

Anthropology 3222: Culture, Health, and Disease Spring 20201

Instructor: Dr. Catherine Mitchell Fuentes

Class Time/Location: 100% Online

Email: cfuente4@uncc.edu

Office Hours and How to Contact Me: I am happy to answer questions via email or to meet with you one-on-one remotely. Email to schedule a time for remote meetings and/or phone calls. Please do not leave voice-messages as I will likely not get these. Please email to contact me.

Technical Support: For Canvas support see the “help” icon on the bottom-left of your canvas dashboard which will give you all of the numbers and links to call or live-chat (the 24/7 canvas help hotline phone is 877-257-9780)

For other technical problems (not related to Canvas), you can call UNCC IT at
704-687- 5500

CLASS DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to introduce you to key concepts, theories, and current issues surrounding the role of culture in health and disease. We will examine such diverse topics as how healers heal, what counts as mental illness, the role of belief in healing and dying, the role of gender and race in access to resources and rates of disease, how different cultures view disease causation and diagnosis, and the way in which our own medical system is culturally shaped. The interaction between biology and culture will be emphasized throughout this course. We wrap things up by answering the question of “who cares about all of this?” by investigating some of the ways this knowledge can be applied in the “real world.”

This is a 3000-level class and is fast paced. Just because this is an online course does NOT mean that it is easier. You will have daily readings and discussion assignments.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COURSE:

If you need to contact me (about non-technical problems), you can email me at cfuente4@uncc.edu I am happy to answer questions about course content. You can also notify me if one of the films isn't playing properly, etc. I am also happy to meet with you one-on-one.

*****Technical questions should NOT be directed to me.** If you email me, then there will be a time lag between the time I see the email, respond to you that you should call either the Canvas support OR our UNCC IT, and the time you read the email and call IT/Canvas support. In addition to the numbers given at the top of this syllabus, there is also a "help" button to the left of our Canvas page which will allow you to report a problem, find FAQs about Canvas, or even live chat with Canvas Support. If you are having trouble during a test, please make sure to report the problem so that this is documented. Ask Canvas to send you an email documenting the call/chat.

PREREQUISITES:

In order to complete this course successfully, you must have regular and reliable access to a computer with a connection to the Internet (preferably High-Speed). You should have a basic proficiency navigating the Internet and using Canvas. **There is a Canvas guide/orientation and FAQ for students that will help you learn to do this** (Click on the "Help" link on the left of your Canvas page to access this orientation. I also have posted a link in the very first module of Canvas in our course. You may use a Mac or a PC, but you must be able to open Power Point files, Excel files, and have Flash installed so you can view some of the videos. **FYI, when you open the power point recorded lectures, you must actually then click where it says "Download" and then click on Slide Show and then click on the audio symbol. If you are trying to get the audio to play but haven't actually downloaded it (just looking in preview), it will NOT play audio.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To identify ideas and concepts in the field of medical anthropology.
- 2) To evaluate how all medical systems (including our own) are culturally shaped.
- 3) To understand the way in which biology and culture influence one another.
- 4) To appreciate the ways in which medical anthropology can be used to solve real-world problems

COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

Below is a list of things I expect from students:

1. Log into the course in Canvas several times a week. You will be able to access the class materials and work ahead, if needed. You just have to make sure to turn in assignments and take exams by the deadlines.
2. Expect to spend 3 to 5 hours on each week's modules. This is equivalent to what is expected in a face-to-face class. You will have daily readings, resources, and assignments.
3. You should review **ALL** of the resources (audio recorded power point lectures, videos, etc.) in a given module. These resources inform both your daily assignments and your exams. Remember to download the power point files and I suggest using Slide Show to watch.
4. You should take notes as you review the resources for a given module, just as you would take notes during a lecture. While the exams are open note/book they are timed. This means you will not have time to look up the answer to every single test question. Further, the answers to questions aren't always single "facts" that can be located on a particular page, but instead are broader concepts/theories/ideas. In short, you have to KNOW the material, concepts, and ideas.
5. Complete all of the discussion assignments. Check your syllabus and Canvas frequently to make sure you aren't missing one. While each discussion assignment is worth 10 points, this adds up considerably. Make sure your assignments are submitted on time (see each discussion assignment's description in Canvas for due date and other requirements). No late assignments will be accepted. If you wait until the last minute to submit and then have computer problems (or other problems) this will NOT excuse you. You need to give yourself ample time to submit assignments in order to deal with any potential errors that may occur. Also, for the discussion assignments where you have to respond to another student, it takes 30 minutes after making your post to be able to view the posts of others (this is a feature of Canvas that I can't change). Therefore, if you are required to reply to another student and don't make your own post until 11:25 p.m., you will not be able to see the posts of others in time to make the deadline.

