Anthropology 227.001 Winter 2014

Introduction to Medical Anthropology

Instructor
Dr. Vinay R. Kamat
Class: Tue, Thu, Fri 14:00 p.m. to 15:30 p.m.
Woodward (IRC), Room 6
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Course Description
This is an introductory course in medical anthropology which includes the study of health, illness and healing from a cross-cultural perspective. The course examines aspects of health and illness from a biocultural perspective. In reading ethnographic materials from Western and non-Western settings, we will explore how medical anthropologists creatively use different theoretical and methodological approaches to understand and highlight how health, illness and healing practices are culturally constructed and mediated. The case studies and other required readings will help us learn to appreciate the contribution of medical anthropology to the study of international public health problems including specific life-threatening diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Topics covered by this course include cultural interpretations of sickness and healing, medical systems as social systems, medical pluralism, belief and ethnomedical systems, medical decision making, social relations of therapy management, cultural construction of efficacy and “side-effects,” pharmaceuticalization of health, explanatory models, cultural competence, narrative representation of illness, biopolitics, the body and debate surrounding female genital mutilation/cutting, the political economy of HIV/AIDS in Africa, structural violence and social suffering, the New Genetics and social stigma.

The course is mainly organized around a series of interrelated journal articles and book chapters. The required textbook Silent Violence: Global Health, Malaria, and Child Survival in Tanzania by Vinay Kamat (2013) is available at the UBC bookstore, online, and on the reserve shelf under ANTH 227.001 at the Koerner Library. Relevant articles and chapters (excluding the textbook) will be available on Connect.

Exams and Grading
Your final grade will be determined by in-class exams, a mini-ethnography project (details will be announced in the first week), and class participation which includes regular, punctual class attendance, and a group class presentation.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Type</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>Tuesday, September 30</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mini-Ethnography</td>
<td>Thursday, November 27</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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Details

Exams and Grading
Your final grade will be determined by a Mid-Term Exam (true/false, multiple choice, and two short essays worth 2 ½ points each), a Final Exam (in class, true/false, multiple choice worth 20 points and two essays worth 10 points each; both essays should each be 3-4 pages max, handwritten, double-spaced), Class Participation (regular, punctual attendance, group class presentations/discussions), and a Mini-Ethnography on a topic negotiated with the instructor. The mid-term exam will be relatively easy for those who have done the assigned readings, for those who have attended the lectures, and for those who have actively participated in class discussions. For the final exam, you will be given several study essay questions two weeks in advance of the final exam date. Of these study essay questions, three questions will appear on the exam, and you will be asked to answer any two of the three essay questions. As such, you will have the opportunity to develop your final exam essays over several days by integrating assigned readings, lectures, library research, videos shown in class, and perhaps your own fieldwork experience.

Mini Ethnography
This project entails writing an essay that draws on the data you personally collected by engaging in 4-6 hours of “fieldwork” depending on the nature of your project. We will discuss the specific details of this assignment in class sometime after the first mid-term exam. The length of your write-up should be 6-7 pages (typed, double-spaced).

Guidelines for the mini-ethnography will be given to you, with examples, during the first week of October 2014. A one-page (double-spaced) outline/abstract of your mini-ethnography is due three weeks before the last day of class, via email. You will receive preliminary comments and suggestions from the instructor on your proposed mini-ethnography within three days after you have emailed your outline/abstract.

Class Participation
This is a significant portion of your grade, and it is measured in various ways. Most importantly it includes keeping up with your readings and thoughtful contributions to class discussions; therefore regular, punctual class attendance is very important. Repeated absences will adversely affect your grade. There is a fair amount of dense reading to do for this course! Everyone is expected to have read the week’s readings before class. We will be dividing the class into small reading and discussion groups. Also, we will spend Week 8 and 9 on group class presentations/discussions. Details regarding the format, expectations, and points assigned, will be conveyed to you in class during week 5.

