

UW-Whitewater, 2006  
**Anthropology 302**  
T, Th 2:15pm to 3:30pm  
Room: Carlson 2007

Instructor: Michael J. Oldani  
email: oldanim@uww.edu  
phone: 472-1728  
office: Salisbury 339  
office hours: T, Th; 11am to 12pm, or by appt.

## **Culture, Medicine, and Health**

Since its inception, anthropology as a discipline has had an interest in human illness and health. Medical anthropologists apply anthropological concepts and methods to more fully understanding the lived experience of illness (i.e., suffering); the differing medical practices used to treat and heal individuals; and the various ways health(care) impacts culture and society (and vice versa). This intermediate level course will be an introduction to the field of medical anthropology and is designed for students in the social sciences, humanities, and biological sciences. We will explore the different ways cultural anthropologists approach the study of illness, health(care) and wellbeing while highlighting the recent emergence of science studies, which, along with medical anthropology, continues to assess the impact of modern biomedicine on western and non-western peoples.

### Objectives:

1. To understand basic medical anthropological methods of inquiry and fieldwork
2. To understand the role of the human body cross-culturally as well as within medical anthropological theory
3. To develop skills in recording and understanding illness through the writing of an illness narrative
4. To develop both research (library and fieldwork) and writing skills that help to identify how disease, illness, and health(care) are socially constructed

### Books for Purchase/eventual Rental:

1. *The spirit catches you and you fall down: a Hmong child, her American doctors, and the collision of two cultures.* A. Fadiman. Noonday Press. 1998.
2. *Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues.* P. Farmer. U of California Press. 1999
3. *Better than Well: American Medicine meets the American Dream.* C. Elliot, Norton, 2003

### Other readings:

E-Reserves (“ER”); under instructor “Oldani,” then click on Anthropology 302 link

Films: TBA

## Requirements:

This course assumes a basic familiarity with anthropological and social science concerns and concepts. Your success and the success of the course depends on your commitment to complete required readings before each class and to actively participate in our discussions.

## Grading:

1. Attendance and participation (100pts). Full attendance throughout the semester is expected and participation (i.e., talking in class) is required. Every student starts with a point total of 100, and can easily keep that total by attending class and participating. BUT, students will be penalized for missing class (-5 points) and your final grade will ultimately suffer if you choose to frequently miss class. Students will also be asked to introduce a paper or book chapter on a regular basis (i.e., present 3 to five key points to open our discussion). Missing an assigned presentation or simply doing a poor job (i.e., not reading the paper, not presenting 3 to 5 points, etc.) will cost a student -5 points. The knowledge gained throughout the semester will reflect what we discuss collectively in the classroom and this will aid you greatly with assignments, presentations, and final paper(s). Exceptions include: health situations/medical emergencies, athletic commitments, and personal/family situations. However, a written healthcare provider note indicating illness and/or prior arrangements must be made with instructor when missing a class.
2. Six reaction papers related to readings, research, and/or class discussions (1 page single-spaced) (90 points)
3. One short paper, or “illness narrative,” (6 - 8 pages) that will analyze how an individual experiences a clinical encounter (with a doctor, psychologist, healer, etc.) and/or the treatment, biomedical or other. This will require that you interview a family member or close friend. You may also consider analyzing an illness narrative found in first person stories, literature, or film. (100pts)
4. A short research paper (8-10 pages) that addresses a medical anthropology topic: The social construction of a modern disease, disorder, and/or epidemic; the usage and/or introduction of a new medical technology; the impact of biomedicine on other forms of healing/healthcare; or, an exploration the socio-cultural impact of a new (or older) pharmaceutical drug on (mental) illness. (100pts)

(The UW-Whitewater grading Scale:)

90% - 100%	=	A
80 - 89	=	B
70 - 79	=	C
60 - 69	=	D
< 60	=	F

## WEEKLY PLAN

### **Part I: Biomedicine and the Other: Spirit, Bodies and Stories**

#### **Project I: Illness Narrative(s)**

#### **Week 1: Introduction**

(1/23; 1/25)