REQUIRED TEXTS

There is only one required text for this course. All other readings are posted in Canvas modules and not in a textbook – make sure to check your syllabus and Canvas daily.

Fadiman, Anne: *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*. New York, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998 (Any edition is fine; this may be cheaper if you buy it online)

GRADING CRITERIA:

Discussion Assignments: You will be expected to login to this class nearly every day in order to complete discussion assignments. Most of the time assignments are worth 10 points. There is one where you have a two-part discussion worth 20 points. As would be the case in face-to-face classes, I will comment on posts made by students. **You will want to read my comments as well as the student's original post. This helps to guide your understanding of the material for exams.** See Canvas for due dates of each and other important information. The assignments will be graded and grades posted in Canvas. The total number of points for all discussion assignments throughout the semester is 150.

Exams: There will be three exams (I use the terms "exam" and "test" interchangeably) in this course (two during the regular course of the semester and one final exam). NONE are cumulative. I take the course material and divide it into three (more or less) even sections. See dates for each below. Each exam will consist of anywhere between 35 and 50 multiple choice and true/false questions. You may use your readings and notes during exams, but these are timed. You will have 75 minutes to complete the exam from the time you first open it. Because the exam is timed, you will need to study and not rely on looking up all of the answers while you are taking the exam.

Graded Items and Point Values:

- Discussion Assignments = 150 points

(15 Discussion Assignments worth 10 points each, but I allow you to skip two discussions of your choice without penalty. If you chose to complete all of the discussions, you will receive those points PLUS still get the extra 20 points that I give free to make up any two skipped. So, if you do ALL of the discussion assignments you can actually earn up to a total of 20 extra points which would equal up to 170 points; whereas if you skip two, you can earn up to 150 points)

- Exam 1 = 126 points
- Exam 2 = 134 points
- Final exam = 140 points

Total Points = 550 points

Grading Scale:

A=495-550 points; B=440-494 points; C=385-439 points; D=330-384 points; F= 0-329 points

Exam Policy:

Students are expected to take the two exams and final exam during the scheduled time frame on the syllabus. I give you a two-day range in which to take a given exam. Do not schedule appointments, meetings, trips, work, etc. that will prevent you from taking the test on the scheduled day. In order to be fair to ALL students, I cannot make exceptions for a SINGLE student.

Since I do give you three full days to take the 75-minute exam, if you miss an exam, it must be due to something urgent, unexpected, and unavoidable. If this happens you must have documentation dated the day of the exam (not the day before or after). For example, if you are sick enough to miss the test, then you are sick enough to see a doctor. When you go, ask your doctor for documentation and make sure it is dated to excuse you for the day of the exam. If you find yourself in another situation, get verifiable documentation. If you do not have this, you cannot take a make-up. This is not me being mean but is my way of being fair.

In the event that you miss an exam and you have a valid excuse; you are expected to contact me on the day of the exam to schedule a make-up. If I do not hear from you or someone else emailing/calling on your behalf on the day of the exam, you cannot take the make-up. You have four days from the day the exam was scheduled to complete the make-up. If you do not complete the make-up within this time, you will receive a zero.

RELEVANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Academic Integrity: All your work is subject to the UNC-Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity. This includes behaviors related to cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, plagiarism and other forms of dishonesty. The code is available online through the link provided in the first Canvas Module:

https://legal.uncc.edu/sites/legal.uncc.edu/files/media/2019-08-05_UP-407-CodeOfStudentAcademicIntegrity-APPROVED.pdf

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated (see below for definitions). Violations may include various forms of plagiarism, cheating, copying from another student's exam, and others (see below). Should academic dishonesty or disruption of the class be proved for any individual, I shall use the full range of penalties available to me.

Academic Integrity Learning Module: <http://library.uncc.edu/mcbess/academicintegrity/index.php>. The lesson focuses on how to avoid plagiarism. The lesson takes 10-15 minutes to complete. There are short activities throughout the lesson. The module should be compatible in most browsers but we recommend Chrome, Explorer, or Safari due to the interactive elements.

I want you to be familiar with the entire Code of Student Academic Integrity. But here are some very key points. AVOID CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM:

- **CHEATING is intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices in any academic exercise. This definition includes unauthorized communication of information during an academic exercise.**
 - **Typical Examples:** Copying from another student's paper or receiving unauthorized assistance during a quiz, test or examination; using books, notes or other devices (e.g., calculators) when these are not authorized; procuring without authorization tests or examinations before the scheduled exercise (including discussion of the substance of examinations and tests when it is expected these will not be discussed); copying reports, laboratory work, computer programs or files and the like from other students; collaborating on laboratory or computer work without authorization and without indication of the nature and extent of the collaboration; sending a substitute to take an examination.
- **PLAGIARISM. Intentionally or knowingly presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgement of the source).**
 - **Typical Examples:** Submitting as one's own work of a "ghost writer" or commercial writing service; directly quoting from a source without citation; paraphrasing or summarizing another's work without acknowledging the source; using facts, figures, graphs, charts or information without acknowledgement of the source. Plagiarism may occur orally and in writing. It may involve computer programs and files, research designs, distinctive figures of speech, ideas and images, or generally any "information" which belongs to another. Copying directly from web pages, without acknowledgement, is plagiarism.

Disability Services: Students with documented disabilities are eligible to receive assistance from the Office of Disability Services, located in Fretwell 230, 704-687-0040, and <http://www.ds.uncc.edu/>.

Religious Observation: Students will be given an opportunity to make-up work missed due to an absence that is due to the observation of a recognized religious holiday.

Schedule of Topics and Assigned Readings

For every day below, make sure to go online and see what resources have been given to you. I have organized this class based on a Tuesday/Thursday schedule but that is just for organization. As long as you meet the assignment deadlines, it doesn't matter what days of the week you actually do the work. For nearly every module you will have video lectures (using audio recorded Power Point presentations), readings, film clips, and other resources that you need to do. All of these are accessible in each Canvas module. Below, however, I only list topics and readings – so check Canvas modules for the rest.

Also, you may work ahead if you need to. I wouldn't suggest getting too far ahead, but you can work ahead a few days if this is more convenient for work, travel, family life, etc. You need to make sure to have assignments turned in no later than the due date/time.

Test 1 Material:

Topic 1: Thursday, January 21: Introduction to the Course

- You might want to go ahead and start reading Fadiman's book "The Spirit Catches You" – we won't get into this in detail until after the first test, but it won't hurt to go ahead and get started.
- Make sure you have gone through the FAQ/instructional page for using Canvas found in today's module on our Canvas page
- Discussion assignment worth 10 points where you introduce yourself (Due by 11:55 p.m. Sunday, January 24)

Topic 2: Tuesday, January 26: Introduction to Anthropology

Discussion assignment worth 10 points answering a question on general anthropology and culture (Due by 11:55 p.m. Thursday, January 28).

