COURSE SYLLABUS
MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
ANT 3462 - U01. Spring 2014
Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 to 4:45. MMC Charles Perry 424.
Florida International University
Version of January 7, 2014

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Medical anthropology is concerned with human life and wellness. This course is a comparative study of the affects of culture on disease and health care. It stresses the importance of social and cultural factors in governing the type and frequency of disease in a population, the way people explain and treat disease, the way people adapt to changing environments, and the manner in which persons respond and relate to the delivery of modern medicine.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: What you should be able to do on completion of this course.
1. Explain the importance of "culture" in governing the type and frequency of disease in a population.
2. Analyze the social and cultural basis for current health issues and disparities.
3. Identify the unique health beliefs and practices of ethnic communities.
4. Describe the responsibilities of health professionals to provide health services in a culturally appropriate manner.
5. Appraise various medical anthropology careers.

REQUIRED BOOKS:

Erickson, Pamela

Manderson, Lenore, and Carolyn Smith-Morris, Editors
2010 Chronic Conditions, Fluid States: Chronicity and the Anthropology of Illness.

McElroy, Ann, and Patricia K. Townsend
2008 Medical Anthropology in Ecological Perspective.

Instructor
Dennis Wiedman, Ph.D. Anthropologist
Associate Professor. Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies
Office: University Park SIPA 327. 305-348-2262
Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:00 to 4:00, or by appointment.
Email: wiedmand@fiu.edu  Web Page: www.fiu.edu/~wiedmand
Email communication should be within Blackboard. I try to respond within three days.

Teaching Assistant: Baishakhy Hazra. Graduate student on Global and Sociocultural Studies. Best way to communicate is with Blackboard: messages.
WEB ASSISTED COURSE MATERIALS – Blackboard.
Specific information for course assignments is posted in Blackboard throughout the semester.
Blackboard supports the student learning experience with related readings, web page links, study aids, discussions, emails, and extra credit exercises. Student computers need Mozilla Foxfire, MS Word, and Adobe Reader for pdf files.

Announcements: This is where the instructor communicates with the students.
   *It is important to read announcements as soon as they are posted.*
Email: Send emails to selected individuals using the drop down list.
   *Email the instructor only within Blackboard Email.*
Forums: Student discussions take place here on course topics.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
All course requirements must be completed in order to earn a passing grade. Each course requirement earns points as noted in the grade calculation section. Final grades are non-negotiable; letter grades are assigned based on the points earned.

1) Exams enable the student to demonstrate an understanding of the subject by focusing on class lectures, films, readings, and special presentations. Two exams and a final exam are scheduled. Exams are composed of matching, multiple choice, true & false, word identifications, essays, etc. Legitimate reasons for not taking an exam at the scheduled time must be approved by the instructor prior to that date. Failure to take an exam at the scheduled time will result in a letter grade reduction from the achieved score.

2) Group Chapter Presentation: To enhance the learning experience discussion of the Manderson & Smith book chapters are discussed by the whole class led by a group of students. Students assigned to each chapter form a group that develops a PowerPoint presentation containing questions that stimulate discussions and debates on critical points of the chapter. After the class discussion, a Peer-Evaluation form asks each student to assess the contributions of group members.

3) Exercises are in-class and out-of-class assignments that enable students to express their perspectives, course comprehension and research abilities while demonstrating their writing and presentation skills. Most are questions or short essays. Best scores are awarded for perfect punctuation, format and logic. If you miss an in-class exercise, a written note from a health practitioner is required in order not to receive reduced points.

Classroom Etiquette: During class time cell phones and text messaging must be turned off and out of sight. Class discussions demonstrate the student's interest in the course, understanding of the materials, as well as critical thinking and verbal skills. Active, courteous and informed participation is highly desired.

Attendance: In order to succeed in this course, students are expected to attend every class. Avoid arriving late or leaving early since this disrupts the presentation and student concentration. Course materials, exercises and discussions presented in class are the responsibility of the student. In-class exercises are designed to promote attendance.
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Style and Format: All written assignments, both electronic or printed, **MUST** be in the format and style used by the *American Anthropologist*. Style guidelines are available in Blackboard:Course Materials, “Writing Papers in the Style of the American Anthropologist.” Use MS Word, double space using 1 inch top, bottom, and side margins. Use Times Roman 12 point font. Do not use footnotes. Single space the “References Cited” section which immediately follows the text. Do not use separate cover page. Place topic of paper, student name, and date single-spaced on top of first page. Name should appear on the top right of each page. Bottom center page numbers. For printed papers, simply staple pages together, do not use a binder or fancy cover.

