Perspectives in Medical Anthropology  
Anthropology 425/525  
Prof. Margaret Everett  
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 10-12 and by appointment  

Course Description  
This course offers a detailed examination of the anthropological study of medical practice and illness experiences. We will focus primarily on examples from the United States and biomedicine, as well as the distribution and response to global diseases, such as AIDS. Students will learn about the theoretical tools anthropologists use to discern the human experience of illness and to recognize the exercise of power in medical practices. We will pay special attention to developments in medical technologies (such as prenatal screening and organ transplants) and the implications for the status of “the body.”

Readings  
The following required books are available at the PSU bookstore. Other assigned readings are available through WebCT (see below).


Evaluation  
Your grade in this course will be based on one paper assignment (20%) a take-home mid-term exam (35%) and a take-home final exam (45%). Graduate students will complete a 15 page research paper rather than the final exam.

Policies:  
All required work must be completed to receive a grade. Late papers will be penalized, except in cases of verifiable illness or emergency.

Disabilities Statement:  
Any student with a documented disability condition (e.g., physical, learning, psychological, vision, or hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact both the instructor and the Disability Resources Center at the beginning of the term.
WebCT:
Course syllabus, handouts, assignments, and lecture outlines will be available on WebCT. All students can access WebCT with an odin account. To login, or to find out how to get a login ID and password, go to www.webct.pdx.edu. For students who have never accessed WebCT before, your login ID is your odin user ID, and your password is usually the last 4 digits of your social security number. If you do not have an odin account, you can find out how to get one at https://www.account.pdx.edu.

Schedule

Week 1 (1/9-1/11): Medicine and Anthropology: Contemporary Approaches
Baer, Singer, Susser, Chapter 1
Lock, Allan and Cambrosio, Introduction (pp.1-16)
*See: “What is medical anthropology?” http://www.medanthro.net/definition.html (link is on home page of webct)

Week 2 (1/18): Illness Narratives: Making Sense of Suffering

Week 3 (1/23-1/25): The Mindful Body

Week 4(1/30-2/1): Technologies and the Body I
Paper due in class 1/30
From Living and Working with the New Medical Technologies, Chapters 8-9:
8. Screening the body: the Pap smear and the mammogram Patricia A. Kaufert
9. Extra chromosomes and blue tulips: medico-familial interpretations Rayna Rapp
Video: Sound and Fury

Week 5(2/6-2/8): Technologies and the Body II: Organ Transplants
From Living and Working with the New Medical Technologies, Chapters 11-12:
Week 6(2/13-2/15): Technologies and the Body III: Cyborg Babies?

**Take-Home Midterm Due 2/13 in class**

Week 7(2/20-2/22): Power, Knowledge and Practice
Deborah Lupton, “Power Relations and the Medical Encounter.” From: Medicine as Culture, Deborah Lupton, Sage, 2003. (WebCT)

Week 8(2/27-3/1): The Medicalization of Social Problems
Baer, Singer and Susser, *Medical Anthropology and the World System* (read Part II: The Social Origins of Disease and Suffering)

**Video: Dying to be Thin**

Week 9(3/6-3/8): Responding to Global Disease
Paul Farmer, *Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues*

Week 10(3/13-3/15): Genetics, Bioethics, and Culture

*See CDC Tuskegee website timeline: http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/od/tuskegee/time.htm (link is on WebCT homepage)*

**Take-Home Final and Graduate Student Papers Due Wednesday, March 22, by 4pm.**