

Anthro 134A/Chc-Lat 178A: Medical Anthropology

Course Description and Objectives

This course is an introduction to the anthropological study of illness, healing, and medicine. We will explore the cultural and historical specificity of what appear to be biological givens, drawing from a variety of anthropological questions, theoretical approaches, and research techniques. Topics covered include the experience of illness, the relationship between mind, body, and society, and the way understandings of disease, health, and dying are affected by-- and in turn influence--social, cultural, and political concerns. We will approach biomedicine as one of many culturally produced medical systems, comparing ways of seeing and knowing across traditions and exploring the

power of medicine to act as a form of social control. Finally, we will examine the ways in which local and global inequalities affect contemporary disease distributions.



Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the class, students should be able to:

- ◆ Apply an anthropological perspective to the analysis of current issues related to disease, health, and medicine.
- ◆ Demonstrate knowledge of an issue facing one or more countries other than the United States, by describing its cultural, economic, geographic, historical, political, scientific and/or sociological dimensions.

PROFESSOR INFO	TA INFO		TIME & LOCATION	COURSE MATERIALS
Angela C. Jenks, Ph.D. Office: SBSG 3304 Email: ajenks@uci.edu Phone: 949-824-3188 Office hours: Wed 1-3pm or by appointment	A. Elizabeth DeLuca aedeluca@uci.edu Office hours: TBA	Kyrstin Mallon-Andrews kmallona@uci.edu Office hours: TBA	Tues/Thurs 8:00-9:20am Room: SSPA 1100	Fadiman, Anne. 1997 or 2012. <i>The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down</i> . Electronic reader on the course EEE site (https://eee.uci.edu/15s/60260).

Course Requirements

Lecture Attendance & Activities (5% of grade)

The weekly class sessions are a main source of learning for the course. Please arrive to class on time and plan to stay for the entire session.

There will be various activities throughout the quarter that are designed to give you an opportunity to apply the concepts we have been learning in class. These may include quizzes, short reflections, film viewing guides, or other activities. No make-up or late assignments will be accepted. Missing more than one activity will have a negative effect on your grade in the class.

All lecture slides will be posted on the course website, though many of them contain images rather than text. Please come to class prepared to take notes.

Discussion Participation (20% of grade)

Discussion sections are an important component of the course and offer opportunities for further learning. You are required to participate in **AT LEAST FIVE (5)** discussions throughout the quarter. Only one discussion each week will count toward your grade, and no make-ups are possible. Discussions will begin during week 2 (April 6).

Exams (50% of grade)

There will be one in-class midterm and a final exam. Exams may include multiple choice, identification, short answer, and essay questions related to assigned readings, lectures, and discussions. A study guide will be distributed one week before each exam.

Make-up exams will only be available in extraordinary and well-documented situations.

Illness Narrative (30% of grade)

For this project, you will visit and interview someone who has recently experienced an illness or other medical event (broadly defined). Interviews should be conducted in person.

After conducting your interview and writing your field notes, write an “illness narrative” that describes the experience and interprets it in relation to one or more of the topics covered in this class.

Complete the project in two stages:

1. **Interview fieldnotes (20 points):** Complete your interview and take detailed fieldnotes.
2. **Analysis (80 points):** Write a 1,200 word (~4-5 double-spaced pages) paper analyzing and presenting the narrative.

Additional information, an interview guide, and a grading rubric will be posted to the course website. Feel free to speak with the professor or TA if you have any questions about this project. For further assistance with the writing process, the [UCI Writing Center](#) offers drop-in and on-line peer consultations.

GRADING

ATTENDANCE & ACTIVITIES 20 PTS

DISCUSSION PARTICIPATION 80 PTS

EXAM 1 100 PTS

EXAM 2 100 PTS

ILLNESS NARRATIVE PROJECT
Field notes 20 PTS
Narrative 80 PTS

TOTAL 400 PTS

GRADING SCALE (PTS)

A ≥ 374 A- ≥ 360
B+ ≥ 346 B ≥ 334 B- ≥ 320
C+ ≥ 306 C ≥ 294 C- ≥ 280
D+ ≥ 266 D ≥ 254 D- ≥ 240
F ≤ 240

Course Policies

Disability Services

The UCI Disability Services Center ensures access to educational programs and resources for all students. The Center assists students whose disabilities include orthopedic, visual, hearing, learning, chronic health, and psychological disabilities.

