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**Introduction to Medical Anthropology
Anthropology 238 (was ANTH 306)/ HSOC 238
Mondays and Wednesdays: 2-2:50 pm
University Museum Room B-17
Fall 2009**

Instructor: Dr. Frances Barg

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Required book: Brown, Peter J. and Ron Barrett. UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY, 2nd Edition. PLEASE NOTE: This is the **second edition**. It is very different from the edition we have used in previous years. Available at University Bookstore.

Introduction to medical anthropology takes central concepts in anthropology -- culture, adaptation, human variation, belief, political economy, the body -- and applies them to human health and illness. Students explore key elements of healing systems including healing technologies and healer-patient relationships. Modern day applications for medical anthropology are stressed.

Course requirements

Participation is crucial to the learning process and we take it very seriously. You are expected to read the class materials for the day they are assigned and think about how they relate to the themes of the course. The readings will be discussed (by you) in the recitation section during the week that they are assigned. Attendance at each class and each recitation section is required. (Texting, Facebook and other virtual endeavors in class are very distracting for you and those around you and will **not** be welcome during lectures OR recitations.) You will be expected to discuss the readings and points raised in recitation on the midterm and final. If you must miss a class or a recitation, please notify your TA in advance. Participation will be graded and will count for *20% of your final grade*.

There will be a midterm short answer and essay exam in class on **Wednesday, November 4, 2009**. *20% of grade*

There will be a final short answer and essay take home exam. The final exam will be distributed on the last day of class and will be due by **5 pm on December 16, 2009**. The midterm exam and the final exam cover different material. The final is not cumulative. *20% of grade*

You will be asked to write two papers.

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Paper #1 Healers come to their professions in a variety of ways and they see their profession through different philosophical lenses. You will be asked to interview a healer of your choice and write a seven to ten page (double spaced) paper on your experience. The paper is due on **October 28, 2009**. You might interview a biomedical doctor or nurse, or you might want to talk to someone in physical or occupational therapy, or chiropractic, energy healing, Chinese medicine etc. The person you interview should not be a family member. If you have any questions about whether someone “qualifies” as a healer, please check with your TA. Four weeks before the paper is due (Week of October 5) please let your TA know who you will be interviewing. (You should consider conducting this interview over fall break). For your interview, you should consider the following:

- a. How did the person come to be a healer?
- b. What cultural and personal factors fit together to produce the “call” to healing for this person?
- c. What kind of person chooses this path?
- d. How does the decision to become this type of healer change their lives?
- e. What is the person’s “healing philosophy”?
- f. What type of technology do they use in their healing?
- g. How do they see their role in the current health care system in the US?

Additional guidelines will be distributed in class and posted on the course Blackboard site. The healer interview paper counts toward *20% of your grade*.

Paper #2: Attached is a list of books that fall within the rubric of medical anthropology. Please select one of these books, situate it within one of the three main branches of medical anthropology that we discuss, and write a reaction paper (6-8 pages double spaced) about the book. In the paper, please describe how the book fits within an ecological framework, an ethnomedical framework or a critical medical anthropology framework. Provide a clear summary about what the book is about, describe the main ideas and discuss your thoughts about these ideas. Include relevant concepts from class that apply to the book. Please let your TA know which book you will be reading by November 10. If you would like to write about a book that is not on the list, it must be approved by your TA ahead of time. You are expected to read and write about a book that you have NOT read for another class. The book-reaction paper is due on **December 2, 2009**. *20% of grade*

Summary of requirements

Class participation	20%
Midterm	20%
Final	20%
Healer interview	20%
Book reaction paper	20%

Code of Academic Integrity

Since the University is an academic community, its fundamental purpose is the pursuit of knowledge. Essential to the success of this educational mission is a commitment to the principles of academic integrity. Every member of the University community is responsible for upholding the highest standards of honesty at all times. Students, as members of the community, are also responsible for adhering to the principles and spirit of the following Code of Academic Integrity.

Academic Dishonesty Definitions

Activities that have the effect or intention of interfering with education, pursuit of knowledge, or fair evaluation of a student's performance are prohibited. Examples of such activities include but are not limited to the following definitions:

- A. Cheating: using or attempting to use unauthorized assistance, material, or study aids in examinations or other academic work or preventing, or attempting to prevent, another from using authorized assistance, material, or study aids. Example: using a cheat sheet in a quiz or exam, altering a graded exam and resubmitting it for a better grade, etc.
- B. Plagiarism: using the ideas, data, or language of another without specific or proper acknowledgment. Example: copying another person's paper, article, or computer work and submitting it for an assignment, cloning someone else's ideas without attribution, failing to use quotation marks where appropriate, etc.
- C. Fabrication: submitting contrived or altered information in any academic exercise. Example: making up data for an experiment, fudging data, citing nonexistent articles, contriving sources, etc.
- D. Multiple submission: submitting, without prior permission, any work submitted to fulfill another academic requirement.
- E. Misrepresentation of academic records: misrepresenting or tampering with or attempting to tamper with any portion of a student's transcripts or academic record, either before or after coming to the University of Pennsylvania. Example: forging a change of grade slip, tampering with computer records, falsifying academic information on one's resume, etc.
- F. Facilitating academic dishonesty: knowingly helping or attempting to help another violate any provision of the Code. Example: working together on a take-home exam, etc.
- G. Unfair advantage: attempting to gain unauthorized advantage over fellow students in an academic exercise. Example: gaining or providing unauthorized access to examination materials, obstructing or interfering with another student's efforts in an academic exercise, lying about a need for an extension for an exam or paper, continuing to write even when time is up during an exam, destroying or keeping library materials for one's own use., etc.

* If a student is unsure whether his action(s) constitute a violation of the Code of Academic Integrity, then it is that student's responsibility to consult with the instructor to clarify any ambiguities.

(Source: Office of the Provost, 1996)

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Ethnographies

Adams, Vincanne

1998 *Doctors for Democracy: Health Professionals in the Nepal Revolution*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Baer, Roberta D.

1998 *Cooking and Coping Among the Cacti: Diet, Nutrition and Available Income in Northwestern Mexico*. Amsterdam: Gordon and Breach Publishers.

Biehl, Joao

2005 *Vita: Life in a Zone of Social Abandonment*. Berkeley: University of California Press

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2007 *Will to Live: AIDS Therapies and the Politics of Survival*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Booth, Karen

2004 *Local Women, Global Science: Fighting AIDS in Kenya*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Bourgois, Philippe

1995 *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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2009 *Righteous Dopefiend*. Berkeley: University of California.

Briggs, Charles L.

2003 *Stories in the Time of Cholera: Racial Profiling During a Medical Nightmare*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Charmaz, K.

1991 *Good Days, Bad Days: The Self in Chronic Illness*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

Cohen, Lawrence

1998 *No Aging in India: Alzheimer's, the Bad Family, and Other Modern Things*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Conrad, Peter

2007 *The medicalization of society: on the transformation of human conditions into treatable disorders*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Danforth, Loring M.

1989 *Firewalking and Religious Healing: The Anastenaria of Greece and the American Firewalking Movement*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Davis, Christopher O.

2000 *Death in Abeyance: Therapies and Illness Among the Tabwa of Central Africa*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Farmer, Paul

1999 *Infections and Inequalities*. Berkeley: University of California.

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2006 *AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Fassin, Didier

2007 *When Bodies Remember: Experiences and Politics of AIDS in South Africa*. A. Jacobs and G. Varro, transl. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Finkler, Kaja

1994 *Women in Pain*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Frank, Arthur W.

1995 *The Wounded Storyteller*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Goldschmidt, Walter

2006 *The Bridge to Humanity: How Affect Hunger Trumps the Selfish Gene*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Good, Byron J.

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- 1994 Medicine, rationality and experience: An anthropological perspective. Cambridge: Oxford University Press.
- Gregg, Jessica L.
2003 Virtually Virgins: Sexual Strategies and Cervical Cancer in Recife, Brazil. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Grinker, Roy Richard
2007 Unstrange Minds: Remapping the World of Autism. New York: Basic Books.
- Hewlett, Barry S.
2008 Ebola, Culture, and Politics: The Anthropology of Emerging Disease. Belmont, CA: Thomson.
- Janzen, John M.
1992 Ngoma: Discourses of Healing in Central and Southern Africa. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Katz, Richard
1982 Boiling energy: Community healing among the Kalahari Kung. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Kleinman, Arthur
1980 Patients and healers in the context of culture. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- 1988 The Illness Narratives: Suffering, Healing, and the Human Condition. New York: Basic Books.
- Kleinman, Arthur, and Byron Good, eds.
1985 Culture and Depression: Studies in the Anthropology and Cross-Cultural Psychiatry of Affect and Disorder. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Konner, Melvin
1987 Becoming a Doctor: A Journey of Initiation in Medical School: Viking Press.
- Livingston, Julie
2005 Debility and the Moral Imagination in Botswana. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Lock, Margaret
1993a Encounters With Aging: Mythologies of Menopause in Japan and North America. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- 1993b The politics of mid-life and menopause. *In* Knowledge, Power and Practice. S. Lindenbaum and M. Lock, eds. Pp. 330-363. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- 2002 Twice Dead: Organ Transplants and the Reinvention of Death. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Luhrmann, Tanya
2000 Of Two Minds: The Growing Disorder in American Psychiatry: Knopf.
- Martin, Emily
1989 The Woman in the Body. Boston: Beacon Press.
- 2007 Bipolar Expeditions: Mania and Depression in American Culture. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Mattingly, Cheryl, and Linda C. Garro (Eds)
2000 Narrative and the Cultural Construction of Illness and Healing. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Moermann, Daniel
2002 Meaning, Medicine, and the Placebo Effect. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Mol, Annemarie
2002 The Body Multiple: Ontology in Medical Practice. Durham: Duke University Press.
- O'Neil, Theresa D.
1996 Disciplined Hearts: History, Identity, and Depression in an American Indian Community. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Ohnuki-Tierney, Emiko

