

E445/E645: Advanced Seminar in Medical Anthropology

Meets: Student Building 140

Tuesday/Thursday, 2:30-3:45 pm

Instructor: Sarah D. Phillips

Office Hours: Monday 9:30-noon, and by appointment

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Course Description

The meanings of "health" and disease, and the experience of one's body, are often taken for granted. However, our ideas about and experiences of health, "dis-ease," and medicine are profoundly shaped by culture, transnational flows of people, ideas, and resources, histories of colonialism and structural inequalities, and the development of new technologies. An informed understanding of a person or group's health and illness trajectories must begin by exploring the multiple contexts—cultural, geopolitical, and socio-economic—from which those experiences are generated. In this course, students will learn to think about issues of health, disease, and medicine in cross-cultural and global terms.

The course will be divided into five broad and interrelated units. The first unit focuses on cultural contexts of illness, health, and ideologies of the body. We will look at how culture and experience inform one another as we consider contrasting health/illness beliefs across cultures. We will place particular focus on discourses of the body through different trajectories: aging, gender, reproduction, disability, etc. Our case study on the body and aging will focus on women in North India (Lamb's book, White Saris and Sweet Mangoes).

Unit two considers in more depth healing practices around the world, focusing on ritual aspects of healing and how modes of healing across cultures articulate with particular perceptions about the body and what it means to be "sick."

The third unit turns to the questions of medical knowledge production and the politics of contemporary biomedical healing. We will examine how new medical technologies are shaping cultural ideologies of health and the body, and how they might do violence to persons based on gender, ethnicity, and class. These discussions will culminate in a case study on organ transplants.

The fourth unit ties together many of the themes thus far considered, filtering them through the powerful lens of gender. We will examine men and women as gendered subjects in the contexts of health, illness, and medicine.

Unit five follows up on many of these themes, but shifts the focus to the political and moral economies of health in the global context. We will take up issues such as structural violence, social inequalities in health, and the health consequences of state retreat. In this section we will consider how local experiences are shaped by large-scale social forces. A case study on women's health in Russia provides a critical assessment of international health interventions, and we will also read about poverty and "maternal thinking" in the shantytowns of Northeast Brazil.

Learning Objectives

After taking this course, students should be able to

- 1) talk about how the methods and theories of anthropology can be applied to issues of health, illness, disease, and medicine in cross-cultural contexts;
- 2) think and write about their own illness experiences utilizing anthropological principles and modes of analysis;
- 3) question accepted knowledge about mind-body dualism, medical authority, and the desirable effects of new medical technologies;
- 4) recognize and question social inequalities of health within the U.S. and other societies, and in students' own communities;
- 5) recognize the links between globalization and international public health, and the epidemiological effects of the widening gap between the "haves" and "have-nots" in global contexts.

Assignments and activities:

Students will write two essays, and complete a final (semester-long) research paper, supplemented by a class presentation. Students will also be assessed on active class participation, including seminar leadership (described below). Graduate students will turn in longer essays, and are encouraged to do some of the "Optional" readings.

Essays:

Two essays (6-8 pages for undergrads, 7-10 pages for grads) will be due during the semester. Due dates are October 4 or 6 and November 8 or 10).

Seminar leadership:

Students will be responsible for leading several seminars during the semester, on Thursdays. Whether this is done solo or in pairs will depend on enrollment. During these classes students are expected to read especially carefully, and to conduct class

discussions. Students should strive to submit a list of discussion questions or a similar think-piece via e-mail or Oncourse by 5pm the day before class.

Research paper:

The research paper gives students a chance to do library research and/or ethnographic research on a topic of their choice relevant to medical anthropology. Research papers should be 10-12 pages for undergrads, 12-15 pages (or more) for grads. Undergrads should cite a minimum of 10 sources. Grads should cite a minimum of 15 sources. The paper is due December 13. Various small assignments will be due during the semester to help students along with papers.

Class presentation:

During the two last class sessions (December 6 and 8), students will have an opportunity to share their research paper findings with classmates and the instructor. The preferable format for these presentations is Powerpoint (encouraged but not required). Other creative means of presentation are also encouraged. Presentations will be approximately 10-15 minutes long.

Grading:

The following is the grading formula for this course:

Seminar leadership: 10%

Essays (2): 30% (15% each)

Research paper: 25%

Class presentation: 10%

Class participation: 25%

Grading Scale:

This course will use a 10-point grading scale, with pluses and minuses.

