

ANTHROPOLOGY 115
FALL 2016

**Critical Medical Anthropology:
The Anthropology of Affliction and Healing**



INSTRUCTOR: Professor Nancy Scheper-Hughes
GSI: Michael D'Arcy (darcy@berkeley.edu)

Class Meetings: TU TH 11- 12:30
160 Kroeber Hall

Prof Scheper-Hughes Office Hours:
Mondays 2 pm-4pm Sign Up Sheet on my Door
305 Kroeber Hall

Course Description:

This is the core upper division introductory course in critical medical anthropology. The course assumes literacy in anthropological, philosophical and medical writings. Medical anthropology explores 'humans' as biological, social, symbolic and sentient beings through the lens of the body in sickness, health, disease, disability, suffering, healing, birth, life transitions, and death. We begin with the body as culturally defined and by exploring the diverse meanings and practices bearing on life and death, illness, sickness, suffering, and healing. Medical anthropology examines diverse human afflictions from sorcery and spirit possession in Africa, South America and elsewhere and their relation to psychosis, madness and delirium; global epidemics from HIV/AIDS to Ebola and Zika; and drug addictions in the United States to name a few.

The books assigned are classic medical ethnographies—anthropological case studies that show the way that anthropologists think and go about their field research, often in foreign settings and sometimes under traumatic circumstances.

Theoretical writings and essays will be found in the required Med Anthro Reader, and some will be posted on line.

Medical anthropology requires a critical perspective—an epistemological ‘openness’—to alternative understandings of the body, illness, disease, and healing. Thus, we begin with the ‘body’ as biologically given, culturally shaped, and historically situated so that we speak of ‘local biologies’ and the diverse experiences of embodiment. We will explore the subjectivity and experience of human afflictions, culture-bound syndromes, and the logics of healers versus dark shamans, as well as the power of symbols in all forms of healing. We will interrogate biomedical and psychiatric concepts of normal and pathological, the placebo effect, and diverse experiences of embodiment. Biomedicine is treated in this course as one among many systems of diagnosis and healing based on power/knowledge; the management of distressed minds and bodies; the cultural shaping of emotions; the epistemologies of psychiatry; the political economy of health and healthcare; biotechnologies and the redefinition of life, reproduction, and death; cyborg bodies and cyborg technologies from stem cell therapies to reproductive and transplant technologies.

We will draw on the writings of Oliver Saks, Ivan Illich, Michel Foucault, Erving Goffman, Talcott Parsons, Michael Taussig, Emily Martin, Franco Basaglia, Paul Farmer, and their critics.

The course will introduce students to ethnographic/anthropological research methods. There is a qualitative research/methodological skills component to the course. You will learn how to collect and interpret illness narratives and to observe healing in different cultural contexts.

Requirements:

This class is open to upper division undergraduates and to graduate students in the humanities, social sciences, and biological sciences, as well as to 'pre-med', medical and public health students. The reading schedule is demanding and active participation in discussion groups is required.

Discussion sections:

Students are expected to come to sections prepared with brief one page critical reaction papers, reflecting on and raising questions about the lectures and the readings assigned for that week. The two short medical ethnographic research projects will be proposed, prepared, and discussed in discussion sections.

Guest lectures and films are an integral part of the course and students are responsible for the material presented in these lectures.

Grades will be based on:

- Discussion participation/ critical reaction papers (20 %)
- In Class Midterm (20%)

- Two short (8 page) research papers (15 % each) to be handed in at discussion sections
- Final Exam (30%) that will expect students to integrate theoretical concepts from the entire semester but applied to readings from the second half of the course

Course Materials

Books can be purchased at Cal ASUC Store or via Amazon (there are many used copies available). Copies of the required books will be on reserve at Anthropology Library in Kroeber Hall, second floor.

Required Books

1. Fadiman, Anne. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*. Farrar, Strauss, & Giroux, 2012
2. Sachs, Albie. 2014. The Soft Vengeance of a Freedom Fighter. (New edition with a New Preface and Epilogue.
3. Berger, John and Jean Mohr 1997 A Fortunate Man: the Story of a Country Doctor, Vintage, 1997
4. Garcia, Angela. 2010. The Pastoral Clinic: Addiction and Dispossession along the Rio Grande. U California Press, 2010
5. Stevenson, Lisa. 2014 Life Beside Itself: Imagining Care in the Canadian Arctic. University of California Press, 2014
6. Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 1993 Death without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil. University of California Press.

A Course Reader (CR) for Anthropology 115 is required and can be purchased from Copy Central 2576 Bancroft Avenue, across from UC Berkeley campus. (510) 848-8649

Week 1

TH Aug.25

Critically Applied Anthropology – the Anthropology of Affliction
Introduction and Orientation to the Course

Week 2

TU Aug.30

What is medical anthropology- its evolution from applied anthropology in biomedicine to an anthropological critique of biomedicine. Keywords and Key distinctions

Read:

- Nancy Scheper-Hughes. 1990. "Three Propositions for a Critically Applied Anthropology" (CR-Course Reader)
- Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* (begin reading)

TH Sept. 1

Why culture and history matter in the perception, experience, and responses to illness, distress, suffering, pain, and healing.

Read:

- Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* (continue reading)
- Hippocrates, "On the Sacred Disease" (CR)
- James Trostle, Hauser and Ida Susser, "The Logic of Non Compliance: Management of Epilepsy from the Patient Point of View" (CR)

Week 3

TU Sept. 6

Is Cultural Competency Enough?

Culture Vs. Structural Competency in Clinical Medicine

Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*

- Angela Jenks, "What's the Use of Culture?" Health Disparities and Culturally Competent Health Care
- Jonathan Metzel and Helena Hansen. "Structural competency: theorizing a new medical engagement with stigma and inequality" (CR)

TH Sept.8

The Culture of Biomedicine: the Medical Gaze

Read:

- Deborah Gordon, "Tenacious Assumptions in Western Medicine" (CR)
- Michel Foucault *Birth of the Clinic*, (excerpt) "Spaces and Classes" (CR)
- David Armstrong: "The Patients View (CR)
- Seth Holmes, "The Clinical Gaze in the Practice of Migrant Health" (CR)

Week 4

TU Sept.13

Medicine's Body; Metaphors of the Body/ The Physician's Perspective on their Craft/

How medical language about women's bodies reveals cultural assumptions about women and their life's purpose

Read:

- Ivan Illich, "The Medicalization of Life" (CR)
- Richard Selzer, "Surgeon as Priest"
- Emily Martin, "The Egg and the Sperm"
- Emily Martin, "Premenstrual Syndrome, Work Discipline and Anger" & "Birth Resistance and Class (The Woman in the Body)"

Recommended:

Emily Martin, The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction

TH Sept. 15

Embodied Knowledge: Thinking with the Body

Mindful Body – The Existential Body-Self: Embodiment, Disembodiment

Read:

- N. Scheper-Hughes and M. Lock. 1987. "The Mindful Body: a Prolegomenon to Future Work in Medical Anthropology" (CR)
- Oliver Sacks. "The Disembodied Lady" and "Witty Ticky Ray (from The Man who Mistook his Wife for a Hat) (CR)
- Geyla Frank, "On Embodiment: A Case of Congenital Limb Deficiency in American Culture" (CR)

Recommended

Drew Leder, The Absent Body

Oliver Sacks. 1984. A Leg to Stand On. New York: Touchstone

Week 5

TU Sept. 19

The Social –Representational Body and the Body Politic.

The Politically Correct Body

Read:

- Meira Weiss, The Body as Social Mirror (from The Chosen Body)
- Albie Sachs Soft Vengeance of a Freedom Fighter

Film: Soft Vengeance of a Freedom Fighter

TH Sept. 21

Illness, Disease and Dis-Ease . Speaking Truth to Illness, the Moral Economies of Illness

Read:

- Susan Sontag, "Illness as Metaphor" (CR)
- Arthur Kleinman, chapters 1, 2 The Illness Narratives

- Michael Taussig, “Reification and the Consciousness of the Patient”, *Social Science and Medicine*, 1980 (CR)
- *The Sick Role Concept: Understanding Illness* (Talcott Parsons Model of Illness as Social Deviance)
- Elaine Showalter, *The anti-feminist feminist: Hystories: Hysterical Epidemics and Modern Culture* <
<https://www.nytimes.com/books/first/s/showalter-hystories.html>>

Note: Arthur Kleinman’s Illness Narratives will assist you in your first research report that is due on Thursday October 13

Week 6

TU Sept. 27

Surgical Bodies: Cosmetic Surgery; the Right to be Beautiful

Read:

- Richard Selzer, “The Knife (Mortal Lessons)
- Eugenia Kaw, "Medicalization of Racial Features: Asian American Women and
Cosmetic Surgery" (CR)
- Alexander Edmonds, 2007. “The Poor Have the Right to be Beautiful: Cosmetic Surgery in Neoliberal Brazil” (CR)
- Arien Aizura, “Feminine Transformations: Gender Reassignment Surgical Tourism in Thailand” (CR)

TH 9. 29 In Class Midterm

Week 7

TU Oct. 4

We are All Cannibals: Endocannibalism V. Exocannibalism)

Cultural Symmetries: Bioavailability and supplementarity as the ability of individuals and populations to secure life and and/or longevity through the acquisition of the bodies and body parts of ‘the other’.