If you need an accommodation because of the impact of a disability, please contact the Center at 949-824-7494 or <http://disability.uci.edu/> and bring your faculty notification letter to the professor.

If you have any questions not answered in this syllabus, please contact the Professor or TA. It is best to visit office hours to speak in person.

Outside of office hours, email (ajenks@uci.edu) is generally the best way to contact the Professor. During the week (M-F), the professor will respond to messages within 24 hours. Please include the name of the course in the subject line and your full name in your message.

Electronic devices are useful tools but often distract from learning. Make sure your cell phones are

silenced and put away during class. Do not text or make/accept phone calls during class.

You may use a laptop/tablet in class, but only to take notes or access class materials like lecture slides. Do not use your laptop to explore the internet, Tweet, visit Facebook, etc. Because many individuals are distracted by glowing screens in their line of vision, the first 3 rows of our classroom will be a “screen free zone”. If you wish to take notes on a laptop or tablet, please sit in rows 4 or higher. The professor may ask that all devices be put away during some class sessions, so please come to class prepared with pen & paper.

Technology & Communication

Academic Integrity

Learning in this class depends on you completing all required assignments yourself. Violations of academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will result in no credit for the assignment and possible course failure and referral for disciplinary action. If you are unfamiliar with UCI's policies on academic integrity, please go to <http://www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue/appx/appx.2.htm>

Missed or Late Work

You are responsible for all material covered in the course. Lecture activities can not be made up, but missing one lecture activity will not affect your grade.

Make-up exams will only be given in extraordinary and well-documented situations. All other assignments will lose 5 points for each day of lateness (including weekends, holidays, etc.).

Grade Appeals

Your final grade is based on the total points you earned during the quarter. No individual extra credit is given. Requests for a regrade should be submitted in writing within 48 hours of receiving the grade. You must submit your original graded assignment and a detailed written explanation of how your work meets the requirements of the assignment/rubric.

Course Schedule & Assignments (Changes to this schedule may be made as necessary).

TOPIC	DATE	WHAT TO READ	WHAT'S DUE?
Week 1 Introduction to the Course and to Medical Anthropology	Tues, 3/31	Mueller and Oppenheimer. 2014. "The Pen is Mightier than the Keyboard: Advantages of Longhand Over Laptop Note Taking." <i>Psychological Science</i> April 23:1-10.	
	Thurs, 4/2	Keaveney, Madeline M. 2004. "Death Be Not Proud": An Analysis of Margaret Edson's "Wit." <i>Women and Language</i> 27(1):40-44.	
Week 2 Making Sense of Suffering: Illness, Experience, and Metaphors	Tues, 4/7	Kleinman, Arthur. 1988. "The Meaning of Symptoms and Disorders" and "The Personal and Social Meanings of Illness." Pp. 3-55 in <i>The Illness Narratives: Suffering, Healing, and the Human Condition</i> . Park, Julie. 2000. "'The Worst Hassle is You Can't Play Rugby': Haemophilia and Masculinity in New Zealand." <i>Current Anthropology</i> 41(3):443-453.	
	Thurs, 4/9	Weiss, Meira. 1997. Signifying the Pandemics: Metaphors of AIDS, Cancer, and Heart Disease. <i>Medical Anthropology Quarterly</i> 11(4):456-476. Jain, S. Lochlann. 2007. "Cancer Butch." <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> 22(4):501-538.	Syllabus quiz (due by 11:45pm on 4/10) on EEE
Week 3 Culture(s) of Biomedicine	Tues, 4/14	Payer, Lynn. 1996. <i>Medicine and Culture: Varieties of Treatment in the United States, England, West Germany, and France</i> . Excerpt: pg. 23-73.	
	Thurs, 4/16	Good, Byron. 1994. "How Medicine Constructs its Objects." Pg. 65-87 in <i>Medicine, Rationality, and Experience</i> . Cambridge University Press. Blumhagen, D.W. 1979. The Doctor's White Coat: The Image of the Physician in Modern America. <i>Annals of Internal Medicine</i> 91(1):111-116.	