Policies
All papers must be turned in on time. Only hard copies of all your assignments are accepted. Please submit all your assignments to your TA or drop them in the assignments drop box placed outside the Main Office of the Anthropology and Sociology building, on or before the deadline date. Please use the electronic date stamp machine next to the drop box to put a date on all your assignments. Assignments submitted as email attachments will NOT be accepted. In fairness to all students who have met the deadline, late papers will be marked down by half a letter grade for every day they are late, with exceptions made only for severe illness or emergency. If
extraordinary circumstances prevail that make it impossible for you to meet a deadline, please contact me as soon as possible (prior to turning in late work for review). Deferrals and incompletes will be given only in accordance with UBC policy as set forth in the catalogue. Unless you are already familiar with UBC’s Office of Equity and its policies, I would urge you to do so. Also please revisit UBC’s policy on plagiarism. And for grading practices, please familiarize yourself with UBC’s GRADING PRACTICES AND STANDARDS at: http://www.arts.ubc.ca/doa/grades.htm. If you have any specific questions or concerns regarding grading policies etc., please do not hesitate to ask me.

General Schedule/Topics

1. Week 1 (Sept 2/4) Medical Anthropology: An Overview and Key Concepts
2. Week 2 (Sept 9/11) Sickness and Healing in Cross-cultural Context
3. Week 3 (Sept 16/18) Therapy Management in Cross-cultural Context
5. Week 5 (Sept 30/Oct 2) Anthropology of the Body
6. Week 6 (Oct 7/9) Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting – The Debate
7. Week 7 (Oct 14/16) Reproductive Health and New Reproductive Technologies
8. Week 8 (Oct 21/23) Survival Sex, Real Sex and Risk of HIV Infection
9. Week 9 (Oct 28/30) Anthropology of Pharmaceuticals
10. Week 10 (Nov 4/6) Structural Violence and Social Suffering
11. Week 11 (Nov 11/13) Structural Violence and Social Suffering cont’d…
13. Week 13 (Nov 25/27) The New Genetics – to Tell or Not to Tell
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Required Readings and Lecture Schedule

Week 1. Medical Anthropology: An Overview and Key Concepts

*Tuesday, September 02, 2014*

Introduction and necessary preliminaries: overview of the course, syllabus, instructor’s and students’ expectations.

Brown, Peter J., Ronald L. Barrett, and Mark B. Padilla

*Thursday, September 04, 2014*

Csordas, Thomas J.

Pfeiffer, James and Mark Nichter

Week 2. Sickness and Healing in Cross-cultural Context

*Tuesday, September 09, 2014*

O'Neil, John D.

*Thursday, September 11, 2014*

Rekdal, Ole Bjorn

Kamat, Vinay

Week 3. Therapy Management in Cross-cultural Context

*Tuesday, September 16, 2014*

Nichter, Mark

*Thursday, September 18, 2014*

Castle, Sarah E.

Rebhun, Linda Anne
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Week 4. Illness Narratives
Tuesday, September 23, 2014
Hunt, Linda M.

Thursday, September 25, 2014
Kamat, Vinay

Week 5. Anthropology of the Body
Tuesday, September 30, 2014

Mid-Term Exam

Thursday, October 02, 2014
Scheperr-Hughes, Nancy and Margaret Lock
Lock, Margaret, and Patricia Kaufert
Pual, Sweetman

Week 6. Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting – The Debate
Tuesday, October 07, 2014
Obermeyer, Carla Makhlouf
1999 Female genital surgeries: The known, the unknown, and the unknowable. Medical Anthropology Quarterly 13:79-106.
Mackie, Gery
2003 Female Genital Cutting: Harmless Practice? Medical Anthropology Quarterly 17(2):135-158.
Obermeyer, Carla Makhlouf

Thursday, October 9, 2014
Bell, Kirsten
Gruenbaum, Ellen
Week 7. Reproductive Health and New Reproductive Technologies
Tuesday October 14, 2014
Lazarus, Ellen S.