- Beth Conklin, “Introduction” from *Consuming Grief: Compassionate Cannibalism in an Amazonian Society* (CR)
- Margaret Lock “Inventing a New Death and Making it Believable”
- N.Scheper-Hughes “The Tyranny and the Terror of the Gift: Sacrificial Violence and the Gift of Life
- N. Scheper-Hughes, *Terrorist Necropolitics: ISIS and Human Trafficking for the Organs of the Infidels.* < <http://hir.harvard.edu/terrorist-necropolitics-allegations-of-organ-theft-of-executed-captives-by-isis-through-an-anthropological-perspective/>>

Recommended:

Lawrence Cohen. “Operability, Bioavailability, and Exception” In Aihwa Ong and Collier, Stephen J., eds. *Global Assemblages*, 2005: 79-90.

Margaret Lock. 2003. *Twice Dead: Organ Transplant and the Reinvention of Death*

TH Oct. 6

Cannibal Markets: The Kidney Trade

Film: HOT-Human Organ Trade

Read:

- “Medical Adoptions: The Organs You Need. The Home They Deserve” (CR)
- Nancy Scheper-Hughes. Keeping an Eye on the Global Traffic in Organs” (CR)
- Lawrence Cohen, “Where it Hurts” (Ethics of Kidney Selling in India) (CR)
- A. Sanal, “Robin Hood of Techno-Turkey: Trafficking in Ethical Beings” (CR)
- N.Scheper-Hughes, “Gaddy Tauber: Organs Trafficker, Holocaust Survivor” (CR)
- Daniel Rose, “Larry’s Kidney” (CR)

Recommended:

Margaret Lock, *Twice Dead: Organ Transplants and the Reinvention of Death*

Nancy Scheper-Hughes. “Mr. Tati’s Holiday and Joao’s Kidney Safari”, *Body and Society*

Diane Tober, “Semen as Gift, Semen as Goods”, *Body& Society*, 2011

Week 8

TU Oct. 11

Madness and Culture: Normal and Abnormal –the Key problematic of Psychiatric Anthropology. What is Mental Illness? A disease of the brain? A myth, An Affliction, a Blessing, an Existential Condition? What is Psychiatry- a science, a medicine, a ‘controlling process’?

Read:

- Edward Sapir, “Why Cultural Anthropology Needs the Psychiatrist” (CR)
- Ruth Benedict, “Anthropology and the Abnormal”
- Thomas Szasz, “The Myth of Mental Illness” (1960) (CR)
Thomas Szasz: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJI6YuuHB3c>>
- D.L. Rosenhan, “On Being Sane in Insane Places” (CR)
- Lorna Rhodes, “Dreaming of Psychiatric Citizenship: Supermax Confinement” (CR)

TH Oct. 13

A Fine Touch of Irish Madness –Can Culture Contribute to Mental Illness?

The conundrum of Irish Schizophrenia – Can isolation and celibacy and community and family myths drive one mad?

Read:

- Nancy Scheper-Hughes “Writing Ireland” & “Brothers, Sisters and Other Lovers” (from Saints, Scholars and Schizophrenics) CR

First research paper due October 13 **in class**

Week 9

TU Oct. 17

Total Institutions and Abolitionism: and the Man who closed the Asylums. The Legacy of Dr. Franco Basaglia's Vision of Destroying the Violent Institution (the state asylum in Trieste, Italy). Violence and Mental Illness.

Read:

- Erving Goffman, "Total Institutions" (Asylums), 1961 (CR)
- Franco Basaglia. "Institutions of Violence" "The Problem of the Incident" from *Psychiatry Inside Out*, 1987 (CR)
- Elena Portacolone et al. A Tale of Two Cities: Trieste in San Francisco (CR)

Film: "Once there was a city of the Mad" (life of Franco Basaglia)

Recommended:

N. Scheper-Hughes and Anne M. Lovell. 1986. "Breaking the Circuit of Social Control: Lessons in Public Psychiatry from Italy and Franco Basaglia" *Social Science & Medicine* 23 (2): 159-178.