1. Introduction of students and instructor; syllabus discussion  
Discussion: "A to Z the Year In Medicine," *Time*, 12/5/05 (class handout).
2. Readings: "Hormones for men" *New Yorker*, ER, (under Anthro 218 link)  
"John Rock's Error" (Gladwell) *New Yorker*, ER

Note: Start reading *Spirit Catches You*

#### **Week 2: Important questions, Course Methodology, and Critical-Interpretative Approaches**

(1/30; 2/1)

1. A. "Medical Anthropology: Central Concepts and Development," (Baer), ER  
B. *Spirit Catches You* – Preface and Chapter 1
2. A. "Medical Anthropology and its transformation," (Singer, P1 and P2), ER  
B. *Spirit Catches You* – Chapter 2

Due Reaction Paper #1, Drop Box by 11pm on 2/1

#### **Week 3: Exploring the (medical) Body**

(2/6; 2/8)

1. A. "The Notion of Body Techniques," M. Mauss, e-reserves  
B. "The Mindful Body," Scheper-Hughes and M. Lock, e-reserves
2. A. "Premenstrual Syndrome, Work Discipline and Anger," for the book *The Woman in the Body*. (E. Martin), ER  
B. *Spirit Catches You* – Chapters 3 and 4

#### **Week 4: Spirit, Body, and Medical Practices**

(2/13; 2/15)

1. A. "The Production of Possession: Spirits and the Multinational Corporation in Malaysia," A. Ong, e-reserves  
B. *Spirit Catches You* – Chapters 5, 6, and 7
2. A. "Medical Anthropology and the Problem of Belief," (Good), ER  
B. *Spirit Catches You* – Chapters 8, 9, and 10  
Film: *Dance and Trance in Bali* (M. Mead)

Reaction Paper #2 Due on 2/15

**WEEKLY PLAN, cont.****Week 5: Introduction to Illness Narratives**

(2/20; 2/22)

1. A. Sense (“Meaning”) of Symptoms (Freud), ER  
 B. Case Histories: Anna O, From *Studies on Hysteria* (Bruer), ER  
 C. *Spirit Catches You*
2. A. *Illness Narratives*, (Kleinman, excerpts), ER (and class handout)  
 B. *Spirit Catches You* (final discussion)

**Week 6: Illness Narratives cont. – Examples/Narrative Theory**

(2/27; 3/1)

1. A. Illness Narrative/Time Magazine (class handout)  
 B. “If She is a Vegetable, We will be her Garden” (Rouse), ER
  2. A. “The narrative representation of experience” (Good) (class handout)  
 B. “Hypochondriasis: The Ironic Disease” (Kleinman) (class handout)
- Film: TBA

Reaction Paper #3 Due on 3/1, PLUS half-page discussion of Illness Narrative Project

**Week 7: Culture as Pathogen (and Cure): Shamanism to Biomedicine**

(3/6; 3/8)

1. A. “Anishinaabe Culture” (Nesper); ER – Anthropology 218 link  
 B. “The physical effect on the individual of the idea of death suggested by the collectivity,” (M. Mauss), (class handout)  
 C. “Born to Die: Witchcraft and infanticide in Bariba Culture,” (C. Sargent), ER  
 D. “Belief as Pathogen, Belief as Medicine,” (R. Han and A. Kleinman), ER
2. A. “The sorcerer and his magic,” (Levi-Strauss), ER  
 B. “The shaman’s needle: Development, shamanic agency, and intermediacy in Agurna Lands, Peru,” (S. Greene), ER  
 C. “Physiology and symbols: The anthropological implications of the placebo effect,” (D. Moerman), ER

**Part II: The Bio-Politics of Health: Populations and (Psychiatric) Dis-Orders**  
Project II: Medical Anthropology Research Paper