A+ 100	B 83-86	C- 70-72	F 0-59
A 93-99	B- 80-82	D+ 67-69	
A- 90-92	C+ 77-79	D 63-66	
B+ 87-89	C 73-76	D- 60-62	

Special Needs:

If you have a physical or learning disability, or ADHD, or any other reason to request special consideration concerning tests, papers or any other aspect of the course, please see me to discuss your needs as early in the semester as possible.

Other Important Information:

In your Schedule of Classes bulletin (also available online), there is important information on academic freedom, academic misconduct policies, the Code of Academic Ethics, and the campus calendar. Please read through these sections and any others that may concern you personally.

The instructor reserves the right to revise this syllabus during the semester. Any changes will be announced in class.

Required readings

Required readings consist of 3.5 ethnographies, a medical anthropology reader, and other articles and book chapters that will be available on E-reserves (password is "medical"). The following books will be required reading:

Carolyn F. Sargent and Thomas M. Johnson, eds. 1996. Medical Anthropology: Contemporary Theory and Method (revised edition) (Praeger).

Sarah Lamb. 2000. White Saris and Sweet Mangoes: Aging, Gender, and Body in North India (U of California Press).

Margaret Lock. 2002. Twice Dead: Organ Transplants and the Reinvention of Death (U of California Press).

Nancy Scheper-Hughes. 1992. Death Without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil (U of California Press). (chapters 5-9, 12)

Michele Rivkin-Fish. 2005. Women's Health in Post-Soviet Russia: The Politics of Intervention (Indiana U Press).

Course Schedule

Week 1 (Aug. 30 and Sept. 1)

Section 1

Cultural contexts of illness, health, "body thoughts," and healing

A. The scope of medical anthropology

Meet and greet

Introduction to the course: syllabus overview, and discussion about the scope of medical anthropology

Reading assignment for Thursday:

Peter J. Brown, "Understanding Medical Anthropology: Biocultural and Cultural Approaches" (pp. 1-19 in Brown, ed).

Brown, Barrett, and Padilla, "Medical Anthropology: An Introduction to the Fields"
Pelto and Pelto, "Research Designs in Medical Anthropology." Sargent and Johnson, Ch. 15.

Week 2 (Sept. 6 and 8)

B. Why the body is good to think with

Nancy Scheper Hughes and Margaret Lock, "A Critical-Interpretive Approach in Medical Anthropology: Rituals and Routines of Discipline and Dissent." Sargent and Johnson, Ch. 3.

Margaret Lock. 1993. "Cultivating the Body: Anthropology and Epistemologies of Bodily Practice and Knowledge." Annual Review of Anthropology 22: 131-155.

Michel Foucault. 1980. "Body/Power," pp. 55-62; "The Politics of Health in the Eighteenth Century," pp. 166-182; "The History of Sexuality," pp. 184-194 in Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings 1972/1977, ed. Colin Gordon.

Michel Foucault. 1984. "Docile Bodies," "The Means of Correct Training," and "Panopticism," in The Foucault Reader, ed. Paul Rabinow, pp. 179-213.

Optional article:

Lesley A. Sharp. 2000. The Commodification of the Body and its Parts. Annual Review of Anthropology 29:287-328.

Week 3 (Sept. 13 and 15)

C. Bodily ties that bind: case studies in ethnophysiology

Paul Farmer. 1988. "Bad Blood, Spoiled Milk: Body Fluids as Moral Barometers in Rural Haiti." American Ethnologist 15(1):62-83.

Elisa J. Sobo. 1992. "'Unclean Deeds': Menstrual Taboos and Binding 'Ties' in Rural Jamaica." Anthropological Approaches to the Study of Ethnomedicine, ed. Mark Nichter (Gordon and Breach Science Publishers):101-126.

Laurel Kendall. 1987. "Cold Wombs in Balmy Honolulu: Ethnogynecology among Korean Immigrants." Social Science and Medicine 25(4):367-376.

Sarah D. Phillips. 2002. "Half-Lives and Healthy Bodies: Discourses on

'Contaminated' Foods and Healing in Post-Chernobyl Ukraine." Food and Foodways 10(1-2):27-53.

Available online at <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/FOF-sp-issue.pdf>

Emily Martin. 1992. "The End of the Body?" American Ethnologist 19(1):121-140.

Optional articles:

Bastien, Joseph W. 1985. "Qollahuaya—Andean Body Concepts: A Topographical-Hydraulic Model of Physiology." American Anthropologist 87(3):595-611.

