

Anthropology 325

Culture, Health and Healing

Fall 2013

Dr. Charles Klein

MWF 2:00 – 3:05, Science Building 1

Office Hours & Contact Info:

M/W 3:15 – 4:15

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The images to the left illustrate examples of health and healing in cross-cultural perspective. Take a few seconds to unpack these scenes. How would make sense of what you see? What might help you figure things out? What would you want to learn, and toward what ends?

This course is an introduction to the anthropological study of health, or “medical anthropology.” Seeking to capture the diversity of this field, our readings, films, presentations and guest speakers highlight ethnomedical, critical, interpretative, and biocultural approaches. By studying these different perspectives, you will be able to develop your own toolkit that meets your professional and personal needs.

Over the course of the quarter we will focus on a series of interrelated themes. We will begin by looking at the ways different cultures – and diverse individuals within given cultures – experience and talk about illness, health and healing. Next, we will examine medical pluralism – the ways in which individuals and communities combine different health/healing systems in their lives (e.g. western biomedicine, acupuncture, and Ayurvedic medicine).

We will then consider the political economy of health and how structural factors generate health disparities in US and global contexts. Our final unit will focus on health communities, including environmental health and political mobilization to improve the quality of life in cities in the developing world.

A hallmark of medical anthropology is an interest in alleviating suffering, improving well-being, and contributing to the development of health-care practices and public policies that reduce health disparities. We will accordingly place particular attention on the role medical anthropologists have played in responding to important public policy issues. This focus on practicing anthropology will include your developing a 60 second long Public Service Announcement (PSA) video on a contemporary health issue.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of the course students will understand:

- Cross-cultural variation in health/healing systems, including medical pluralism
- The interconnections between culture, health and political economic factors
- The relationship between the environment and health
- The role of anthropologists in shaping health-care practices and public policies
- The challenges and opportunities of working in a highly politicized field like health
- The different theoretical and methodology approaches of anthropologists working on health issues
- Techniques to convey health promotion information to target audiences

Course Readings

Texts

Singer, Merrill & Hans Baer. 2012. *Introducing Medical Anthropology*, 2nd Edition. Lanham, MD: AltaMira Press.

Garcia, Angela. 2010. *The Pastoral Clinic: Addiction and Dispossession Along the Rio Grande*. Berkeley and Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press.

Langwick, Stacey. 2012. *Bodies, Politics and African Healing: The Matter of Maladies in Tanzania*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

Expectations & Assignments

The course schedule is structured on the expectation that you will read the readings before the class for which they are assigned. And as my presentations are interactive, don't be surprised if I call on you!

It is important for you to take good notes on the presentations, films and guest speakers. Taking notes will help you process the information and prepare you for your assignments and exams, which will require you to integrate this content in a creative and critical manner.

Exam 1 (20%): An in-class exam with T/F, multiple choice, short answer questions and one essay covering the presentations, readings, films and guest speakers in the first half of the course. You will receive the terms and essay questions one week before the exam. The essay component may be treated as a take home exam (one page front and back, typed, single spaced, 11 or 12 font), or you may write your essay in class. If you choose to write the essay in class, it is open book and you may bring in one page (front and back) of notes. However, you may not use your notes or books for the T/F, multiple choice and short answer questions.

Exam 2 (20%): Same format as Exam 1, but covering the lectures, readings, films and guest speakers in the second half of the course.

Quizzes (20%): There will be two quizzes during the quarter (10 points each). The quizzes will focus on the readings, films and guest speaker presentations.

Weekly Readings Journal (20%): Starting in Week 2, every Monday you will submit a one page, typed, double-spaced journal entry in 11 or 12 point font that applies a concept from the readings to a contemporary health issue (see Weekly Reading Journal Instructions on D2L for complete requirements). Journal entries will be scored on a 0-4 point scale based on the thoughtfulness of the analysis and the extent to you meet the posted

requirements: 4 (excellent), 3 (very good), 2 (good), 1 (fair) and 0 (not submitted/completed out of sync with journal instructions). Your last journal entry will be due the Monday of week 10, at which time you should also submit all of your graded journal entries. Your final grade will be based on your top seven journal scores, with adjustments if cases where significant improvement has occurred.

