

# Advanced Medical Anthropology

ASB 503. 3 Hours. FALL 2001.

Class Meets >Wednesday 10:40 AM to 1:30 PM >Social Science Rm 320

Schedule Line: 24575 (ASB 503) and 37168 (ASB 494)

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**Introduction:** Given its relative infancy, the field of Medical Anthropology has matured, much like an unruly child, into a dynamic, knowledge-hungry specialization within the discipline of Anthropology. Despite the range and diversity of subject matter that Medical Anthropology has taken under consideration, particularly within the past decade, many observers question to what degree the field has developed theoretically beyond its early years when *the exotic* was chic in Anthropology and *Other-than-Western* and *Other-than-Modern* was the focus of general inquiry in cross-cultural investigation. Some writers on the other hand suggest that Medical Anthropology has drawn concepts and techniques from both inside and outside the discipline of Anthropology to develop a series of theoretical orientations that strategically straddle the border between Anthropology and other disciplines to become the specialized field that it is today.

**Course Objective:** This course examines the field of Medical Anthropology, reviews its primary theoretical orientations, and explores some of the issues that medical anthropologists have selected as worthy of study and inquiry.

**Course Requirements:** Discussion topics and readings are assigned, based on the following texts and reserve readings.

1a. REQUIRED TEXTS.

Hans A. Baer, Merrill Singer and Ida Susser. 1997 Medical Anthropology and the World System: A Critical Perspective. Westport CT: Bergin and Garvey. **BAER et al** in assignments.

Horacio Fabrega, Jr. 1997 Evolution of Sickness and Healing. Berkeley CA: University of California Press. **FABREGA** in assignments.

Carolyn F. Sargent and Thomas M. Johnson, editors. 1996 Medical Anthropology: Contemporary Theory and Method. Revised edition. Westport CT: Praeger. **SARGENT and JOHNSON** in assignments.

1b. RESERVE READINGS. Assigned readings, unless otherwise indicated, will be available at Reserve Services on the first floor of ASU Hayden Library. These readings accompany the three texts identified above.

2. COURSE GRADE will be based on: (a) attendance and participation 10%, (b) two examinations 30%, (c) two class presentations from the assigned readings 20%, (d) short paper 25%, (e) three snippets 15%.

## Course Schedule

- WEEK 01: Aug 22 Introduction. Part 1. Opening remarks.
- WEEK 02: Aug 29 Introduction. Part 2. Theoretical orientations.
- WEEK 03: Sep 05 Ethnomedicine and Biomedicine.
- WEEK 04: Sep 12 Pluralism and Medical Systems.
- WEEK 05: Sep 19 Biocultural.  
>> BEGIN Window Period to submit snippets.
- WEEK 06: Sep 26 Modernization and Development.
- WEEK 07: Oct 03 Anthropology, Epidemiology and Public Health.
- WEEK 08: Oct 10 **MIDTERM EXAMINATION.** In-class.
- WEEK 09: Oct 17 Perspectives on Ecology.
- WEEK 10: Oct 24 Medical Ideology and the Media.
- WEEK 11: Oct 31 Sociomedical Interpretation and Narrative Inquiry.  
>> END Window Period for snippets. DUE.
- WEEK 12: Nov 07 Methods in Medical Anthropology.  
>> Return of graded snippets.
- WEEK 13: Nov 14 Critical Medical Anthropology.
- WEEK 14: Nov 21 Hot Topic: Drugs.  
>> **FINAL EXAM: first half is take-home** (handed-out end of class).
- WEEK 15: Nov 28 Hot Topic: HIV/AIDS.  
>> **Review for last half of FINAL EXAM.**  
>> Best of Snippet: class presentation by student authors.  
>> Student Paper: DUE. First half Final Exam: DUE.

First week of December: second half Final Exam during Exam Week.

## Weekly Topics and Assignments

Aug 22. INTRODUCTION. Part 1. "Opening remarks."

>BAER et al: Medical anthropology: central concepts and development. Pp. 3-19. ([txt](#))

>SARGENT and JOHNSON: Thomas J Csordas and Arthur Kleinman. The therapeutic process. Pp. 3-20. ([txt](#))

>FABREGA: The need for theory in the study of sickness and healing. 1-28. ([txt](#))

Aug 29. INTRODUCTION. Part 2. "Theoretical orientations."

>BAER et al: Theoretical perspectives in medical anthropology. Pp. 20-36. ([txt](#))

>FABREGA: Somatopsychic disorders in an evolutionary context. 156-178.

>FABREGA: Implications of an evolutionary approach to sickness and healing. 271-289.

> SARGENT and JOHNSON: Soheir A Morsy. Political economy in medical anthropology. Pp. 21-40. ([txt](#))

Linda C Garro. 1998 On the rationality of decision-making studies: part 1: decision models of treatment choice. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 12(3):319-340. [Aug 22-Sep 14](#) & [Anthro Library](#)

Linda C Garro. 1998 On the rationality of decision-making studies: part 2: divergent rationalities. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 12(3):341-355. [Sep 15 - Oct 10](#) & [Anthro Library](#)

Merrill Singer. 1992 The application of theory in medical anthropology: an introduction. *Medical Anthropology* 14(1):1-8.