Inhorn, Marcia C.

Thursday, October 16, 2014
Kahn, Susan Martha

Week 8. Survival Sex, Real Sex and Risk of HIV Infection
Tuesday, October 21, 2014
Wojcicki, Janet Maia
2002 "She drank his money": Survival sex and the problem of violence in taverns in Gauteng Province, South Africa. Medical Anthropology Quarterly 16(3):267-293.

Gysels, Marjolein, Robert Pool and Betty Nnalusiba

Thursday, October 23, 2014
Lockhart, Chris

Lockhart, Chris
2008 The life and death of a street boy in East Africa: Everyday violence in the time of AIDS. Medical Anthropology Quarterly 22(1):94-115

Week 9. Anthropology of Pharmaceuticals
Tuesday, October 28, 2014
Van der Geest, Sjaak, and Susan Reynolds Whyte

Etkin, Nina L.

Thursday, October 30, 2014
Kamat, Vinay

Week 10. Structural Violence and Social Suffering
Tuesday, November 04, 2014
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Nations, Marilyn K, and Christina G. Monte
1996 "I'm not dog, no!": Cries of resistance against cholera control campaigns. Social Science and Medicine 43:1007-1024.

Briggs, Charles and Clara Mantini-Briggs

Thursday, November 06, 2014
Adelson, Naomi

Kleinman, Arthur

Week 11. Structural Violence and Social Suffering cont…
Tuesday, November 11, 2014
NO CLASS – REMEMBRANCE DAY

Thursday, November 13, 2014
Farmer, Paul

Kamat, Vinay

Week 12. The Global Politics of Organ Transplants
Tuesday, November 18, 2014
Lock, Margaret

Schepers-Hughes, Nancy

Thursday, November 20, 2014 The New Genetics – to Tell of Not to Tell
Finkler, Kaja, Cecile Skrzynia, and James P. Evans
2003 The new genetics and its consequences for family, kinship, medicine and medical
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Week 13. The New Genetics – to Tell of Not to Tell cont…
Tuesday, November 25, 2014
Rapp, Rayna

Thursday, November 27, 2014
Press, Nancy, Susan Reynolds, Linda Pinsky, Vinaya Murthy, Michael Leo, and Wylie Burke
2005 'That's like chopping off a finger because you're afraid it might get broken': Disease and illness in women's views of prophylactic mastectomy. Social Science & Medicine, 61(5), 1106.

SUMMING UP Last Day of Class
ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE including Mini Ethnography!!

Final Exam Date to be Announced
Recommended Readings
(Available with the Instructor)

Week 1. Medical Anthropology: An Overview and Key Concepts
Hahn, Robert A.
Leslie, Charles M.

Week 2. Sickness and Healing in Cross-cultural Context
Garro, Linda C.
Hahn, Robert A.
Simons, Ronald C. and Charles C. Hughes

Week 3. Therapy Management in Cross-cultural Context
Janzen, John M.
Janzen, John M.
Price, Laurie

Week 4. Illness Narratives
Mattingly, Cheryl, and Linda C. Garro, eds.
Miczo, Nathan
2003 Beyond the "fetishism of words": Considerations on the use of the interview to gather chronic illness narratives. Qualitative Health Research 13(4):469-490.

Week 5. Anthropology of the Body
Csordas, Thomas J.
Gregg, Jessica L.

Gordon, Deborah

Gurevich, Maria, Scott Bishop, Jo Bower, Monika Malka, Joyce Nyhof-Young
2004 (Dis)embodying gender and sexuality in testicular cancer. Social Science and Medicine 58:1597-1607.

Kaufert, Patricia A.

Kaufert, Patricia A.