Christopher Taylor. 1988. The Concept of Flow in Rwandan Popular Medicine Social Science and Medicine 27(12):1343-1348.

Emily Martin. 1996. "The Language of Science and Medicine, The Egg and the Sperm: How Science has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles," Gender and Health: an International Perspective, eds. Sargent and Brettel, Ch. 2.

Mary Jo Delvecchio-Good. 1980. "Of Blood and Babies: The Relationship of Popular Islamic Physiology to Fertility." Social Science and Medicine Vol. 14B, pp. 147- 156.

Week 4 (Sept. 20 and 22)

Students should submit a one-page final paper proposal.

D. Deconstructing disability

Margaret A. Winzer. 1997. "Disability and Society Before the Eighteenth Century: Dread and Despair." The Disability Studies Reader, ed. Lennard J. Davis, pp. 75-109.

Michael Oliver. 1990. "Disability Definitions: The Politics of Meaning." The Politics of Disablement: A Sociological Approach, pp. 1-11.

Zola, Irving Kenneth. 1993. "Self-identity and the naming question: Reflections on the language of disability." Social Science and Medicine 36(2): 167-173.

Erving Goffman, Selections from Stigma. The Disability Studies Reader, pp. 203-215.

Robert Murphy. 1995. "Encounters: The Body Silent in America." Disability and Culture, ed. B. Ingstad and S. Whyte, pp. 140-158.

Patrick Devlieger. 1995. "Why Disabled? The Cultural Understanding of Physical Disability in an African Society." Disability and Culture, ed. B. Ingstad and S. Whyte, pp. 94-106.

Selections from Dr. Phillips

Faye Ginsburg and Rayna Rapp. 2001. "Enabling Disability: Rewriting Kinship, Reimagining Citizenship." Public Culture 13(3):533-556.

Optional readings:

Other chapters in Ingstad and Whyte's Disability and Culture

The rest of Robert Murphy's The Body Silent

James I. Charlton. 1998. "The Organization of Empowerment." Nothing About Us Without Us: Disability Oppression and Empowerment, pp. 130-149.

The rest of Public Culture Vol. 13, Issue 3 (special issue on disability)

Week 5 (Sept. 27 and 29)

E. Cultural significance of the body, gender, and aging

Sarah Lamb. 2000. White Saris and Sweet Mangoes: Aging, Gender, and Body in North India.

Week 6 (Oct. 4 and 6)

Essay 1 due in class

Section 2

Ethnomedicine

Csordas and Kleinman, "The Therapeutic Process." Sargent and Johnson, Ch. 1.

Rubel and Hass, "Ethnomedicine." Sargent and Johnson, Ch. 6.

Hughes, "Ethnopsychiatry." Sargent and Johnson, Ch. 7.

Etkin, "Ethnopharmacology: The Conjunction of Medical Ethnography and the Biology of Therapeutic Action." Sargent and Johnson, Ch. 8

Phillips, "Waxing Like the Moon: Women Folk Healers in Rural Western Ukraine."
Folklorica 9(1):13-45.

Available online at <http://www.virginia.edu/slavic/seefa/FolkloricaIX1W.pdf>

Video: Shapes in the Wax: Tradition and Faith among Folk Medicine Practitioners in Rural Ukraine (Phillips and Miller)

Week 7 (Oct. 11 and 13)

Section 3

Medical knowledge and the politics of biomedicine

A. Biomedicine as a cultural System

Rhodes, "Studying Biomedicine as a Cultural System." Sargent and Johnson, Ch. 9.

Arthur Kleinman. 1978. "Concepts and a Model for the Comparison of Medical Systems as Cultural Systems." Social Science and Medicine 12(2):85-93.

Arthur Kleinman. 1995. "What is Specific to Biomedicine?" Writing at the Margin: Discourse between Anthropology and Medicine, pp. 21-40.

Optional articles:

Charles Leslie. 1978. "Theoretical Foundations for the Comparative Study of Medical Systems." Social Science and Medicine 12(2):65-67.

Margaret Lock. 1987. "Introduction: Health and Medical Care as Cultural and Social Phenomena." In Edward Norbeck and Margaret Lock, (eds.), Health, Illness, and Medical Care in Japan: Cultural and Social Dimensions. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Week 8 (Oct. 18 and 20)

Bibliographies due for final papers. Undergrads should have at least 5 annotated sources; grads should have at least 10.

B. Learning medicine, and new medical technologies

Michel Foucault. 1973. The Birth of the Clinic. Selections.