Sep 05. ETHNOMEDICINE and BIOMEDICINE.

>FABREGA: Early stages of the evolution of sickness and healing. Pp. 75-99. ([txt](#))

>FABREGA: Later stages in the evolution of sickness and healing. Pp. 100-139. ([txt](#))

>SARGENT and JOHNSON: Arthur J Rubel and Michael R Haas. Ethnomedicine. Pp. 113-130.

>SARGENT and JOHNSON: Lorna Amarasingham Rhodes. Studying biomedicine as a cultural system. Pp. 165-180. ([txt](#))

Kaja Finkler. 2000 Diffusion reconsidered: variation and transformation in biomedical practice, a case study from Mexico. *Medical Anthropology* 19(1):1-39.

Susan C Weller, Lee M Pachter, Robert T Trotter II, and Roberta D Baer. Empacho in four Latino groups: a study of intra- and inter-cultural variation in beliefs. *Medical Anthropology* 15(2):109-136.

## Sep 12. PLURALISM and MEDICAL SYSTEMS.

>BAER et al: Medical systems in indigenous and precapitalist state societies. Pp. 191-208. [\(txt\)](#)

>BAER et al: Biomedical hegemony in the context of medical pluralism. Pp. 209-227. [\(txt\)](#)

>FABREGA: A broad view of medical evolution. 247-270. [\(txt\)](#)

>SARGENT and JOHNSON: Carole H Browner and Carolyn F Sargent. Anthropology and studies of human reproduction. Pp. 219-234. [\(txt\)](#)

Carla Makhoul Obermeyer. 2000 Pluralism and pragmatism: knowledge and practice of birth in Morocco. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 14(2):180-201.

Carla Makhoul Obermeyer. 2000 Risk, uncertainty, and agency: culture and safe motherhood in Morocco. *Medical Anthropology* 19(2):173-201. [Aug 22 - Sep 14](#)

## Sep 19. BIOCULTURAL

>SARGENT and JOHNSON: William W Dressler. Culture, stress, and disease. Pp. 252-271. [\(txt\)](#)

>SARGENT and JOHNSON: Nina L Etkin. Ethnopharmacology: the conjunction of medical ethnography and the biology of therapeutic action. Pp. 151-164. [\(txt\)](#)

>SARGENT and JOHNSON: Sara A Quandt. Nutrition in medical anthropology. Pp. 272-289.

Leo Chavez, F Allan Hubbell, Juliet M McMullin, Rebecca G Martinez and Shiraz I Mishra. 1995 Structure and meaning in models of breast and cervical cancer risk factors: a comparison of perceptions among Latinas, Anglo women, and physicians. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 9(1): 40-74.

Cheryl Ritenbaugh. 1995 Commentary on "Models of cancer risk factors." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 9(1):77-79. [Anthropology Library ONLY](#)

## Sep 26. MODERNIZATION and DEVELOPMENT.

>BAER et al: Health and environment: from foraging societies to the capitalist world system. Pp. 39-59. [\(txt\)](#)

>SARGENT and JOHNSON: Sandra D Lane and Robert A Rubinstein. International health: problems and programs in anthropological perspective. Pp. 196-423. [\(txt\)](#)

Socrates Litsios. 1997 Malaria control, the Cold War, and the postwar reorganization of international assistance. *Medical Anthropology* 17(3):255-278.

Paul J Ross, Nina L Etkin and Ibrahim Muazzamu. 1996 A changing Hausa diet. *Medical Anthropology* 17(2):143-163. [Aug 22 - Oct 10](#)

Gilbert J Villela and Lawrence A Palinkas. 2000 Sociocultural change and health status among the Seri Indians of Sonora. *Medical Anthropology* 19(2):147-172. [Sep 15 - Oct 10](#)

Oct 03. ANTHROPOLOGY, EPIDEMIOLOGY and PUBLIC HEALTH.

>SARGENT and JOHNSON: William R True. Epidemiology and medical anthropology. Pp. 325-346. (txt)

Susan M DiGiacomo. 1999 Can there be a "cultural epidemiology"? Medical Anthropology Quarterly 13(4):436-457.

Kenyon Rainier Stebbins. 1992 Garbage imperialism: health implications of dumping hazardous wastes in Third World countries. Medical Anthropology 15(1):81-102.

Oct 10. >> **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**. In-class.

Oct 17. PERSPECTIVES on ECOLOGY.

>FABREGA: Origins of sickness and healing. Pp. 29-74. (txt)

>SARGENT and JOHNSON: Peter J Brown, Marcia C Inhorn, Daniel J Smith. Disease, Ecology, and Human Behavior. Pp. 183-218. (txt)

Ellen Gruenbaum. 1996 The cultural debate over female circumcision: the Sudanese are arguing this one out for themselves. Medical Anthropology Quarterly 10(4):455-475.