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- 1984 Illness and Culture in Contemporary Japan: An anthropological view. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Petryna, Adriana
2002 Life Exposed: Biological Citizens after Chernobyl. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Quinlan, Marsha B.
2004 From the Bush: The Front Line of Health Care in a Carribean Village. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.
- Renaud, Michelle Lewis
1997 Women at the Crossroads: A Prostitute Community's Response to AIDS in Urban Senegal. Amsterdam: Gordon and Breach.
- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy
1992 Death Without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Showalter, Elaine
1987 The Female Malady: Women, Madness and English Culture. London: Virago Press Ltd.
- Silva, Telma
2009 Radiation Narratives and Illness: The Politics of Memory on the Goiana Disaster: VDM Verlag.
- Whyte, S. R., S. van der Geest, and A. Hardon
2003 The Social Lives of Medicines. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Young, James C.
1981 Medical Choice in a Mexican Village. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

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PART I

INTRODUCTION

September 9, 2009 Introduction to Medical Anthropology

NO RECITATIONS DURING FIRST WEEK OF THE SEMESTER

September 14, 2009 **RECITATIONS WILL BEGIN MEETING THIS WEEK**

What is medical anthropology? How does it fit in a four field department?

Key concepts and definitions

Read: Brown, Part 1 and Chapter 1, Medical anthropology: An introduction to the fields. Pp 1-15

PART II

DISEASE AND EVOLUTION

September 16, 2009 Ecological models of disease

Darwinian medicine

Read: Brown: Cultural and political ecologies of disease pp 68-100 and Ch 3 How is Darwinian medicine useful?

September 21, 2009 Evolutionary stages and health problems: Subsistence types, health and disease in hunter-gatherers

Brown, Ch 2, 7, 8

September 23, 2009 Plagues

Tuchman; Ch 5, This is the end of the world.

Brown: ch 39, Stigma

Lindebaum: Kuru, prions, and human affairs

OPTIONAL: Washer, Peter, 2004, Representations of SARS in the British newspapers

September 28, 2009 Film, Haba Na Haba

September 30, 2009 Urbanization, diseases of civilization, diseases of development

Leatherman & Goodman, 2005, Coca-colonization of diets in the Yucatan

Brown: ch 10 Farmer, Social inequalities and emerging infectious diseases

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PART III CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES IN DISEASE AND HEALING

- October 5, 2009** Ethnomedicine : systems of belief
Read: Brown, Ch 12, 15, 16, 17
- October 7, 2009** Ethnomedicine
Speaker: Dr. Jun Mao
Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine
Scheid: Chinese medicine in contemporary China
- October 12, 2009** Ethnomedicine: Plural medical systems
Poss and Jezewski: The role and meaning of susto in Mexican Americans' explanatory model of type 2 diabetes
Obermeyer, Pluralism and pragmatism: Knowledge and practice of birth in Morocco
- October 14, 2009** Ethnomedicine III: Biomedicine as an ethnomedical system
Read: Payer, United States: The virus in the machine
- October 19, 2009** **Fall Break—no class**
- October 21, 2009** Ethnomedicine IV Medicalization
Christofferson-Deb, 2005 Taming tradition: medicalized female genital practices in Western Kenya
Williams and Calnan, The 'limits' of medicalization
OPTIONAL: Frosch, Kreuger, Hornik, Cronholm, Barg, Creating demand for prescription drugs: a content analysis of television direct-to-consumer advertising
- October 26, 2009** Ethnomedicine V Becoming a healer
Good and Good, Learning medicine
Brown: ch 32, Taylor, Confronting culture in medicine's "culture of no culture"
- October 28, 2009** Ethnomedicine VI: Patients and healers
Read: Foster and Anderson, 7. Curing, Public and Private
Brown, 42. West, Turntaking in doctor patient dialogues
Healer interview paper due
- November 2, 2009** Ethnomedicine VII. Role of narrative
Read: Kohn: "Imperfect angels": narrative emplotment in the medical management of children with craniofacial anomalies
Brown: ch 19 Hunt, Strategic suffering: Illness narratives as social empowerment among Mexican cancer patients

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November 4, 2009 **MIDTERM**