John Foot. *The Man Who Closed the Asylums: Franco Basaglia and the Revolution in Mental Health Care*.

Nakamura, Karen. 2013 *A Disability of the Soul: An Ethnography of Schizophrenia and Mental Illness in Japan*. Cornell University Press.

TH Oct. 20

Witchcraft, Sorcery, and Magical Death; Nocebo, Placebo

Read:

- Evans-Pritchard, E.E. 1937. "The Notion of Witchcraft" (*Witchcraft, Magic and the Oracles among the Azande*)
- Walter Cannon (1942) "Voodoo Death", *American Anthropologist*
- Harry Eastwell, "Voodoo Death and the Dispatch of the Dying"
- Jeanne Favret-Saada. "Unbewitching as Therapy"

Recommended

Neil L. Whitehead. 2002 *Dark Shamans: Kanaimà and the Poetics of Violent Death*

Week 10 (Healing)

TU 10.25

Healing: Shamanic Transcendence

Read:

- Lévi-Strauss, Claude. 1967. "The Sorcerer and His Magic" (CR)
- Lévi-Strauss, Claude "The Effectiveness of Symbols" (CR)
- Davi Kopenawa and B. Albert. "Stone Houses"
- Eduardo Viveiros de Castro, "The Crystal Forest: Notes on the Ontology of Amazonian Spirits"

Film Clips:

Magical Death (from the Yanomani Series, Napoleon Chagnon)

Embrace of the Serpent
Eduardo the Healer (Douglas Sharon, 2006)

Recommended:

Kopenawa, Davi and Bruce Albert. 2013. *The Falling Sky: Words of a Yanomami Shaman*. 2013. Harvard University Press
N.Scheper-Hughes and M. Ferreira, (2007). "Domba's Sprit Kidney"

TH Oct. 27

Healing vs. Curing: Visionary Doctors

Read:

- Berger, John and Jean Mohr 1997 *A Fortune Man: the Story of a Country Doctor*

Recommended:

Gawande, Atul. 2014. *Being Mortal: Medicine and what Matters in the End*

****Second Research Paper Due this week**

Week 11

TU Nov. 1

The Question of the Human/Ex-Human/Homo Sacer

Bio-Politics of Life and Death

Lives in Zones of Social Abandonment; Make Live and Let Die

Read:

- Michel Foucault, "Right of Death and Power over Life" (CR)
- Didier Fassin, "The Ethics of Survival"
- Meira Weiss "Territorial Isolation and Physical Deformity" (CR)
- Sheri Fink. "Deadly Choices at Memorial"
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/30/magazine/30doctors.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>
- N. Scheper-Hughes: *The Ghosts of Montes de Oca*
https://www.academia.edu/14179172/THE_GHOSTS_OF_MONTES_DE_OCA_Buried_Subtext_of_Argentina_s_Dirty_War

Recommended:

G. Agamben, "Introduction", *Homo Sacer*, Stanford U Press

Joao Biehl, *Vita: Life in a Zone of Social Abandonment*. California Press, 2005.

Wasted Lives: Modernity and its Outcasts

Zygmunt Bauman. *Wasted Lives: Modernity and its Outcasts*. Polity Press, 2004.

TH Nov. 3

Death without Weeping: The Class will Divide in into two reading groups

Part 1, The Madness of Hunger; Bodies, Death, and Silence

Read:

- Nancy Scheper-Hughes, *Death without Weeping* : Introduction, chapters 2, 3, 4, 5 , 6

Week 12

TU Nov. 8

Mother Love and Child Death: The Political Economy of Love and Attachment
Read:

- Scheper-Hughes, *Death without Weeping*, Chapters, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12

TH Nov.10

Radical Hope: The Reproductive Revolution – The Day that Change Came
Recommended:

“No More Angel Babies on the Alto do Cruzeiro”

<http://clas.berkeley.edu/research/brazil-no-more-angel-babies-alto>>

Week 13 (Addiction, Suicide and the Logic of Care)

Class will Divide in Half – Half Read Garcia and Half read Stevenson

TU Nov. 15

Addiction, Family Life and the Nature of Care

Healing, Self Healing and Care in the Face of a Rural Drug Epidemic

Read

- Angela Garcia, *The Pastoral Clinic*
- Nate Hughes. “Former Drug Rep: Did I contribute to Today’s Opioid Epidemic?” <<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bs-ed-pharmaceutical-opioids-20160124-story.html>>