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TOPIC	DATE	WHAT TO READ	WHAT'S DUE?
Week 4 Body, Self, and Society	Tues, 4/21	Sachs, Oliver. 1970. "The Disembodied Lady." In <i>The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat</i> . Murphy, Robert F. 2010 [1987]. "The Damaged Self." Pg. 172-183 in <i>Understanding and Applying Medical Anthropology</i> . Brown and Barrett, eds. Adler, Shelley R. 1995. "Refugee Status and Folk Belief: Hmong Sudden Deaths." <i>Social Science and Medicine</i> 40:1623-1629.	
	Thurs, 4/23	Edmonds, A. 2007. "'The poor have the right to be beautiful': cosmetic surgery in neoliberal Brazil." <i>Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute</i> 13(2):363-81. Sharp, Lesley. 2001. "Commodified Kin: Death, Mourning, and Competing Claims on the Bodies of Organ Donors in the United States." <i>American Anthropologist</i> 103(1):112-133.	
Week 5 The Normal and the Pathological	Tues, 4/28	Lock, Margaret and P. Kaufert. 2001. "Menopause, Local Biologies, and Cultures of Aging." <i>American Journal of Human Biology</i> .13(4):494-504. Vailly, J. 2008. "The Expansion of Abnormality and the Biomedical Norm: Neonatal Screening, Prenatal Diagnosis, and Cystic Fibrosis in France." <i>Social Science and Medicine</i> 66(12): 2532-43.	
	Thurs, 4/30	Obeyesekere, Gananath. 1985. "Depression, Buddhism and the Work of Culture in Sri Lanka." Pp. 134-152 in <i>Culture and Depression</i> . Rosenhan, D.L. 1973. "On Being Sane in Insane Places." <i>Science</i> 179(4070):250-8. Luhmann, Tanya M. 2013. "The Violence in Our Heads." <i>New York Times</i> .	
Week 6 Explaining Disease	Tues, 5/5	Midterm exam in class	Midterm exam
	Thurs, 5/7	Fadiman, <i>The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down</i> . Chapters 1-7.	

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TOPIC	DATE	WHAT TO READ	WHAT'S DUE?
Week 7 Healing and Ritual	Tues, 5/12	Roberts, Elizabeth. 2010. "Ritual Humility in Modern Laboratories: Or, Why Ecuadorian IVF Practitioners Pray." Pg. 131-149 in <i>The Problem of Ritual Efficacy</i> . Sax et al., eds. Fadiman, <i>The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down</i> . Chapters 8-11.	
	Thurs, 5/14	Fadiman, <i>The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down</i> . Chapters 12-19. Taylor, Janelle. 2003. "The Story Catches You and You Fall Down: Tragedy, Ethnography, and 'Cultural Competence'". <i>Medical Anthropology Quarterly</i> 17(2):159-181.	
Week 8 Medicalization, Power, and Resistance	Tues, 5/19	Armstrong, David. 1995. "The Rise of Surveillance Medicine." <i>Sociology of Health and Illness</i> 17(3):393-404. Elliott, Carl. 2004. <i>Better than Well: American Medicine Meets the American Dream</i> . Excerpt.	
	Thurs, 5/21	Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 1988. "The Madness of Hunger: Sickness, Delirium, and Human Needs." <i>Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry</i> 12(4):429-458. Koch, Erin. 2006. "Beyond Suspicion." <i>American Ethnologist</i> 33(1):50-62.	Fieldnotes (from illness narrative interview) due
Week 9 The Political Economy of Health	Tues, 5/26	Janes, C. and O. Chuluundorj. 2004. "Free Markets and Dead Mothers." <i>Medical Anthropology Quarterly</i> 18(2):230-57.	
	Thurs, 5/28	Briggs, Charles. 2004. "Theorizing Modernity Conspiratorially: Science, Scale, and the Political Economy of Public Discourse in Explanations of a Cholera Epidemic." <i>American Ethnologist</i> 31(2):164-187.	
Week 10 Applying Medical Anthropology	Tues, 6/2	Poon, Linda. 2014. "Why Anthropologists Join an Ebola Outbreak Team." NPR Online, April 2. Farmer, Paul. 2014. "Diary." <i>London Review of Books</i> . 36(20): 38-39.	
	Thurs, 6/4	No readings.	Illness Narrative due
Final Exam	Tuesday, June 9, 8:00am-10:00am		