Byron Good and Mary Jo DelVecchio Good. 1993. "'Learning Medicine': The Constructing of Medical Knowledge at Harvard Medical School." Knowledge, Power, and Practice: The Anthropology of Medicine and Everyday Life, ed. Shirley Lindenbaum and Margaret Lock, pp. 81-107.

Lella and Pawluch, "Medical Students and the Cadaver in Social and Cultural Context." 1988. Biomedicine Examined, eds. Margaret Lock and Deborah Gordon. Kluwer.

Byron Good. 1994. "How Medicine Constructs its Objects." Medicine, Rationality, and Experience: An Anthropological Perspective (Ch 3).

Emily Martin. 1990. "Toward an Anthropology of Immunology: The Body as Nation State." Medical Anthropology Quarterly 4(4):410-426.

Optional readings:

Pearl Katz. 1999. The Scalpel's Edge: The Culture of Surgeons.

Joan Cassell. 1998. The Woman in the Surgeon's Body. Harvard U. Press.

Paul Atkinson. 1988. "Discourse, Descriptions and Diagnoses: Reproducing Normal Medicine." Biomedicine Examined, ed. Margaret Lock and Deborah Gordon, pp. 179-204.

Lisa Cartwright. 1995. "Women and the Public Culture of Radiography." Screening the Body: Tracing Medicine's Visual Culture, pp. 143-171.

Harlan Lane. 1993. "Biopower versus the Deaf Child." In The Mask of Benevolence: Disabling the Deaf Community

Week 9 (Oct. 25 and 27)

C. New medical technologies, the body, personhood, and "death"

Margaret Lock. 2002. Twice Dead: Organ Transplants and the Reinvention of Death (U of California Press).

Week 10 (Nov. 1 and 3)

Section 4

Gender and Health: Reproduction and beyond

Browner and Sargent, "Anthropology and Studies of Human Reproduction." Sargent and Johnson, Ch. 11.

Faye Ginsburg and Rayna Rapp. 1991. "The Politics of Reproduction." Annual Review of Anthropology 20:311-344.

Emily Martin. 1987. The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction. Selections.

Gender and Health: An International Perspective, eds. Sargent and Brettel. Selections.

Meika Loe. 2001. "Fixing Broken Masculinity: Viagra as a Technology for the Production of Gender and Sexuality." Sexuality and Culture 5(3):97-125.

Week 11 (Nov. 8 and 10)

Essay 2 due in class

Section 5

Political and moral economies of global health

A. Critical medical anthropology

Soheir Morsy. 1996. "Political Economy in Medical Anthropology." Sargent and Johnson, pp. 21-40.

Merrill Singer. 1995. "Beyond the Ivory Tower: Critical Praxis in Medical Anthropology." Medical Anthropology Quarterly 9(1):80-106.

Merrill Singer. 1994. "AIDS and the Health Crisis of the U.S. Urban Poor: The Perspectives of Critical Medical Anthropology." Social Science & Medicine 39(7):931-948.

Joyce V. Millen, A. Irwin, and Jim Yong Kim. 2000. "Introduction: What is Growing? Who is Dying?" Dying for Growth: Global Inequality and the Health of the Poor, ed Jim Yong Kim et al., pp. 3-10.

John Gershman, and Alec Irwin. 2000. "Getting a Grip on the Global Economy." Dying for Growth, pp. 11-43.

Optional readings:

Merrill Singer and Hans Baer. 1995. Critical Medical Anthropology.

Hans A. Baer, Merrill Singer, and Ida Susser. 1997. Medical Anthropology and the World System: A Critical Perspective.

Week 12 (Nov. 15 and 17)

B. Nervous hunger and child death in Brazil: the political economy of bodily suffering and deprivation

Nancy Scheper-Hughes. 1992. Death Without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil. (chapters 5-9, 12)

Week 13 (Nov. 22; no class Nov. 24—Thanksgiving)

C. Int'l public health interventions: Case study

Arthur Kleinman, "A Critique of Objectivity in International Health." Writing at the Margin, pp. 68-92.

Lane and Rubinstein, "International Health: Problems and Programs in Anthropological Perspective." Sargent and Johnson, Ch. 19.

Michele Rivkin-Fish. 2005. Women's Health in Post-Soviet Russia: The Politics of Intervention (Indiana U Press).

Week 14 (Nov. 29 and Dec. 1)

I will accept rough drafts of final papers for review.

Continue Rivkin-Fish, plus Students' choice

Week 15 (Dec. 6 and 8)

Presentations of research paper highlights

Research Papers due December 13.