Introduction to Medical Anthropology
ANTH 162

Winter 2016
M,W 2-3:20pm
182 LIL

Professor: Dr. Sara Lewis
Office hours: Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30pm
and by appointment
356 Condon
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GTF: Jonathan Turbin
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Office hours: Mon 3:30-4:30; Thurs 12-1

James Daria
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Office hours: Mon &Weds 12-1
All GTF office hours are in 365 Condon

Course Description:

This course asks: how is health at once a biological, social, and historical fact? The field of medical anthropology aims to understand concepts of health and illness across cultures and over time. We will focus on contemporary issues in the United States as well as across the globe, and in particular how social inequality impacts health across populations. To better understand how social factors shape health and illness the course explores a variety of topics related to body and mind. The course pays special attention to how rapidly growing population changes and new technologies in an age of globalization shifts the burden of disease and generates new ethical quandaries. We will also investigate how different sorts of practitioners, including doctors, healers, shamans and mystics approach health and illness. This introductory course is highly interactive and is appropriate for anyone interested in medicine, culture, politics and society.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the role of culture in the experience and conceptualization of health and illness.
- Interpret how social factors shape the incidence and diagnosis of illness.
- Evaluate contemporary ethical quandaries related to medicine, technology and the body.
- Interrogate how social inequality produces health disparities.
- Explain how social theory generates new understandings of health and illness.

Course Expectations and Grades:

Quizzes (end of week 3 and 8), 5% each for a total of 10%
Midterm Exam (In Class, week 6), 25%
Final Exam (Take Home, due March 14), 30%
Discussion Section Exercises (5 total, pass/fail), 20%
Discussion Section Participation, 15%
Grades

Below is a rubric to help you understand grading in the Department of Anthropology. There is no extra credit.

A+: Quality of student’s performance significantly exceeds all requirements and expectations required for an A grade. Very few, if any, students receive this grade in a given course.

A: Quality of performance is outstanding relative to that required to meet course requirements; demonstrates mastery of course content at the highest level.

B: Quality of performance is significantly above that required to meet course requirements; demonstrates mastery of course content at a high level.

C: Quality of performance meets the course requirements in every respect; demonstrates adequate understanding of course content.

D: Quality of performance is at the minimal level necessary to pass the course, but does not fully meet the course requirements; demonstrates a marginal understanding of course content.

F: Quality of performance in the course is unacceptable and does not meet the course requirements; demonstrates an inadequate understanding of course content.

Late and Incomplete Work

Please notify Professor Lewis in advance if you are unable to take an exam or submit an assignment. Make-up exams and extensions will not be granted without a documented excuse, such as a written note from your doctor.

Accommodations

Please contact Professor Lewis during the first week of the term should you require accommodations.

Class Culture

The culture of this class is based on mutual respect, decorum, and a sense of openness and curiosity. You may use laptop computers and tablets as you see fit, however please be sure to bring a pencil and paper to every class, which we will use for in-class exercises. Lectures will be highly interactive and students will be called upon at random. Members of the class are welcome and encouraged to email the professor and the GTF with questions. However, you may be redirected to attend office hours should your question require a more involved response.
Academic Honesty

The following actions may result in disciplinary action according to the university’s academic honesty policies:
--Evidence of collusion when expected to submit individual work (working with someone else).
--Evidence of plagiarism (using someone else’s work without proper citation).
--Multiple submissions (submitting the same paper for more than one class).

Course Readings:

Articles are uploaded to Canvas.

You are required to purchase one book, which you can find at the UO Bookstore: Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States, by Seth Holmes.

WEEK ONE: Introduction


WEEK TWO: Shamans, Healers and Magic


Optional reading on ayahuasca by Professor Lewis: “Ayahuasca and Spiritual Crisis.”

Film: Robert Lemelson’s The Bird Dancer, 38 mins. Elemental Productions. (screened in class)


DUE: Discussion Section Exercise #1 (Film Critic-Style Review)
WEEK THREE: Health, Race and Inequality


**In-Class Quiz, Wednesday January 20**

WEEK FOUR: Health, Race and Inequality Con’t


**Guest Speaker, Dr. Heather McClure on the Latino Health Paradox**

DUE: Discussion Section Exercise #2 (Brainstorm questions for mid-term)

WEEK FIVE: Global Care


DUE: Discussion Section Exercise #3 (Defining key concepts)

WEEK SIX: Medicine, Technology and Ethics
2/8 **In-Class Midterm**


WEEK SEVEN: Gender/Sexuality


DUE: Exercise #4: “Trigger Warnings” assignment

WEEK EIGHT: Global HIV/AIDS


**In-Class Quiz, Wednesday Feb 24**

WEEK NINE: Aging, Death, and Palliative Care


DUE: Exercise #5: Death With Dignity assignment

**Guest speaker will join us to talk about end-of-life care in Oregon**

WEEK TEN: Culture and Mental Health


**Final Exam, Tuesday March 15, Submitted to Canvas by 11:59pm**

**Due:** Tuesday, March 14 by 11:59pm, submitted to Canvas. (Click on final exam prompt under Assignments and you will see where to upload the paper, which needs to be in MS Word or PDF format). If you do not submit in these formats it will not upload. Be sure to leave yourself enough time for submission: internet problems or computer glitches will not excuse you from the deadline unless there is a documented network problem on campus.

**Prompt:** Drawing on what you learned in this course you will respond to 6 out of 8 short answer questions. Exams that earn high marks will articulate an argument and use course readings as evidence to support claims. You may reflect on lecture, films, and discussion section to guide you, but your evidence should come directly from course readings. Please use one citation style, such as AAA, APA, MLA or Chicago that includes internal citations and a bibliography. Responses should be approximately 300 words. Longer answers are not necessarily better answers.

**Assessment:** This paper is worth 30% of your grade; for every day late you will lose 1/3 a letter grade (e.g. if you earn a B it becomes a B-) . No late papers will be accepted after June 12. Exams are graded on the following rubric:

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<tr>
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<th>F-D grades</th>
<th>C-B grades</th>
<th>B-A grades</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mastery of course material</strong></td>
<td>0-4 points: inadequate understanding of key concepts</td>
<td>5-7 points: acceptable demonstration of key concepts</td>
<td>8-10 points: excellent demonstration of key concepts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Strength of argument</strong></td>
<td>0-1 points: none or very weak argument</td>
<td>2-3 points: an argument is articulated</td>
<td>4-5 points: strong and persuasive argument</td>
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<td><strong>Quality of evidence</strong></td>
<td>0-4 point: little or no use of sources</td>
<td>5-7 points: adequate use of sources to support argument</td>
<td>8-10 points: excellent use sources to support argument</td>
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<td><strong>Bibliography and Citations</strong></td>
<td>0-1 point: no internal citations or bibliography</td>
<td>2-3 points: internal citations or bibliography present but incorrect</td>
<td>4-5 points: references cited correctly</td>
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**Support:** Writing and conducting research are fundamental skills you will learn at the University of Oregon. There are a number of campus resources to help you successfully complete this assignment. Both Professor Lewis and the GTFs are available to clarify questions, but we will not provide answers or “check” any responses in advance. For help with citing sources or developing strong arguments you can visit the Teaching and Learning Center: http://tlc.uoregon.edu/subjects/writing/

**Academic Integrity:** Please revisit the syllabus and read through the academic honesty section. You are expected to write your exam alone and not in collaboration with other students. The plagiarism detection built into Canvas will detect whether students submit the same or similar responses, so please do not put yourself in that situation. It is a good idea to leave yourself plenty of time to submit and run through the plagiarism software to ensure that you have not mistakenly plagiarized any sources.