

MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Anthropology 3520
Fall 2005

Professor: Steve Ferzacca
T & TH 12:15 - 1:30PM
TH 303

Office: 206 TH (329-2489)
Office Hours: W&Th 11-12 and by appointment

THE COURSE

This course examines anthropological approaches for understanding health and medicine in society and culture. A wide range and distribution of health-related experience, discourse, knowledge, and practice among different societies and among different social strata within various societies are considered. The course assumes that human health is simultaneously a physical and symbolic artifact, socially produced, culturally specific, and anchored in a particular historical moment.



A Javanese jamu maker and seller. Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 1992.

BOOKS

Robert A. Hahn (Ed.), 1999, *Anthropology in Public Health: Bridging Differences in Culture and Society*.

Paul Farmer, 2001, *Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues*.

Margaret Lock & Mark Nichter (Eds.), 2002, *New Horizons in Medical Anthropology: Essays in Honour of Charles Leslie*.

Susan Reynolds Whyte, Sjaak van der Geest, Anita Hardon (Eds.), 2003, Social Lives of Medicines.

READINGS: The required texts for this course are available at the book store (or order online). Dates given for readings are the dates by which you should have read the reading assignments.

ASSIGNMENTS & MARKS: Three papers, one small fieldwork project, and two critical book reviews of course texts, are required. The fieldwork assignment will be evaluated in terms of effort and quality of observations. The critical book reviews will be evaluated for reading and knowledge, quality of argument, organization, and presentation. Each assignment is worth 30% of your grade. Class participation and attendance are worth 10%. Marks are in the form of letter grades. Final grade is an average from the assignments and my assessment of your attendance and participation. Consult your syllabus for dates that the papers are due.

Grade Distribution Scale:

4.0 – A

3.7 – A

3.3 – B+

3.0 – B

2.7 – B-

2.3 – C+

2.0 – C

1.7 – C-

1.3 – D

1.0 & BELOW – F



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COURSE SCHEDULE AND SYLLABUS

9/8 INTRODUCTION HEALTH AND MEDICINE IN GLOBAL FLOWS

9/13-15 RE-EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASE: HEALTH AS GLOBAL FLOW

- readings: Farmer, Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, & 10 (78 pages)
- 9/20-22 'GLOCAL' PUBLIC HEALTH: WORLD SYSTEMS AND "SIDA"
readings: Farmer, Chapters 3, 4, 5, & 6 (125 pages)
- 9/27-29 GLOBAL POVERTY, LOCAL HEALTH: TB
readings: Farmer, Chapters 7, 8, & 9 (77 pages)
- 10/4 IN-CLASS BOOK REVIEW: FARMER MEDICINES AND MEDICATIONS AS
SOCIAL PRACTICE
- 10/6-11 THE CONSUMPTIONS OF MATERIA MEDICA
readings: Whyte et al., Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 (76 pages)
- 10/13-18 THE PROVISIONS OF MATERIA MEDICA
readings: Whyte et al., Chapters 6, 7, 8, & 9 (50 pages)
- 10/20 THE DISTRIBUTIONS OF MATERIA MEDICA
readings: Whyte et al., Chapters 10, 11, & 12 (38 pages)
CRITICAL BOOK REVIEW DUE (7 pages) — TUESDAY, 10/25 ETHNOMEDICINES
AND ETHNOGRAPHY
- 10/25 MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY & THE ETHNOGRAPHIC IMAGINATION
readings: Nichter & Lock, Chapter 1 (34 pages)
- 10/27-11/1 THE USES OF SCIENCE
readings: Nichter & Lock, Chapters 6, 7, 8, & 9 (98 pages)
- 11/3-8 MEDICAL PLURALISM & LOCAL THERAPEUTICS
readings: Nichter & Lock, Chapters 2, 3, 4, & 5 (105 pages)
- 11/10 UTOPIAS & PATHOLOGIES
readings: Nichter & Lock, Chapters 10 & 11 (56 pages)
ETHNOGRAPHIC PROJECT DUE (7 pages) — TUESDAY, 11/15
- 11/15 IN-CLASS DISCUSSION OF STUDENT PROJECTS PRACTICING MEDICAL
ANTHROPOLOGY
- 11/17 PUBLIC/POPULATION HEALTH & MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
readings: Hahn, Introduction & Chapter 1 (29 pages)
- 11/22-24 ON DISEASE
readings: Hahn, Chapters 2, 3, 4, 6, & 7 (111 pages)

11/29-12/1 THERAPY AND EVERYDAY LIFE
readings: Hahn, Chapters 8, 9, 10, & 11 (89 pages)

12/6-8 COMMUNITY HEALTH
readings: Hahn, Chapters 12, 13, 14, & 15 (87 pages)
CRITICAL BOOK REVIEW DUE (7 pages) — THURSDAY, 12/8