Lock, Margaret, and Patricia Kaufert

Martin, Emily

Martin, Emily

Nichter, Mimi

**Week 6. Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting – The Debate**

Gruenbaum, Ellen

Jones, Heidi, Nafissatou Diop, Ian Askew, Inoussa Kabore

Larsen, Ulla, and Sharon Yan

Shell-Duncan, Bettina, Walter obungu Obiero, and and Leunita Auko Muruli

Shell-Duncan, Bettina, and Ylva Hernlund, eds.
2000 Female "Circumcision" in Africa: Culture, Controversy, and Change. Boulder:
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Lynne Rienner Publishers.

**Week 7. Reproductive Health and New Reproductive Technologies**

Handwerker, Lisa


Inhorn, Marcia C., and Frank van Balen, eds.


O'Neil, John D, and Patricia Leyland Kaufert


**Week 8. Survival Sex, Real Sex and Risk of HIV Infection**

Abdool, Karim Salim S.


Dunkle Kristin L, Rachel K. Jewkes, Heather C. Brown, Glenda E. Gray, James A. McIntyre, & Sioban D. Harlow


Gisselquist David, et al.


Green, Gill, Robert Pool, Susan Harrison, Graham J. Hart, Joanie Wilkinson, Stella Nyanzi, James A.G. Whithworth

2001 Female control of sexuality: illusion or reality? Use of vaginal products in south west Uganda. Social Science and Medicine 52:585-598.

Kaler, Amy


Koenig, Michael A, Tom Lutalo, et al.


Liddell, Christine, Louise Barrett, and Moya Bydawell


Lowy, Ilana

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Press.
Lupton, Deborah
Manjate, Rosa
Marlene, Rachel Chapman, and Julie Cliff
McIntyre, and Sioban D. Harlow
Oppong, Joseph R. and Ezekiel Kalipeni
Poku, Nana K.
Poku, Nana K.
Putzel James
Schiller, Nina Glick, Stephen Crystal, and Denver Lewellen
1994 Risky business: The cultural construction of AIDS risk groups. Social Science and Medicine, 38(10), 1337-1346.
Schneider, Helen
Schoepf, Brooke Grundfest
Whiteside, Alan
Zierler, Sally, and Nancy Krieger

Week 9. Anthropology of Pharmaceuticals
Appadurai, Arjun
Heywood, Mark  

Humphrey, Charlotte  

Kamat, Vinay, and Mark Nichter  

Kamat, Vinay  
2009 Cultural interpretations of the efficacy and side effects of antimalarials in Tanzania. Anthropology and Medicine 16(3):293-305.

Lexchin, Joel  

Lexchin, Joel  

Nichter, Mark, and Nancy Vuckovic  

Week 10. Structural Violence and Social Suffering

Kohrt, Brandon A, et al.  

Week 11. Structural Violence and Social Suffering cont…

Jones, James  

Kleinman, Arthur, and Joan Kleinman  

Lee, Shirley, and Avis Mysyk  
2004 The medicalization of compulsive buying. Social Science and Medicine 58:1709-1718.

Long, Elizabeth Valk  

Nichter, Mark  
1998 The mission within the madness: Self-initiated medicalization as expression of agency. In Pragmatic Women and Body Politics. Margaret M. Lock and Patricia A.
Week 12. The Global Politics of Organ Transplants

Das, Veena

Joralemon, Donald

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy

Week 12 – 13. The New Genetics – to Tell of Not to Tell

Petersen, Allan

Rapp, Rayna
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Guidelines for Mini Ethnography

This assignment involves you assuming the role of a student medical anthropologist and actually doing “fieldwork” and reporting on your experience. The main goal of this exercise is to enable you to connect your fieldwork experience with some of the key concepts in medical anthropology that we have been discussing in this course. Please make sure to write your observational “fieldnotes” in a diary (a note book). Your notes can be “dialogic” in that you can take down notes in the first person and use “quotations” and dialogues. Document the difficulties you experienced while carrying out this exercise -- the “travails” you experienced as a student medical anthropologist. Do you think your gender made a difference in how easy or how difficult it was for you to gather the data? Did you experience any discomfort when gathering the data? Did you become self-conscious? Did this assignment teach you anything about what it means to gather data as an anthropologist? Some of you may want to do this as a Pair-Share assignment along with another classmate. This is acceptable and even encouraged. Here are some possibilities for your ethnography project.