**Week 8**

(3/13; 3/15)

**The Bio-politics of health, Part I - History**

1. A. "The politics of health in the eighteenth century," M. Foucault, e-reserve  
 B. "Behavior, disease, and health in the twentieth-century United States: The moral valence of individual risk," in *Morality and Health*. A. Brandt, P. Rozin (eds), e-reserves
2. *Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues*, P. Farmer (Chapters 1 and 2)

Illness Narrative Due, Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> by 11pm in Dropbox

**Week 9**

(3/20; 3/22)

**The Bio-politics of health, Part II – Bioethics**

1. A. "The Tuskegee syphilis experiment: A moral astigmatism," S. Harding, e-reserves  
 Strangers at the bedside: A history of how law and bioethics transformed medical decision making. (excerpts) D. Rothman, e-reserves  
 B. "Doctors, Borders, and Life in Crisis," (handout)  
 Film: Deadly Deception
2. Farmer (Chapters 3, 4, 5)

**SPRING BREAK**

**Week 10**

(4/3; 4/5)

**Infections and Inequalities (Main Discussion)**

*Infections and Inequalities*, P. Farmer, remaining chapters

*Death Without Weeping*, N. Scheper-Hughes (Sad Tropics and one other chapter, TBA), e-reserves

Reaction Paper #4 Due 4/5

**Week 11**

(4/10; 4/12)

**(Ab)normality, Psychiatry, and Culture**

"Anthropology and the Abnormal," R. Benedict, e-reserves

"Depression, Buddhism, and the work of culture," G. Obeyeskere, e-reserves

"Psychiatric Power," M. Foucault, e-reserves

"Why cultural anthropology needs the psychiatrist (with commentaries by A. Kleinman and L. Kirmayer)," E. Sapir, e-reserves

Mind/Body Problems, E. Martin, e-reserves

"Life of the Mind," J. Biehl, e-reserves

**Week 12**

(4/17; 4/19)

**Bio-psychiatry and World Mental Health**

“Psychiatric Drug Promotion and the Politics of Neoliberalism,” (Moncrieff), e-reserves/handout

*World Mental Health: Problems and Priorities in Low-Income Countries*, (excerpts)

R. Desjairlais et al., eds., e-reserves

“How to organize a psychiatric meeting,” C. Applbaum

“Sociosomatics” (Kleinman); E-reserves

“A Changed Vision of God”; (Wilkinson), e-reserves/handout

Begin final project presentations by students (10 to 15 minutes) on Tuesday

Reaction Paper #5 due 4/12, PLUS half page discussion of final project

**Week 13**

(4/24; 4/26)

**Socio-medical Disorders**

“Making up people,” I. Hacking, e-reserves

“When explanations rest: “good enough” brain science and the new socio-medical disorders,” J. Dumit, e-reserves

“Strange Case of Dr. Jeckle and Ms. Hyde,” e-reserves

“Diagnosing moral disorder,” In *Conceiving Risk, Bearing Responsibility: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and the Diagnosis of Moral Disorder*, E. Armstrong

Film: Generation Rx

Final project presentations cont.

**Week 14**

(5/5; 12/7)

**The Anthropology of Pharmaceuticals: The Global and The Local**

*The \$800 Million Pill*, M. Goozner, (excerpts), e-reserves

“The Pharmaceutical Nexus,” A. Petrynka, Kleinman, Lakoff, e-reserves

“The New Medical Oikumene,” D. Healy, e-reserves

“The drug Pushers” (Elliot), e-reserves (under Anthropology 218 link)

“Did Antidepressants Depress Japan?”, e-reserves (under Anthropology 218 link)

*Better Than Well* (Elliot), Forward and Chapters 1 and 2

Reaction paper #6 Due 5/7 – a discussion of *Better Than Well* (Elliot)

Final Project presentations cont.