Public Service Announcement Project (20%): Over the course of the quarter you will develop a Public Service Announcement (PSA) on a current public health issue. You will be required to complete a series of tasks to lay the foundation for your PSA (see PSA Project instructions on D2L), each of which will be scored separately. The final product will be a 60 second long “video” with images and sound. You can use whatever software you like, so long as you can upload it into YouTube. We will watch all of the PSAs during the final week of classes. Attendance these views and discussing the PSAs during Week 10 is considered a part of the assignment, and students will lose points for not attending class on these days.

Extra Credit (10 points maximum = 5%): (1) Find a short video on one of the ethnographic examples in our readings and send it to me before the day on which that reading is to be completed (1 point per video), or (2) attend a talk/event on a health and healing topic. Write a one page, single-spaced analysis of the talk/event that discusses the talk/event from the perspective of a concept or two from course readings and presentations (2 points each).

Policies

It is normal to get sick, and each year flus such as H1N1 spread through colleges and universities. If you feel ill (e.g. fever, sore throat, runny nose, headache, cough, aches), please stay home until you have been without fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. Please let me know through email if about your illness. You will not be penalized for illness-related absences, and you will have the opportunity to make up missed assignments.

Except in cases of documented illness or emergency, *late PSA projects* will lose five points each day overdue. *Late Weekly Journal Entries* will lose 1 point per each overdue except in cases of severe illness or emergency. Requests for deadline extensions should be made in writing ahead of the due date. All work must be completed for students to receive a passing grade. Please save a copy of all the work you submit.

Students with a documented disability needing accommodations in the course should immediately inform me.

Plagiarism (intellectual theft) is a very serious academic offense. You are responsible for reading and understanding the department handout on plagiarism, which is available on D2L and on the Anthropology Department web site at <http://web.pdx.edu/~b5mg/plagweb.html>. Please ask me if you have any questions about this information. Any assignment containing plagiarized material will receive a failing grade, and cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Student Life.

Grading. If you would like to have the grade for an exam or assignment reconsidered, you must submit a written re-evaluation request in an email, at least 24 hours after the graded assignment was returned. This email should state why you think your grade should be reconsidered.

D2L (Desire to Learn)

The course syllabus, assignment instructions, reading terms and questions, and exam terms and questions will be available on D2L. All students can access D2L with their Odin account. Use your Odin username and password to login to D2L at <https://d2l.pdx.edu>. Use of D2L will be demonstrated on the first day of class. Please feel free to contact me if you encounter difficulties in accessing this resource.

Course Outline and Readings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Assignment/Activities</u>
Setting the Stage: Culture, Health & Healing			
<u>Week 1</u>			
9/30	Class Overview		
10/2	Culture, Health & Healing	Singer/Baer: Ch. 1, pp. 1-41	
10/4	Medical Anthropology in Action	Singer/Baer: Ch. 2, pp. 43-75 Langwick: Prologue & Ch. 1, pp. 1-13.	
Unit 1. Health Narratives & Ethnomedicine			
<u>Week 2</u>			
10/7	Talking About Illness	Singer/Baer: Ch. 3, pp. 77-115	
10/9	Guest Speaker: Sasha Margitic (Acupuncture in Oaxaca and Community Acupuncture in PDX)		
10/11	<u>Film: Inside Ayurvedic Medicine</u>	Langwick: Ch. 1, pp. 13-35	PSA Topic
<u>Week 3</u>			
10/14	Ethnomedicine	Singer/Bear: Ch. 4, pp. 117-142	Quiz 1
10/16	The Shaman and His Apprentice		Online Lit Exercise
10/18	Guest Speaker: Meredith Farkas Research Methods	Langwick: Ch. 2-3, pp. 39-86	
Unit 2: Medical Pluralism			
<u>Week 4</u>			
10/21	Health Systems in Motion	Singer/Baer: Ch. 5, pp. 143-174	
10/23	Guest Speakers: National College of Natural Medicine		
10/25	Complementary and Alternative Therapies	Langwick: Ch. 4, pp. 87-120	PSA Bibliography
<u>Week 5</u>			
10/28	Guest Speaker (tbd)	Langwick, Ch. 5-6, pp. 121-174	
10/30	Tanzanian Healing Systems & Exam Review		
11/1	Exam 1		Exam 1

