

ANTH 3312
Medical Anthropology: Illness and Healing in Cultural Perspective

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Course Description: Medical Anthropology explores conceptualizations of the body, illness and healing from a cross-cultural lens. This course will examine alternatives to the western bio-medical model in terms of traditional healing and holistic interpretations of the body. In addition, the course will focus on Medical Anthropology as an engaged field of work by situating it within the political economy of global health and power/capitalist relations.

Course Requirements:

1. Several questions will be posted each week under Content on D2L related to the course readings. You are expected to submit by email (mvanden1@lakeheadu.ca) a weekly reading response (1-2 pages double-spaced) incorporating thoughts regarding the readings, video lecture, related video clips and questions posted. Each response is worth 5% for a total of 60% of your final grade. A grade of 0% will be given if the response is not submitted by 11:59pm Friday unless prior arrangements or documentation is provided.
2. 6-8 page term paper based on topic of choice related to medical anthropology. Three outside references are required at minimum and AAA (American Anthropological Association Style) must be used. Double-spaced 12-point Times New Roman font. Term paper will be worth 40% of final grade.

Evaluation:

Weekly response: 60%
6-8 page Term Paper: 40%

every Friday 11:59pm
Nov 12th 11:59pm

Required Text:

Becker, Anne. *Body, Self and Society: The View from Fiji*. 1995. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Additional required weekly readings are available as PDFs on D2L.

Schedule of Topics and Readings:

1. Sept 6-10

Medical Anthropology: An Overview

- Brown, Peter J., Ronald L. Barrett, and Mark B. Padilla 1998 Medical anthropology: an introduction to the fields. In *Understanding and Applying Medical Anthropology*. Pp. 10-19: Mountain View: Mayfield.

2. Sept 13-17

Anthropology of the Body

- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy and Margaret Lock 1987 The mindful body: A prolegomenon to future work in medical anthropology. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 1:6-41.
- Becker, Anne. *Body, Self and Society*. Preface, Introduction and Chapter 1.

3. Sept 20-24

Sickness and Healing in Cross-cultural Perspective

- Rekdal, Ole Bjorn. 1999 Cross-cultural healing in east African ethnography. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 13(4):458-482.
- Becker, Anne. *Body, Self and Society*. Chapters 2, 3 and 4

4. Sept 27-Oct 1

Illness Narratives and Social Discord

- Becker, Anne. *Body, Self and Society*. Chapters 5, 6 and Epilogue

5. Oct 4-8

Medical Anthropology and Social Justice

- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 1995. The Primacy of the Ethical: Propositions for a Militant Anthropology. *Current Anthropology* 36(3): 409-419
- Susser, Ida. The Anthropologist as Social Critic Working toward a More Engaged Anthropology. *Current Anthropology* 51 (S2): S227-S233

6. Oct 18-22

Critical Medical Anthropology, HIV and Global Health

- Pfeiffer, James and Mark Nichter 2008 What can critical medical anthropology contribute to global health? *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 22(4):410-415.
- Pigg, S. 2013. On sitting and doing: Ethnography as action in global health. *Social Science and Medicine*, 99: 127-134

7. **Oct 25-29**

Social Determinants of Health

- Vandenbeld Giles, Melinda. "Living in Isolation: Motel Families in Ontario and the Neoliberal Social/Built/Physical Environment" *In* Mothering and the Environment. JMI (Journal of the Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement) Vol 2.1: 194-212.
- Duke, M. 2011. Ethnicity, Well-Being and the Organization of Labor among Shade Tobacco Workers, *Medical Anthropology*, 30(4): 409-424.

8. **Nov 1-5**

Structural Violence and Social Suffering

- Farmer, Paul. 2003 On suffering and structural Violence: Social and economic rights in the global era (Chapter 1). In *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor*. Pp. 29-50. Berkeley: University of California Press.

9. **Nov 8-12**

The Global Politics of Organ Transplants

- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 2002 Min(d)ing the body: On the trail of organ-stealing rumors *In* *Exotic No More: Anthropology on the Front Lines*. Jeremy MacClancy, ed. Pp. 33-63. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press.

10. **Nov 15-19**

Reproductive Health and New Reproductive Technologies

- Inhorn, Marcia C. 2003 Global infertility and the globalization of new reproductive technologies: Illustrations from Egypt. *Social Science and Medicine* 56:1837-1851

11. **Nov 22-26**

Anthropology of Pharmaceuticals and COVID

- Etkin, Nina L. 1992 "Side effects": cultural constructions and reinterpretations of Western pharmaceuticals. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 6(2):99-113.
- Adams, Vincanne and Alex Nading. 2020 "Medical Anthropology in the Time of COVID-19." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 34(4):461-466).

12. Nov 29-Dec 3

- Dec. 2017. “Ancient Shamanism and Modern Psychotherapy” Cosmos and History.
- The Green Labyrinth Chapters 1-3
- The Serpent and the Rainbow Chapters 1-2

Class Policies

D2L

I will be using D2L to post PDFs of course readings and announcements.

Policy on Extensions

Weekly responses are due **every Friday at 11:59pm with no extension** unless previous arrangements or documentation can be provided. The **Term Paper is due Nov 12th at 11:59pm** and will be penalized **5% per day and you will receive 0% after 7 days** unless prior arrangements have been made. Please email assignments to mvanden1@lakeheadu.ca.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty (for instance, plagiarism) is a serious offence. Please see the web site: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/policies/student-related/code-of-student-behaviour-and-disciplinary-procedures/node/1046>. Please keep in mind that I have zero tolerance for any forms of plagiarism.