Timeliness: Printed exercises and essays are due within 10 minutes of the beginning of the class on the due date; electronic versions are due in Blackboard:Submissions one hour before the beginning of class. Papers received before midnight of the scheduled day receive a half letter grade less than earned, thereafter they receive a letter grade reduction for each week it is late. Written assignments will not be accepted after two weeks of the deadline. **When both printed and electronic versions are required, both are necessary in order to receive a grade.** The last dates to submit extra credits and late assignments are posted in the course schedule below.

Turnitin.com: Designated out-of-class exercises and course papers must be submitted through Blackboard into Turnitin.com. This University sponsored service improves student writing by preventing plagiarism and provides rich feedback.

Academic Ethics
It is strictly prohibited to submit as one's own work any material produced by other persons, by a professional research agency, or the Internet. It is considered “plagiarism” to not cite the sources of your information. All sources must be identified with in-text citations and in a “References Cited” section using the style of the American Anthropologist. Written exercises and papers must be submitted to Blackboard:Submissions using Turnitin for an assessment of originality. Student’s who violate these principles could receive a grade of “F” for the course. The instructor has the authority to consider academic misconduct charges that carry considerable penalties. Please consult the University student handbook for further information on plagiarism and its consequences.

Optional Ways to Get a Better Grade
Students who want to ensure a better grade can 1) write an optional course essay and, if you care to, 2) produce a PowerPoint presentation based on this research. The instructor then invites selected students to 3) present their PowerPoint research before the class.

1) Optional Essay: A 5 to 10 page essay demonstrates your skills in research analysis and writing on a medical anthropology. A one to two-page proposal that includes your topic, selected articles, and a “References Cited” section in AA style must be submitted by the scheduled date. Submit written version in class and electronic version in Blackboard:Submissions. Changing topics requires resubmission of a new proposal. Proposal and essay are worth up to 10 extra points. Both must be submitted to receive points. Use of web pages must be justified as authoritative sources for that specific information.

A) Health Culture: Essay about the health culture of an ethnomedical system such as Homeopathy, Naturopathy, Chinese medicine, Ayurvedic medicine, Santeria, Voodun. Rootwork, Christian Science, Chiropracty, Osteopathy, or a specific specialty within Allopathy, etc. Provide the explanatory models, healer roles, techniques, organizations, material items, etc.
B) *Medical Anthropology Topic:* Essay based on at least two research articles published in the past seven years in the journals “Medical Anthropology Quarterly,” or “Medical Anthropology.” Describe the anthropological perspectives and methods used.

C) *Medical Anthropology Career:* Essay on the publications and career of a single medical anthropologist. Research the type of career opportunities and professional organizations that support this type of work. Describe the ways to identify internet job opportunities in this employment area.

2) **Optional PowerPoint for students completing Optional Research Essay**
Students doing a career essay can produce a PowerPoint Presentation based on their research. Provide the instructor with the PowerPoint presentation via Blackboard:Submissions. Submitting a PowerPoint is a commitment to present it to the class if selected. Be sure to reduce the pixel size of the graphic images so that the file is not too large to submit via Blackboard. CDs or thumb drives are not acceptable given the chance for viruses.

3) **Optional PowerPoint Presentation before the class:** The Instructor will preview the PowerPoints submitted and invite selected students to present their work to the class.

4) **Optional Events:** Attend course related activities, exhibits, places, etc. Write a 1-2 page essay on a specific aspect related to course topic. Must be approved in advance by the instructor. Submit written version in class and electronic version in Blackboard:Submissions within one week of the event.