Recommended:

Annemarie Mol. *The Logic of Care*

TH Nov.17

Read:

Lisa Stevenson, *Life Beside Itself: Imagining Care in the Arctic*,

Recommended :

< <http://somasphere.net/2015/04/book-forum-lisa-stevensons-life-beside-itself-imagining-care-in-the-canadian-arctic.html>>

Week 14

TU Nov. 22

Humanitarianism and its Discontents

Case Studies: Partners in Health ; MSF – Doctors without Borders

Read:

- Didier Fassin, “Humanitarianism as a Politics of Life”
- Paul Farmer, “The New Malaise: Medical Ethics and Social Rights in the Global Era”
- Mariella Pandolfi, “Contract of Mutual (In) Difference (Albania and Kosovo)

- Sam Dubal, “Being Ethical in an Unethical World: A Plea for Radical Political Medicine <
<http://samdubal.blogspot.com/2012/05/renouncing-paul-farmer-desperate-plea.html>>

Recommended:

Paul Farmer, 2003. *Pathologies of Power*, University of California Press
 Tracy Kidder, *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World* (2003)
 Paul Farmer and Fr. Gustavo Gutierrez, *Companion to the Poor*
 Peter Redfield, *Life in Crisis: The Ethical Journey of Doctors Without Borders*

Thanksgiving

TU Nov. 29

4 panels of students to summarize their medical ethnography research papers

*****Research Papers due in Class**

TH Dec 1

Summing up the Class and some final thoughts about liberation medicine and a pedagogy for patients

Background & Recommended Readings

Agamben, Giorgio. *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and the Bare Life*. Stanford U
 Bourgois, Philippe and Jeff Shoenberg, *Righteous Dopefiend*
 Briggs, Charles L. and Clara Mantini-Briggs. 2016. *Tell Me Why My Children Died: Rabies, Indigenous Knowledge, and Communicative Justice*. Duke University Press.
 Das, Veena. 2015. *Affliction: Health, Disease, Poverty*. New York: Fordham University.
 Ehrenreich, Barbara and Deidre English. *Witches, Midwives and Nurses*
 Farmer, Paul. 2005. *Pathologies of Power*. Berkeley: University of California
 Paul Farmer and Fr. Gustavo Gutierrez, *Companion to the Poor*
 Farmer, Paul, Haun Saussy, eds. 2010. *Partner to the Poor: A Paul Farmer Reader*. University of California Press.
 Gawande, Atul. 2014. *Being Mortal: Medicine and what Matters in the End*. New York: Metropolitan
 Foucault, Michel. 1994. *The Birth of the Clinic*. Vintage.
 Gawande, Atul. *Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science*
 Good, B.J, M. Fischer, M.J. Good. 2010. *A Reader in Medical Anthropology: Theoretical Trajectories, Emergent Realities*. Wiley-Blackwell.
 Holmes, Seth. 2013. *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States*. University of California .

Kleinman, Arthur. 1988. *The Illness Narratives: Suffering, Healing and the Human Condition*. New York, NY: Basic Books.

Kidder, Tracy. *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World* (2003)

Kopenawa, Davi and Bruce Albert. 2013. *The Falling Sky: Words of a Yanomami Shaman*. 2013. Harvard University Press

Lindenbaum, Shirley. 1979. *Kuru Sorcery*. Mayfield Publishing

Lock, Margaret and Vinh-Kim Nguyen. 2010. *An Anthropology of Biomedicine*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Martin, Emily. 2001. *The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction*.

Martin, Emily. 1994. *Flexible Bodies*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Manz, Beatriz. *Paradise in Ashes*.

Washington, Harriet A. 2006, *Medical Apartheid: the Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans*. New York: Broadway Books.

Redfield, Peter. *Life in Crisis: The Ethical Journey of Doctors Without Borders*

Roberts, Elizabeth, *God's Laboratory: Assisted Reproduction in the Andes*.

Rose, Nicolas. 2006. *The Politics of Life Itself*. Princeton

Skloot, Rebecca. 2010. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. Crown Publishers.

Tracy, Kidder. 2004. *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World*. New York: Random House

Sacks, Oliver. 1998. *The Man who Mistook his Wife for a Hat*. Touchstone.

Sacks, Oliver. 1984. *A Leg to Stand On*. New York: Touchstone

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 2000. *Saints, Scholars and Schizophrenics: Mental Illness in Rural Ireland*. University of California

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy and Loic Wacquant. 2003. *Commodifying Bodies*. London: Sage.