Topic 3: Thursday, January 28: An Introduction to Medical Anthropology

- Reading posted in Canvas "Understanding Medical Anthropology: Biocultural and Cultural Approaches and Medical Anthropology an Introduction to the Fields" (P. Brown et al.)
- Discussion assignment worth 10 points on theories and methods of medical anthropology (Due by 11:55 p.m. Sunday, January 31) ***FYI: remember that each Discussion has slightly different instructions. Always read these carefully. For example, sometimes you reply to another person's discussion post and sometimes not. Sometimes you pick ONE question to answer; sometimes answer all, etc.***

Topic 4: Tuesday, February 2: Biocultural Topic of Evolution and Health

- Reading posted on Canvas “Stone Agers in the Fast Lane: Chronic Degenerative Diseases in Evolutionary Perspective” (S. Boyd Eaton et al.) and continue Fadiman’s book.
- Discussion assignment worth 10 points where you answer a question related to the reading (Due by 11:55 p.m. Thursday, February 4)

Topic 5: Thursday, February 4: Biocultural Topic of Genetically Modified Foods

- Reading posted on Canvas “Is it Safe to Consume Genetically Modified Foods?”
- 2-part Discussion assignment worth 10 points each (total 20 points) (Due by 11:55 p.m. Sunday, February 7). Make sure to do BOTH parts in order to get a grade.

SPRING BREAK FEBRUARY 8-12**Topic 6: Tuesday, February 16:** Biocultural Topics of Nutrition and Obesity

- Reading posted on Canvas “The Biocultural Approach in Nutritional Anthropology: Case Studies of Malnutrition in Mali” (K. Dettwyler)
- Reading posted on Canvas “An Anthropological Perspective on Obesity” (P. Brown and M. Konner)
- Discussion assignment worth 10 points where you answer one of a set of questions based on the readings on nutrition/obesity (due by 11:55 p.m. Thursday, February 18)

Topic 7: Thursday, February 18: Biocultural Topic of Weight Loss and Eating Disorders?

- Reading posted on Canvas “Is Weight-Loss Maintenance Possible?”
- Reading posted on Canvas “Do Ultrathin Models and Actresses Influence the Onset of Eating Disorders?”
- No Discussion assignment.

Exam 1: Anytime between 5:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 23 and 11:55 p.m. on Thursday,

February 25: I will open the exam at 5:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 23 and close it at 11:55 p.m. on Thursday, February 25. You MUST find a 75-minute period of time during these hours in which to take the exam. See Canvas Module for details. You will be able to access the correct answers on Canvas on Friday, February 26 between 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. **Feel free to contact me with any questions you might have about exam questions.**

Test 2 Material:**Topic 8: Tuesday, March 2:** The Role of Belief and Ethnomedical Systems:

- Reading posted on Canvas “The Nocebo Phenomenon: Concept, Evidence, and Implications for Public Health” (R. Hahn)
- No Discussion assignment today

Topic 9: Thursday, March 4: Topic of Belief continued:

- Reading posted on Canvas “Confronting “Culture” in Medicine’s ‘Culture of No Culture’” (J. Taylor)
- Reading posted on Canvas “Do Religion and Prayer Benefit Health”
- Discussion assignment on the culture of biomedicine worth 10 points (due 11:55 p.m., Sunday, March 7)

Topic 10: Tuesday, March 9: Healers Cross-Culturally

- Reading posted on Canvas “Ethnomedical Healers: Conceptual Tools” (P. Brown)
- Reading posted on Canvas “Beyond The Doctor’s White Coat” (B. Salhi)
- Reading posted on Canvas “The Sorcerer and His Magic” (Levi-Strauss)
- Discussion assignment on shamanism worth 10 points (due no later than 11:55 p.m., Thursday, March 11)

Topic 11: Thursday, March 11: The Role of Healers: Euthanasia:

- Reading posted on Canvas “Should Doctors Ever Help the Terminally Ill to Commit Suicide”
- Discussion assignment on euthanasia worth 10 points (Due no later than 11:55 p.m., Sunday, March 14)

Topic 12: Tuesday, March 16: Review Fadiman’s “The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down”

- There is no new reading. Review the Fadiman book while thinking of the questions outlined on the study guide.
- No Discussion assignment today

Topic 13: Thursday, March 18: Continue discussing “The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down”:

Discussion assignment on the Fadiman book worth 10 points (Due no later than 11:55 p.m., Sunday, March 21)

Topic 14: Tuesday, March 23: Mental Health Cross Culturally

- Reading posted on Canvas “Do Psychiatric Disorders Differ in Different Cultures?” (A. Kleinman)
- Reading posted on Canvas “The Epidemiology of a Folk Illness: Susto in Hispanic America” (A. Rubel)
- Discussion assignment worth 10 points (Due no later than 11:55 p.m. Thursday, March 25)

Topic 15: Thursday, March 25 Mental Health Continued:

- Reading posted on Canvas “Should Addiction to Drugs Be Labeled a Brain Disease”
- No Discussion assignment. STUDY FOR YOUR EXAM!

