

## ANTH 357G, MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

T-Th 10:20-11:35, Hardman 212

Dr. Wenda Trevathan

This course provides an overview of evolutionary, epidemiological, and cross-cultural perspectives on disease, curing, and health care systems. We will discuss such concepts as who gets sick, what causes illness, how cultures vary in what they consider to be illnesses, who are the healers, and how health varies throughout the lifespan. We will also look at alternative medical systems practiced in the United States, noting that several of these are primary medical systems in other parts of the world. We will explore these issues through lectures, readings, films, guest presentations, and group projects.

### Tentative Daily Schedule of Classes and Activities

Date	Topic	Readings
Aug 23	Introduction to course	
Aug 28	Factors affecting health and illness	Brown, pp. 1-19
Aug 30	Evolutionary Medicine	Brown, 33-37
Sept. 4	Stone-age bodies and 21st century lives	Brown, 20-33
	<i>QUIZ</i>	
Sept. 6	Biology and Health	Brown, 38-45
Sept. 11	Biology and Health (cont)	Brown, 46-51
	<i>QUIZ</i>	
Sept. 13	Health in prehistory	Brown, 58-69
Sept. 18	Epidemiology, ecology and health	Brown, 70-92
	<i>QUIZ</i>	
Sept. 20	Who gets sick? Political economy of Health and illness.	Brown, 92-107

Sept. 25	Health in the life cycle: pregnancy, childbirth, infancy	<i>Dancing Skeletons</i> Chapters 1-5
	<i>QUIZ</i>	
Sept. 27	Health of the world's children	DS, Chapter 6-10
Oct. 2	Gender and health; aging and health	DS, Chapters 11-14
	<i>QUIZ</i>	
Oct. 4	Culture and health	Brown, 108-128
	<i>Proposal due</i> Cassidy, on reserve	
Oct. 9	Cassidy, on reserve continued	Brown, 158-168
	<i>QUIZ</i>	
Oct. 11	<b>EXAMINATION # 1</b>	
Oct. 16	Healers	Brown, 169-182
Oct. 18	Culture and mental health	Brown, 183-206
Oct 23	Medical traditions of the world Chinese Classical Medicine	Ergil, on reserve
Oct. 25	continued: Ayurvedic medicine	Zysk, on reserve
	<i>QUIZ</i>	
Oct. 30	Ethnicity and Health	Brown, 240-258
Nov. 1	Gender and Health	Brown, 259-286
	<i>QUIZ</i>	
Nov. 6	Team Presentations	Brown, 343-365
Nov. 8	Team Presentations	Brown, 286-302
Nov. 13	Team presentations	
Nov 15	Team Presentations	
Nov. 20	Team presentations	Brown, 310-333

Nov. 27	<i>QUIZ</i>	Brown, 375-387
Nov. 29	Health and Culture Change	Brown, 401-413
Dec. 4	AIDS and Emerging Viruses	Brown, 333-342
	<i>QUIZ</i>	
	<i>Team project summaries due</i>	
Dec. 6	International Health; Modernization	Brown, 414-438
	<i>Interview transcripts due</i>	
Dec 13	<b>EXAMINATION #2 (10:30-12:30)</b>	

*TEXTS*

Brown, Peter J. *Understanding and Applying Medical Anthropology*. Mayfield Publishing Company, 1998.

Dettwyler, K. A. *Dancing Skeletons*. Illinois: Waveland Press, 1994.

Readings on reserve in the library by Cassidy, Ergil, and Zysk from the book *Fundamentals of Complementary and Alternative Medicine*, edited by Marc S. Micozzi. Churchill Livingstone, 1996.

