

Medicine, Society, and Culture

Gabriella Coleman

Brief Course Description

The experience of illness and healing is shaped by cultural, social, political, and moral components. This course examines the specifics of this claim by looking at the diverse ways that cultural meanings are formed in different cultures and contexts. We will focus on cultural norms and social institutions, micro and macro politics, and forces of globalization as each of these affects local worlds of illness and health. The goals of the course are three fold: 1) Provide students with a clear understanding of the main approaches in medical anthropology 2) Using the texts assigned in class, we will critically examine how political economy is salient to the cultural study of medicine 3) Examine the ethical and political dimensions of health, illness, and healing.

Introductions: Theory and Methods

Week One

Evans-Pritchard, E.E.

1937 Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic among the Azande (selections)

Good, Byron

1990 "Medical anthropology and the problem of belief." *Medicine, Rationality, and Experience*. Cambridge University Press.

Week Two

Mol, Annemarie

2002 "Doing Disease." *The Body Multiple: Ontology in Medical Practice*. Duke University Press.

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy and M. Lock

1987 "The Mindful Body: A Prolegomena to Future Work in Medical Anthropology." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 1(1) pp. 6-41.

Week Three

Traweek, Sharon

1993 "An Introduction to Cultural and Social Studies of Sciences and Technologies" *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry*. 17: 3-25

Latour, Bruno

1990 "Postmodern? No, Simply Amodern: Steps Toward an Anthropology of Science: Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science 21(1): 145-171.

Adams, Vincanne

2002 "Establishing Proof: Translating Science and the State in Tibetan Medicine" *New Horizons in Medical Anthropology*. Nitcher and Lock (eds). Routledge.

The Political Economy of Health and Illness

Week Four

Farmer, Paul

1999 *Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues*. Introduction, Chapter 1, 4, 6.

Das, Veena
1995 "Suffering, Legitimacy, and Healing: The Bhopal Case" *Critical Events: An Anthropological Perspective*. Oxford University Press.

Week Five

Sharp, Lesley
2001 "Commodified Kin: Death, Mourning, and Competing Claims on the Bodies of Organ Donors in the United States." *American Anthropologist*. 103(1)1: 112–13

Finkel, Michael
2001 "Complications." *The New York Times Sunday Magazine*. May 27.

Gladwell, Malcom
2005 "The Moral-Hazard-Myth" *Harpers Magazine*. August 27.

The Bio-Medical Paradigm

Week Six

Hahn, Robert
1995 "Biomedicine as a Cultural System." *Sickness and Healing: An Anthropological Perspective*. Yale University Press.

Good, Byron and Mary-Jo DelVecchio Good
1993 "Learning Medicine: The Construction of Medical Knowledge at Harvard Medical School." *Knowledge, Power, and Practice: The Anthropology of Medicine and Everyday Life*. Lindenbaum and Lock (eds.). University of California Press.

Lantos, John
1997 "Medical Education and Medical Morality," *Do We Still Need Doctors?* New York and London: Routledge.

Tomes, Nancy
1998 *The Gospel of Germs: Men, Women, and the Microbe in Everyday Life*. Harvard University Press. Skim Introduction and read Chapter 1 and Chapter 7.

Colonialism and Medicine

Week Seven

Taussig, Michael
1986 *Shamanism, Colonialism and The Wild Mind*. University of Chicago. (selections)

Comaroff, Jean
1981 "Healing and Transformation: The Tshidi of Southern Africa" *Soc. Sci. & Med.* 15b:367

Arnold, David
1993 *Colonizing the Body: State Medicine and Epidemic Disease in Nineteenth-Century India*. Introduction, Chapter 3.

The Symbolic and Aesthetic Dimension of Health and Illness.

Week Eight

Levi-Strauss, Claude.
1963 "The Effectiveness of Symbols." *Structural Anthropology*.

Desjarlais, Robert

1992 Body and Emotion: The Aesthetics of Illness and Healing in the Nepal Himalayas Chapters 1 and 3.

Langford, Jean

1999 "Medical mimesis: healing signs of a cosmopolitan 'quack'" *American Ethnologist* 26(1):24-46.

Dow, James

1986 "Universal Aspects of Symbolic Healing." *American Anthropologist* 88: 56-69.

New Technologies and Ethical Implications

Week Nine

Lock, Margaret

2000 "On Dying Twice: Culture, Technology and the Determination of Death." *Living and Working with the New Medical Technologies : Intersections of Inquiry*. Lock, Young, Cambrioso (eds.). Cambridge University Press.

Rapp, Rayna

1999 *Testing Women, Testing the Fetus: The Social Impact of Amniocentesis*. Routledge (various sections)

Psychiatry

Week Ten

Estroff, Sue

1993 "Identity, Disability and Schizophrenia: The Problem of Chronicity" *Knowledge, Power, and Practice: The Anthropology of Medicine and Everyday Life*. Lindenbaum and Lock (eds). University of California Press.

Goffman, Erving

1968 *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identities*

Lurhmann, Tanya

2000 *Of Two Minds: The Growing Disorder in American Psychiatry*. Alfred A. Knopf

Week Eleven

Dumit, Joseph

2003 *Picturing Personhood: Brain Scans and Biomedical Identity*. Princeton University Press (sections)

Hacking, Ian

1999 *Madness: Biological or Constructed. The Social Construction of What?* Harvard University Press. (sections)

The Pharmaceutical Industry: Global Economies, Local Responses

Week Eleven

Kleinman, Arthur, Adriana Petryna and Andrew Lakoff

2005 "Introduction" *The Pharmaceutical Nexus*. Duke University Press.

Rose, Nikolas

2003 *Neurochemical Selves. Society* 41, no. 1: 46-59.

Biehl, Joao

2004 "The Activist State: Global Pharmaceuticals, AIDS, and Citizenship in Brazil." *Social Text*: 105-132.

Gender, Age, Race

Week Twelve

Cohen, Lawrence

1998 *No Aging in India: Alzheimer's, the Bad Family and Other Modern Thing*. University of California Press. (sections)

Walker Bynum, Caroline

1984 "Fast, Feast, and Flesh: The Religious Significance of Food to Medieval Women." *Representations* 11: 1-25.

Martin, Emily

1987 *The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction*. Beacon Press (sections)

Week Thirteen

Epstein, Steven

2004 "Bodily Differences and Collective Identities: The Politics of Gender and Race in Biomedical Research in the United States." *Body & Society* 10: 2-3: 183-203.

Allan Brandt

1978 "Racism and Research: The Case of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study," *Hastings Center Report* 8: 21-29.

Evelyn Hammonds

1987 "Race, Sex, and AIDS: The Construction of 'Other'." *Radical America* 20: 28-36

Farmer, Paul

1992 *AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame*. University of California Press (sections)

The Politics of Health

Week Fourteen

Lakoff, Andrew and Steve Collier

2005 "On Regimes of Living." *Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics, and Ethics As Anthropological Problems*. Ong and Colliers (eds.). Blackwell.

Epstein, Steven

1996 *Impure Science: Aids, Activism, and the Politics of Knowledge*. University of California Press. (sections).