1. Engage in an informal conversation with someone who you know has been sick recently. Elicit information on the medical decision-making process that was involved in the sick person’s search for therapy. Identify the patient’s therapy management group. Who all were involved in negotiating the identity of the illness? Who made the most critical treatment-related decisions? Based on the data you gather, spell out the ways in which the “micropolitics” of therapy management might have been at work in the case at hand.

2. Facilitate a group discussion among your friends (preferably both male and female friends) surrounding the concept of “risk” and address the following questions in your writeup: How do people see the concept of “risk” affecting their lives? What are some of the ways in which people deal with “risk” and experience it in everyday life? What risks do people consider most threatening or important to themselves and to members of the society in which they live? What are some of the popular notions and personal experiences of “risk,” “risk taking,” and “risk avoidance?” What are some of the positive and the negative meanings that may be ascribed to risk and risk-taking? What kinds of risks do people chose to take or avoid, and why? What are some of the actions they take to avoid risk? What are some of the deliberate and voluntary risk-taking in which they might engage?

3. Watch a few “weight loss” TV commercials, describe them in brief, reflect on the hype surrounding such commercials, and the consequences you think these commercials have in terms of “behavioral change” among potential customers. Follow this up by going to a restaurant/(SUB for example, hang out there for a couple of hours, make some detailed observations about the kinds of foods people/students/friends order/eat. Then talk to your friends, engage in an informal group discussion and/or simply “listen” to “fat talk” (dieting, calories, weight watching, etc.,) among your women and men friends. What differences do you see in the ways in which men and women respond to the hype surrounding weight?
Additional Points

If you think your observations or activities might be obtrusive, obtain permission of those in charge. **Important:** You should NOT “interview” any of the participants. Informal conversation is what you should aim for. Use of a tape recorder/video recorder for this exercise is a big NO NO. That would require us to go through a university ethical review process and involve consent forms, etc., a time consuming process. This is only an exercise. Treat it that way. All the data you gather is confidential. Use pseudonyms instead of proper names. Use pseudonyms. Most importantly, enjoy yourself, but don’t get into any trouble while doing this exercise! Pick up any literature that is available at the event that might be helpful, check out websites, etc, but NO NON-PUBLIC INFORMATION should be used in generating your fieldwork report. Your write-up should include (1) a clear statement of the research problem, (2) your conceptual/theoretical framework, (3) the methodology you followed, (4) a general description of what you found out (your findings), and (5) a conclusion in terms of your data analysis and your learning experience. Again, you may use first person language where appropriate in this assignment. If you are doing this as a Pair-Share, discuss any similarities and differences you can identify, and reflect on “why” the two of you arrived at similar or divergent conclusions.

Length: 6-7 pages max
Format: Typed, double-spaced, using standard fonts (Times New Roman 12 and one inch margins on each side).
Organization: You can organize this several ways:
1) Chronologically following the event from start to finish, but being sure to incorporate at least most of the issues listed above, or
2) Answer the various questions provided here in order.
Quoting: Ideally you should quote part of the event or from the literature available (websites, pamphlets, anything else). If you use a printed source, be sure to cite the source. If the quote is shorter than three lines, incorporate the quote into the text with “quotation marks” but if it is longer than three lines, offset and single-space.
Typos Edit your write-up thoroughly before turning it in. Excessive typos or grammatical errors will result in points deducted.

If you need any further clarifications regarding this assignment, or if you would like to discuss your preliminary ideas regarding the assignment, please do not hesitate to contact Vinay or your TA.

Good Luck!

Vinay