PART IV
CRITICAL MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

- November 9, 2009** Critical Medical Anthropology: Political Economy
Read: Brown, ch 35 Why does Juan Garcia have a drinking problem?
Janes and Chuluundori, Free markets and dead mothers
- November 11 2009** Critical approaches II: Bodies and Embodiment
Read: Brown, Ch 20 Murphy, The Damaged Self
Van Dijck, Bodyworlds: The art of plastinated cadavers
- November 16, 2009** Gender and science
Martin: The egg and the sperm: How science has constructed a romance based on stereotypical male-female roles
Brown ch 21, Rapp, Accounting for Amniocentesis
Ch. 23, Rethinking the biological clock
- November 18, 2009** Critical approaches III: Gender roles
Ch 43 Scheper Hughes Culture, scarcity and maternal thinking: Maternal detachment and infant survival in a Brazilian shantytown.
- November 23, 2009** Critical approaches V: Gender roles
Speaker: Dr. Elly Teman
Teman: The medicalization of “nature” in the “artificial body”:
Surrogate motherhood in Israel
- November 25, 2009** No class
- November 30, 2009** Critical approaches III: The Uncertain Body,
Williams, Modern medicine and the uncertain body
Brown, ch 24, Lock, Inventing a new death and making it believable

Part V
Applying the theoretical approaches

- December 2, 2009** Issues in mental illness
Read: Brown pp 221-2 and ch 25 Kleinman, Do psychiatric disorders differ in different cultures?

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Ch 26, Rubel, The epidemiology of a folk illness: Susto in Hispanic America

Book reaction paper due

- December 7, 2009** Issues in mental illness
Dahlberg and Barg, Bridging psychiatric and anthropological approaches: The case of "nerves"
- December 9, 2009** The role of the anthropologist in global health
Brown, ch 46, Nichter and Cartwright, Saving the children for the tobacco industry
Nagata et al

Reference list

- Christoffersen-Deb, A. (2005). "'Taming tradition': Medicalized female genital practices in Western Kenya." Medical Anthropology Quarterly 19(4): 402-418.
- Foster, G. M. and B. G. Anderson (1978). *Medical Anthropology*. New York, Alfred A. Knopf: 114-122, 145-162.
- Good, B. J. and M. J. D. V. Good (1993). *Learning Medicine. Knowledge, Power and Practice*. S. Lindenbaum and M. Lock. Berkeley, University of California Press: 330-363.
- Janes, C. R. and O. Chuluundorj (2004). "Free markets and dead mothers: the social ecology of maternal mortality in post-socialist Mongolia." Medical Anthropology Quarterly 18(2): 230-257.
- Kohn, A. A. (2000). "'Imperfect angels': Narrative emplotment in the medical management of children with craniofacial anomalies." Medical Anthropology Quarterly 14(2): 202-223.
- Leatherman, T. L. and A. Goodman (2005). "Coca-colonization of diets in the Yucatan." Social Science & Medicine 61: 833-846.
- Martin, E. (2007). The egg and the sperm: How science has constructed a romance based on stereotypical male-female roles. Beyond the Body Proper. M. Lock and J. Farquhar. Durham and London, Duke University Press: 417-566.
- Obermeyer, C. M. (2000). "Pluralism and pragmatism: Knowledge and practice of birth in Morocco." Medical Anthropology Quarterly 14(2): 180-201.
- Payer, L. (1989). Medicine and Culture, Henry Holt.
- Poss, J. and M. A. Jezewski (2002). "The role and meaning of *susto* in Mexican Americans' explanatory models of diabetes." Medical Anthropology Quarterly 16(3): 360-377.
- Scheid, V. (2002). Students, disciples, and the art of social networking. Chinese Medicine in Contemporary China: Plurality and Synthesis. Durham & London, Duke University Press.
- Teman, E. (2003). "The medicalization of "nature" in the "artificial body": Surrogate motherhood in Israel." Medical Anthropology Quarterly 17(1): 78-98.
- Tuchman, B. W. (1978). This is the end of the world: The black death. A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous 14th Century. New York, Knopf.

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- van Dijck, J. (2007). Bodyworlds: The art of plastinated cadavers. Beyond the Body Proper. M. Lock and J. Farquhar. Durham and London, Duke University Press: 640-657.
- Washer, P. (2004). "Representations of SARS in the British newspapers." Social Science & Medicine 59(2561-2571).
- Williams, S. J. (1997). "Modern Medicine and the "uncertain body": From corporeality to hyperreality?" Social Science and medicine 45(7): 1041-1049.
- Williams, S. J. and M. Calnan (1996). "The 'limits' of medicalization?: Modern medicine and the lay populace in 'late' modernity." Social Science & Medicine 42(12): 1609-1620.