Anthropology 232B: Medical Anthropology

Wed 9-11:50am
SBSG 3200

Professor Angela C. Jenks
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Office: SBSG 3304
Office hours: Mondays, 1-3pm; Sign up at
http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4ba5ab2da3fb6-spring

Course Description and Objectives:

Since its emergence in the 1950s, medical anthropology has become one of the largest and fastest growing subdisciplines. This graduate seminar traces the emergence and development of central areas of inquiry and methodological movements in the field, including the nature of belief and ways of knowing; the meanings and experiences of affliction; biomedical knowledge, practice, and power; and normalization and governance. Our objectives throughout the course will be to 1) situate the history of medical anthropology within the context of broader theoretical trajectories in the field; 2) examine the theoretical and methodological contributions that have emerged from medical anthropology; and 3) develop a genealogy of contemporary research in medical anthropology.

Course Readings:

All required readings can be downloaded from the course website: https://eee.uci.edu/15s/60720

Medical anthropology is a broad and growing field, and unfortunately, we will not be able to cover all important issues. A list of recommended readings and references for further inquiry will be included on the course website. This syllabus and assigned readings may change over time according to student interest. Any updates will be announced in class and revisions will be posted to the course website.

Course Requirements:

Your grade will be based on the following components:

1) Attendance and Participation (20%)

This class depends on student presence and engagement. You are expected to attend each class session having completed the assigned readings and prepared to constructively discuss and critique them. In pairs or small groups, you will facilitate discussions during two class sessions.
2) **Critical Reading Reactions (30%)**

You will complete critical reaction papers discussing the assigned readings for six (6) class sessions of your choosing.

Responses should be approximately **500 words** and should be posted to the EEE forums no later than **5pm on Tuesday evening** before class.

3) **Term project: Construct a syllabus on a topic of your choosing (50%)**

Research and teaching are complementary intellectual activities. As your final project in this course, you will design an upper-division undergraduate course on a medical anthropology-related topic of your choosing (for example, courses offered at UCI include HIV/AIDS in Global Context; Disease, Health, and Inequality; Race, Gender, Science, and Medicine; and Anthropology of Biomedicine and Biotechnology).

Designing this course will require you to review the literature in the field and identify significant figures, debates, methods, and theoretical approaches. You will then create learning objectives and determine appropriate readings and assignments that will assist students in achieving those objectives.

In addition to a completed syllabus, you will turn in a 1,000-word discussion explaining your decisions and course design. Both components of this assignment should be turned in to the EEE dropbox by **Friday, June 5**.

**Course Schedule:**

**Week 1, April 1   Introductions, Genealogies, and Orientations**

Recommended readings:


Week 2, April 8  

Science, Rationality, and Ways of Knowing


Week 3, April 15  

Etiology, Diagnosis, and Treatment


Week 4, April 22  

Narrative, Experience, and Phenomenologies of Suffering


Week 5, April 29    Normal and Abnormal


Week 6, May 6    Critical Interventions


Frankenberg, R. 1988. “Gramsci, Culture, and Medical Anthropology: Kunry and


**Week 7, May 13  Interrogating Biomedicine**


**Week 8, May 20  Biopower and Governing Bodies**


**Week 9, May 27  Biotechnology and Global Health**


**Week 10, June 3  Medical Anthropology at UCI**

Choose **AT LEAST 3** of the following:


