

ANTH 3312
Medical Anthropology: Illness and Healing in Cultural Perspective
T/TH 5:30-7

Instructor: Melinda Vandenbeld Giles
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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:

Evaluation:

There will be **3 reading/film journals** with the **first one worth 30%** and the **last two worth 35%** each. The reading/film journals will cover all course material including readings, films, and lectures.

The reading/film journals are not a summary. They are your interpretations, thoughts, and responses to the course material, including making connections between different readings or finding patterns as we move further along in the course. Additionally, you can make comments regarding our class discussions as well. Please provide specific references from the course in terms of in-text citations and a Reference List. Do not include any sources from outside course material.

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. Week 1

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. Week 2

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. Week 3

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. Week 4

Illness Narratives and Social Discord

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

5. Week 5

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. Week 6

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. Week 7

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. Week 8

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. Week 9

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. Week 10

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. Week 11

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. Week 12

- 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

There will be a 5% deduction per day late unless prior notification and proper documentation is provided.

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.