·Adaptation, a critical assessment·The "small but healthy" debate·Acculturation, health transition and diseases ofdevelopment·Political Ecology |
| Week FiveSept 24**Nichter out of town****Sept 28th Friday (?)****Or Grad student facilitator** | Cultural Conceptualization of Health; Illness·Models of Health - functional, experimental, Marxist·Social class and health concerns·Aging and Health - What is normal?, What is illness?·Illness and Disease·Stress |
| Week SixOctober 1Alternative class Oct. 10 | Cultural Perceptions of what causes illness.·Beyond simplistic dichotomies·Etiology as ideology·Vulnerability |
| Week SevenOctober 8 | Folk Dietetics·Food Classification and rules governing use.·What do foods signify·Food and popular health culture |
| Week EightOctober 15 | Sexuality, gender relations, health, and fertility |
| Week NineOctober 22 | The Social Organization of:·Life cycle Transitions·Conception·Pregnancy·Childbirth·Breast feeding |
| Week TenOctober 29 | ·Illness Classification·The Language of Illness and Social Relations·Illness stories as moral discourse |
| Week ElevenNovember 5 | ·Social Labeling of Illness·Illness and Metaphor·Social Stigma |
| **November 12****No class veterans day** | **No Class** |
| Week TwelveNovember 19 | ·Cultural Dimensions of Preventive and PromotiveHealth Behavior |
| Week ThirteenNovember 26 | ·Risk·The Immune System medicine and popular healthculture |
| Week FourteenDecember 3 | Health: State and Individual Responsibility·"Shaping up," becoming "fit" and the embodiment of ideology ·Health Commodification·Lifestyle |
| **Final papers due****December 10** | **Final Papers : Firm Date** |