

Culture, Health and Healing

Anthropology 325u

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141q Cramer Hall
Office Hours: Tues. 10-12
and by appointment

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to medical anthropology – the study of the relationships among culture, social structure, the environment, disease and healing. Generally, medical anthropologists begin from a biocultural perspective, that biology and culture are equally important in the human experience of disease. Through case studies, we will review various approaches to medical anthropology, including critical, interpretive, ecological and ethnomedical perspectives. We will pay special attention to the ecological perspective, that is the impact of environment on health, and the interplay between human behavior, environment and health.

Course Readings

Required texts are available at the PSU Bookstore. There is also a packet of readings at Clean Copy on Broadway.

Donald Joralemon, *Exploring Medical Anthropology, Second Edition*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2006.

Dettwyler, Katherine, *Dancing Skeletons: Life and Death in West Africa*. Waveland Press, 1994.

Fadiman, Anne, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*. New York: Noonday, 1997.

Evaluation

Course grades will be based on two in-class essay exams (30% each) and two short response papers (20% each). Students will be asked to integrate class discussion with a brief review (3 pages) of the Dettwyler and Fadiman books.

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(9/26): What is Medical Anthropology?

Joralemon, Preface and Chapter 1

Video: Spirit Doctors

Week 2(10/3): Methods and Theories in Medical Anthropology

Joralemon, Chapters 2, 3, 4

Video: Healers of Ghana

Week 3(10/10): Ethnomedicine: Explanatory Models

Alan Harwood, "The Hot-Cold Theory of Disease: Implications for the Treatment of Puerto Rican Patients" IN *Understanding and Applying Medical Anthropology* (course packet)

Begin reading *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*

Video: The Split Horn: A Hmong Shaman in America

Week 4(10/17): Ethnomedicine and Medical Pluralism

Finish *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*

Video: Being Hmong Means Being Free

Week 5(10/24): Healers and the Healing Professions I

Joralemon, Chap. 6

Brown, Michael, "Dark Side of the Shaman" (course packet)

Video: Eduardo the Healer

****First Paper Due 10/24**

Week 6(10/31): Healers and the Healing Professions II

Byron J. Good and Mary-Jo DelVecchio Good, "Learning medicine : the constructing of medical knowledge at Harvard Medical School" IN *Knowledge, Power and Practice: The Anthropology of Medicine and Everyday Life*, Lindenbaum and Lock, eds. (course packet)

Video: Lessons in Compassion

****Mid-term Exam 11/2**

Week 7(11/7): Cultural and Political Ecologies of Disease

Brown, Peter, "Cultural Adaptation to Endemic Malaria in Sardinia" (course packet)

Farmer, Paul, "Social Inequalities and Emerging Infectious Diseases" (course packet)

Week 8(11/14): Global Health

Joralemon, Chap 5

Video: SARS: The True Story

Week 9(11/21): Nutritional Anthropology and International Development

Dancing Skeletons

Week 10(11/28): Applying Medical Anthropology

Joralemon, Chap. 7

Elżbieta Goździak. 2004. "Training Refugee Mental Health Providers: Ethnography as a Bridge to Multicultural Practice." *Human Organization* 63(2): 203-10. (course packet)

****Second paper due in class 12/2**

Final Exam: Thursday, December 8, 12:30-2:20pm