W Penn Handwerker. 1996 Power and gender: violence and affection experienced by children in Barbados, West Indies. Medical Anthropology 17(2):101-128. Oct 10 - Oct 19

Soheir A Morsy. 1996 More than dialogue: contributions to the recapturing of anthropology. Medical Anthropology Quarterly 10(4):516-518. Anthropology Library ONLY

Jean J Schensul, Cristina Huebner, Merrill Singer, Marvin Snow, Pablo Feliciano, and Lorie Broomhall. 2000 The high, the money, and the fame: the emergent social context of "new marijuana" use among urban youth. Medical Anthropology 18(4):389-414.

Linda M Whiteford. 1997 The ethnoecology of dengue fever. Medical Anthropology Quarterly 11(2):202-223. Aug 29 - Oct 19

Oct 24. MEDICAL IDEOLOGY and the MEDIA.

Sandra D. Lane. 1997 Television minidramas: social marketing and evaluation in Egypt. Medical Anthropology Quarterly 11(2):164-182. Oct 20 - Dec 10

Chris Lyttleton. 1996 Messages of distinction: the HIV/AIDS media campaign in Thailand. Medical Anthropology 16(4):363-389.

Oct 31. CULTURAL INTERPRETATION and NARRATIVE INQUIRY.

Stephen L Eyre, Valerie Hoffman and Susan G Millstein. 1998 The gamesmanship of sex: a model based on African American adolescent accounts. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 12(4): 467-489.

Eline Thornquist. 1997 Three voices in a Norwegian living room: an encounter from physiotherapy practice. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 11(3):324-352.

Nov 07. METHODS.

>SARGENT and JOHNSON: Pertti J Pelto and Gretel H Pelto. Research designs in medical anthropology. Pp. 293-324. (txt)

Jeannine Coreil. 1995 Group interview methods in community health research. *Medical Anthropology* 16(3):193-210.

Elisa J Sobo and Cheryl L Rock. 2001 "You ate all that!?: caretaker-child interaction during children's assisted dietary recall interviews. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 15(2):222-244.

Aug 29 - Nov 09

Nov 14. CRITICAL MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Hans A Baer. 1996 Bringing political economy into critical medical anthropology: a challenge to biocultural approaches. *Medical Anthropology* 17(2):129-141. Oct 20 - Dec 10

Kenyon Rainier Stebbins. 2001 Gangbusters: transnational tobacco companies "making a killing" in South America. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 15(2):147-170. Nov 10 - Dec 10

Thomas M Johnson. 1995 Critical praxis beyond the ivory tower: a critical commentary. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 9(1):107-110. Anthropology Library ONLY

Merrill Singer. 1995 Beyond the ivory tower: critical praxis in medical anthropology. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 9(1):80-106.

Lynn M Morgan. 1995 Comments on Singer's "Beyond the ivory tower: critical praxis in medical anthropology." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 9(1):120-122. Anthropology Library ONLY

Merrill Singer. 1995 Response. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 9(1):122. Anthro Library ONLY

Nov 21. HOT TOPIC: DRUGS. [first half Final Exam handed-out end of class]

>BAER et al: Legal addictions, part 1: demon in a bottle. Pp. 73-101. (txt)

- >BAER et al: Legal addictions, part 2: up in smoke. Pp. 102-124. ([txt](#))  
>BAER et al: Illicit drugs: self-medicating hidden injuries of oppression. Pp. 125-158. ([txt](#))  
>FABREGA: Culture, drugs, and disorders of habituation. Pp. 140-155. ([txt](#))

J Bryan Page. 1997 Needle exchange and reduction of harm: an anthropological view. *Medical Anthropology* 18(1):13-33.

Marcus Aurin. 2000 Chasing the dragon: the cultural metamorphosis of opium in the United States, 1825-1935. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 14(3):414-441.

Nov 28. HOT TOPIC: HIV/AIDS.

- >BAER et al: AIDS: a disease of the global system. Pp. 159-188. ([txt](#))

Janet Maia Wojcicki and Josephine Malala. 2001 Condom use, power and HIV/AIDS risk: sex-workers bargain for survival in Hillbrow / Joubert Park / Berea, Johannesburg. *Social Science and Medicine* 53:99-121.

Nov 28. *Review* for FINAL EXAMINATION.

Nov 28. First half of Final Exam handed-in during class. DUE.

Nov 28. Short Paper. DUE.

Nov 28. *Best of Snippet*: class presentations by student authors.

First week December: Second half of Final Examination will be during exam week.

### **Reading Assignments for ASB 503**

Reserve readings are located at Reserve Services, ASU Hayden Library First Floor  
(((instructions for library access removed)))

Material from same issue will be "on-reserve" (dates given) and "off-reserve" (dates given).  
[Reason is that readings from "same issue" of a journal cannot appear on simultaneous reserve]  
Brief commentaries will be on reserve for the whole term in the Anthropology Library.