**Week 15**

(5/8; 5/10 - classes end 5/11)

**Pharmaceutical/Enhancement Culture**

“DSM-III and the Transformation of American Psychiatry: A History (Wilson),  
e-reserves/handout

“The Dictionary of Disorder” (Spiegel), e-reserves/handout

“Neurochemical Selves” (Rose), e-reserves/handout

*Better Than Well*, C. Elliot (final discussions), e-reserves

Film: *Sex, Drugs, and Middle Age*, CBC

Final project presentations cont.

**Week 16****Final papers due, Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 11pm**

Note: Contents, assignments, film showings, readings, etc. are subject to change.

Additional Information:

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is dedicated to a safe, supportive and non-discriminatory learning environment. It is the responsibility of all undergraduate and graduate students to familiarize themselves with University policies regarding Special Accommodations, Academic Misconduct, Religious Beliefs Accommodation, Discrimination and Absence for University Sponsored Events (for details please refer to the Schedule of Classes; the “Rights and Responsibilities” section of the Undergraduate Catalog; the Academic Requirements and Policies and the Facilities and Services sections of the Graduate Catalog; and the “Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures (UWS Chapter 14); and the “Student Nonacademic Disciplinary Procedures” (UWS Chapter 17).

The UW System standard for work required per credit is that students are expected to invest at least 3 hours of combined in-class and out-of-class work per week for each academic unit (credit) of coursework; thus, a 3-credit course will typically require a minimum of 9 hours of work per week (144 hrs./semester).

**Bibliography: (Articles to be made available through E-reserves included in Weekly Plan of Syllabus above.)**

\*\* - Indicates availability at UWW library

Biehl, João

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

Das, Veena, A. Kleinman, M. Lock, M. Ramphela, P. Reynolds

2001 *Remaking a World: Violence, Social Suffering, and Recovery*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

- Elliot, Carl  
2003 *Better Than Well*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.
- Fadiman, Anne\*\*  
2000 *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*
- Farmer, Paul\*\*  
1999 *Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues*.
- Foucault, Michel\*\*  
1965 *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason*, translated by Richard Howard. Vintage Books: New York.
- Golden, Janet\*\*  
2005 *Message in a Bottle: The Making of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Goozner, Merrill  
2004 *The \$800 Million Pill: The Truth Behind the Cost of New Drugs*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Healy, David  
1997 *The Anti-Depressant Era*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.\*\*  
2002 *The Creation of Psychopharmacology*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.  
2004 *Let Them Eat Prozac: The Unhealthy Relationship Between the Pharmaceutical Industry and Depression*. New York: New York University Press.
- Illich, Ivan\*\*  
1976 *Medical Nemesis: The Expropriation of Health*. London: Bantam Books.
- Kelm, Mary-Ellen  
1998 *Colonizing Bodies: Aboriginal Health and Healing in British Columbia 1900-50*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press.
- Kleinman, Arthur  
1988 *The Illness Narratives*.
- Kleinman, A., V. Das, and M. Lock  
1997 *Social Suffering*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Luhrmann, Tayna\*\*  
2000 *Of Two Minds: The Growing Disorder in American Psychiatry*. New York: Knopf.
- Martin, Emily\*\*  
1987 *The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction*. Milton Keynes: Open University Press.
- O'Neill, Theresa Deleane  
1996 *Disciplined Hearts: History, Identity and Depression in an American Indian Community*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Reynolds Whyte, S., S. van der Geest, and A. Hardon  
2002 *Social Lives of Medicines*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy\*\*  
1992 *Death Without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil*. Berkeley: University of California Berkeley.
- Singer, Merrill and H. Baer

1995 *Critical Medical Anthropology*. Amityville, NY: Baywood Publishing.  
Singer, Merrill, H. Baer and I. Susser\*\*

2002 *Medical Anthropology and the World System*.

Young, Alan

1995 *The Harmony of Illusions: Inventing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder*.  
Princeton: Princeton University Press.