Exam 2: Anytime between 5:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 30 and 11:55 p.m. Thursday, April 1.

I will open the exam at 5:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 30 and close it at 11:55 p.m. on Thursday, April 1. You must find a 75-minute period of time during these hours in which to take the exam. See Canvas module for details. You will be able to see the answers on Canvas on Friday, April 2 from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Feel free to contact me with any questions you might have about exam questions.

Test 3 (Final Exam) Material:**Topic 16: Tuesday, April 6:** Gender and Women's Health

- Reading posted on Canvas "Medical Metaphors of Women's Bodies: Menstruation and Menopause" (E. Martin)
- Reading Posted on Canvas "Is it Necessary for Pregnant Women to Completely Abstain from All Alcoholic Beverages?"
- No Discussion assignment today

Topic 17: Thursday, April 8: Gender and Women's Health

- Reading posted on Canvas "Should Pro-Life Health Providers Be Allowed to Deny Prescriptions on the Basis of Conscience?"
- Reading posted on Canvas "Turn Taking in Doctor-Patient Dialogues" (C. West)
- Discussion assignment on the contraception debate worth 10 points today (Due no later than 11:55 p.m. Sunday, April 11)

Topic 18: Tuesday, April 13: Gender

- Reading posted on Canvas "Culture, Scarcity, and Infant Survival in a Brazilian Shantytown" (N. Scheper-Hughes)
- Reading posted on Canvas "Is There a Valid Reason for Routine Infant Male Circumcision?"
- No Discussion assignment today; catch up on reading

Topic 19: Thursday, April 15: Biomedicine and the Ethics of Technology

- Reading posted on Canvas "Inventing a New Death and Making it Believable" (M. Lock)
- Reading posted on Canvas "Should Embryonic Stem Cell Research be Permitted?"
- Discussion assignment today worth 10 points on stem-cell research (Due no later than 11:55 p.m. Sunday, April 18)

Topic 20: Tuesday, April 20: American Medicine: The Corporate Side:

- Read posted on Canvas “Is the Pharmaceutical Industry Responsible for the High Cost of Prescription Drugs?”
- Reading posted on Canvas: “Should Life-Sustaining Medical Care be Rationed Based on Age?”
- Discussion assignment today on rationing healthcare worth 10 points (Due no later than 11:55 p.m., Thursday, April 22)

Topic 21: Thursday, April 22: Structural Inequality and Health:

- Reading posted on Canvas “Inequality and Health Fact Sheet”
- Reading posted on Canvas “Unnatural Causes: Transcript of “In Sickness and in Wealth”
- Reading posted on Canvas “Transcript of “Unnatural Causes: Place Matters”

Topic 22: Tuesday, April 27: Wrapping It Up: Applied Medical Anthropology:

- Reading posted on Canvas “Anthropology in the Clinic: The Problem of Cultural Competence and How to Fix It” (A. Kleinman and P. Benson)
- No Discussion assignment today; study for final exam!!!! Email me with any questions!

Thursday, April 29 and Tuesday, May 4: These are days to catch up and start studying for exams!

Third/Final Exam: 5:00 a.m. Friday, May 7 until 11:55 p.m. Monday, May 10. Final Exam (I will open the exam at 5:00 a.m. on Friday, May 7 and it will remain open until 11: 55 p.m. Monday, May 10. NO EXCEPTIONS -- Please plan a time section of 75 minutes ahead of time

in order to prevent any time conflicts.). You will be able to see the correct answers on Tuesday, May 11 between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