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*OFFICE HOURS*: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 2-3 or by appointment

*GRADES*. You will have the opportunity to earn up to 500 points during the semester, based on the following class assignments. Final grades will be determined by the number of points earned:

450-500	A
400-449	B
350-399	C
300-349	D
<300	F

A. 100 points from 10 short quizzes as noted on the syllabus. These quizzes will be multiple choice and true-false and will cover material from lecture, films, and readings since the previous quiz. You will have an option of completing up to two short exercises to replace low quiz score(s) or a quiz you have to miss for any reason. This is the **ONLY** extra credit option. **Because quizzes are graded in class, there will be no opportunity to make up a missed quiz, no matter what the excuse.**

B. 200 points from a midterm and a final exam. These exams will be multiple choice, short answer, and short essay. They will cover material from lecture, films, readings, and class discussion. They are not cumulative. Study guides will be given a week before the exam.

C. 100 points from a group project that includes a 5-page paper and class presentation (see details below).

D. 100 points from an individual project based on an interview with a member of one of the following groups of people:

- a. a person from a different cultural or ethnic background from your own
  - b. a practitioner of an alternative healing method (i.e., anything other than allopathic medicine or dentistry)
- c. a person who frequently uses alternative therapies
  - d. a person at least two generations from you (for most of you, that would be your grandparent's generation)

We will develop a list of questions to ask in the interview during a class session. The transcript or written summary of the interview will be due **December 4**.

Each of you will be assigned to a Project Team comprised of 4-5 students. I will try to achieve a balance based on 1) language skills; 2) major; 3) computer/internet skills; and 4) class level (So., Jr., Sr.). This is the group you will work with on your project. Keep in mind that this group structure more closely simulates what you will likely find in the "real world" of employment, and that your ability to work cooperatively in a group environment will better prepare you for such employment. In fact, it will be a useful item on your resume (better than "I sat in classes and passively received wisdom from instructors."). Also, as in the real world, the team members will not necessarily be people you already know.

Your group's term project will require that you select a topic to pursue in depth through interviews with community members and use of library, internet, and other sources of information. You should meet with your group and select a topic as soon as possible. In weeks 3 and 4, teams will meet with me and I will provide more information and guidance on this assignment.

Each team should prepare a project proposal that includes 1) topic; 2) preliminary bibliography including internet sources; 3) proposed methods of researching the topic (e.g., interview with practitioners, etc.); and 4) plans for presenting the project to the class (e.g., podium presentation, video, skit). This proposal is due **October 4**. You will then schedule your presentations for the weeks in November indicated on the syllabus. A summary of your project (3-4 pages, plus bibliography) is due **December 6**.

*Hints:* If you are studying a healing tradition (e.g., Ayurveda, Christian Science, homeopathy) or a culture's ways of treating health and illness, be sure to incorporate concepts such as explanatory model, how illness is defined and recognized, who treats illnesses, what methods are employed, how healers are regarded, relationships between healer and healed, etc.

Presentation: Your team will have a maximum of 20 minutes to present your project to the class. You are encouraged to use various ways of conveying the material (e.g., video segment, oral presentation, skit, slides or overheads, handouts, class activity, powerpoint presentation). Your grade will be based on the following criteria: creativity, research, the presentation itself (including time limit), and the content. Additionally, you will receive a grade on the proposal and the final summary.

### **Ideas for Group Term Projects**

curanderismo, herbalistas, sobadores, espiritismo

paleopathology

medicinal plants of Dona Ana County

medicinal plants of selected Native American groups

trance healing in traditional cultures

acupuncture, acupressure

traditional healing among Mescalero Apache, Navajo, Rio Grande Puebloans, Zuni, Lakota, etc.

health and illness in a selected cultural group of the world

Chinese classical medicine

Ayurveda, homeopathy, Unani

root medicine

endangered plant species as sources of medicines

example culture-specific illnesses such as *susto*, *mal de ojo*, *latah*, *empacho*

hot-cold concept of illness

*remedios*

uses of medicinal herbs by nonhuman primates

pregnancy and childbirth practices

health and gender issues in selected cultures

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, child abuse

the effects of a specific disease or syndrome on human populations (e.g., the Black Plague, malaria, schistosomiasis)

health and modernization

world population, population control, birth control

many more