**COURSE POINTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three Exams 20, 20, 20 pts</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Chapter Presentation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercises **</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
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</tbody>
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Optional: *Earn points up to:*
- Proposal & Essay: 10
- PowerPoint Presentation: 3
- Presentation to Class: 5
- Events (usually 1 point each): 1
- **Grand Total** 119

**FINAL GRADE CALCULATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95 – 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 94.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 – 86.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 83.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74 – 76.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 73.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 – 69.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64 – 66.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60 – 63.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 or less</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Grand Total Points**

- A: 95 – 100
- A-: 90 – 94.9
- B+: 87 – 89.9
- B: 84 – 86.9
- B-: 80 – 83.9
- C+: 77 – 79.9
- C: 74 – 76.9
- C-: 70 – 73.9
- D+: 67 – 69.9
- D: 64 – 66.9
- D-: 60 – 63.9
- F: 59 or less

**At the end of the semester the total number of points for the Exercises may be more or less than the Course Points. Exercise points are calculated using the following formula:**

\[(A \div B) \times C = D\]

**COURSE AND READING SCHEDULE**

Readings are to be completed by class meeting. Group chapter and health culture presentations will be scheduled in class. Modifications discussed in class and posted in Blackboard:Week by Week supersede this schedule.

**Week One: January 7 & 9**
- Introductions and Course Overview
- Presentation: Medical Anthropology Defined
- Ecology of Health and Disease. McElroy & Townsend - Chapter 1
- Erickson – Chapter 1

**Exercise: Student Who’s Who** posted in Blackboard: Discussions a hour before class Thursday, January 9.
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Week Two: January 14 & 16
Presentation: Health Disparities, Inequalities, and Structural Violence
Interdisciplinary Research in Health Problems. McElroy & Townsend - Chapter 2
Manderson & Smith - Introduction

Week Three: January 21 & 23
Presentation: Health Ecology of Populations
Genes, Culture and Adaptation. McElroy & Townsend - Chapter 3
Manderson & Smith – Chapter 1

Week Four: January 28 & 30
Presentation: Health Ecology Continued
Changing Patterns of Disease and Death. McElroy & Townsend - Chapter 4
Manderson & Smith - Chapter 2

Week Five: February 4 & 6
Presentation: Sociocultural Development & Health – Hunters and Gatherers
Ecology and Economics of Nutrition. McElroy & Townsend - Chapter 5
Manderson & Smith – Chapter 3
Exam 1: Thursday, February 6.

Week Six: February 11 & 13
Presentation: H&G Continued
Culture, Ecology and Reproduction. -- McElroy & Townsend - Chapter 6
Erickson – Chapter 2
Manderson & Smith – Chapter 4

Week Seven: February 18 & 20
Presentation: Development & Health from Horticulture to Globalization
Stress, Illness and Healing. -- McElroy & Townsend - Chapter 7
Erickson – Chapter 3
Manderson & Smith – Chapter 5

Week Eight: February 25 & 27
Presentation: Horticulture to Globalization Continued
Health Resources in Changing Cultures. -- McElroy & Townsend - Chapter 8
Erickson – Chapter 4
Manderson & Smith – Chapter 6
Optional Course Essay Proposal.  Post in Blackboard:Submissions an hour before class.
Printed version within 10 minutes of beginning of class. Thursday, Feb 27.

Week Nine: March 4 & 6
Presentation: Development of American Health Systems
Costs and Benefits of Development. -- McElroy & Townsend - Chapter 9
Erickson – Chapter 5, and Manderson & Smith – Chapter 7

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March 11 & 13 – Spring Break – No Classes

Week Ten: March 18 & 20
Presentation: Allopathy
Medical Anthropologists at Work: Meeting the Challenges of the 21st-First Century. -- McElroy & Townsend - Chap 10
Manderson & Smith – Chapter 8
Exam 2: Thursday, March 20.
Week Eleven: March 25 & 27
Presentation: Allopathy Continued
Manderson & Smith – Chapter 9

Week Twelve: April 1 & 3
Presentation: Culturally Competent Care and Community Empowerment
Manderson & Smith – Chapter 10
Group Health Culture Presentations

Week Thirteen: April 8 & 10
Presentation: Healing and Health Systems
Manderson & Smith – Chapter 11
Group Health Culture Presentations
  Student Optional Essay and Power Point Presentation: Post in Blackboard: Submissions an hour before class.
  Printed essay version within 10 minutes of beginning of class. Thursday, April 10.
  Deadline for all extra credits. April 10.

Week Fourteen – April 15 & 17
Presentation: World Theory of Disease, Presentation: Culturally Competent Organizations.
Manderson & Smith – Afterward
Group Health Culture Presentations
  Student Optional Presentations

Week Fifteen – April 24
  Student Optional Presentations
  Final Exam Thursday, April 24. 12:00 to 2:00.