Unit 3: The Political Economy of Health and Health Disparities

Week 6

- 11/4 An Uneven Playing Field Singer/Baer: Ch. 6, pp. 175-205
11/6 Global Health I: Malaria Langwick, Ch. 7 – end, pp. 175-244
11/8 **Guest Speaker: Haven Wheelock, Outside In**

Week 7

- 11/11 Holiday
11/13 Global Health II: HIV Garcia, Intro & Ch. 1, p 1-68
11/15 **Guest Speaker: Dr. Kimberly Tippens**

Week 8

Unit 4: Health Communities and Environmental Health

- 11/18 Dispossession along the Rio Grande
11/20 **Guest Speaker: Ben Duncan** Garcia, Ch. 2-3, 69-149 **PSA Storyboard/Script**
Multnomah County Health Dept.
11/22 Healthy Communities Singer/Baer Ch. 7, pp. 207-240 **Quiz 2**

Week 9

- 11/25 The Pastoral Clinic Garcia, Ch. 4-end., 150-210
11/27 Urban Life in Brazil **PSA Due**
11/29 Holiday

Week 10

- 12/2 Watch and discuss PSAs
12/4 Watch and discuss PSAs
12/6 Watch and discuss PSAs/Review

EXAMS 2 – Wednesday, December 11, 12:30 – 2:20 p.m.

Week	Day	Date	Month	Readings, assignments due
1	M	30	Sept	Syllabus
	W	2	Oct	Singer/Baer : Ch. 1
	F	4	Oct	Singer/Baer: Ch. 2; Langwick: Prologue & Ch. 1, pp. 1-13
2	M	7	Oct	Singer/Baer: Ch. 3
	W	9	Oct	
	F	11	Oct	Langwick: Ch. 1, pp. 13-35; <i>PSA Topic/Target Audience Due</i>
3	M	14	Oct	<u>Quiz 1</u> ; Singer/Baer: Ch. 4
	W	16	Oct	<u>Online Lit Exercise</u> (12 noon)
	F	18	Oct	Langwick: Ch. 3
4	M	21	Oct	Singer/Baer: Ch. 5
	W	23	Oct	
	F	25	Oct	Langwick: Ch. 4; <i>PSA Annotated Bibliography Due</i>
5	M	28	Oct	Langwick: Ch. 5-6
	W	30	Oct	Exam 1 Review
	F	1	Nov	Exam 1
6	M	4	Nov	Singer/Baer: Ch. 6
	W	6	Nov	Langwick: Ch. 7 – end
	F	8	Nov	
7	M	11	Nov	HOLIDAY
	W	13	Nov	Garcia: Intro and Ch. 1
	F	15	Nov	
8	M	18	Nov	
	W	20	Nov	Garcia: Ch. 2-3; <i>PSA Script/Storyboard Due</i>
	F	22	Nov	<u>Quiz 2</u> ; Singer/Baer: Ch. 7
9	M	25	Nov	Garcia: Ch. 4-end
	W	27	Nov	<i>PSA Due</i>
	F	29	Nov	HOLIDAY
10	M	2	Dec	PSA Viewing and Discussion
	W	4	Dec	PSA Viewing and Discussion
	F	6	Dec	PSA Viewing and Discussion; Review
11	W	11	Dec	Exam 2 (12:30 – 2:20 p.m.)