

CRITICAL ENGAGEMENTS WITH MEDICINE, SCIENCE AND THE BODY

...Medical anthropology has become our discipline's "London," a metropole where diverse voices engage in substantial matters of the day. Many of the central concerns of anthropology are clearly present in the issues we face – the role of the biological sciences as both instrumental reason and soteriology in contemporary civilizations; the efficacy of symbolic practices in the constitution of experience and the production and reproduction of social worlds; the human body as both the creative source of experience and the site of domination; and the efforts to place renewed understanding of human experience at the heart of [anthropology]. Byron Good in *Medicine, Rationality and Experience* (1994: 5).

In this course we will stride through Byron Good's "metropole", stopping along the route to explore the ways in which an anthropological lens offers ways to analyze the landscapes of medicine, science and the body. We will begin with a brief introduction to the discipline and then move quickly into some of medical anthropology's key theoretical orientations and contemporary issues. We end the course by asking, along with Good, about the role of the biological sciences as health promotion or salvation, or something else entirely, and, in the process, ask what role anthropology plays at the interface of medicine, science, the body and our social worlds.

Requirements:

1. Everyone is required to complete all assigned readings. (Interludes & Suggested Readings excluded.)
2. Each week a student will facilitate the discussion of that week's readings. Student facilitators are expected to prepare a brief summary statement and a list of questions or points to engage their fellow students in discussion around the readings.
3. Briefs (20%) - Best 2/3 short critical reviews of a week's readings (3 pages maximum per review). Reviews are to be submitted either prior to or on the day of that group of readings.
4. Final essay outline (5%) - 1 page summary and initial bibliography. ➔ DUE: **March 20, 2007**
5. Final essay (40%) (Approx. 20 pages of text) ➔ DUE: Date to be announced in class.
6. Facilitation and Participation (35%). See details below.

IMPORTANT - PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

The essential element of a successful graduate seminar is your active participation. That participation is made up of two key elements: 1) facilitating the discussion of the readings (we will prepare this schedule within the first 2 weeks of class) and, 2) active participation in seminar discussions. Each of these components will be evaluated weekly according to the following criteria:

Individual Participation Criteria

- Present at seminars
- Level of preparation (i.e. read required readings)
- Participation level (e.g. no, few, or active comments)
- Ability to discuss readings in seminar setting
- Ability to constructively critique readings
- Pertinence of comments to course content
- Ability to contextualize readings in relation to broader themes of the course

Facilitator Criteria

- Preparedness and thoroughness of summaries
- Level of critique of readings
- Ability to lead group discussion and engage classmates in discussion pertinent to course readings and themes
- Ability to respond to questions posed by classmates and/or professor

SYLLABUS (2007)

- Jan. 9 **Introduction to the Course**
- Jan. 16 **Introduction to Medical Anthropology**
 WHR Rivers, Medicine, Magic & Religion (excerpt)
 Lock & Scheper Hughes, A Critical-Interpretive Approach in
 Medical Anthropology
 Good, Medicine, Rationality and Experience, Chapters 2 & 3.
 Lock, Medical Anthropology: Intimations for the Future
 (Suggested Reading: **Lupton**, Medicine as Culture & Janzen,
 Social Fabric of Health, Gaines & Davis-Floyd, “On Biomedicine”
 (and other entries) in Encyclopedia of Medical Anthropology)
- Jan. 23 **Power & the Discursive Construction of (Medical) Bodies**
 Foucault, Power (selected writings)
 Foucault, The Crisis of Medicine or the Crisis of Anti-medicine
 (Suggested reading: **Butchart**, The Anatomy of Power, ch. 2)
- Jan. 30 **Foucault, Medicalization and the Body**
 Interlude: *The Wilderness Within (Gilders)*
 Midst Anthropology’s Problems (Rabinow)
 Rose, The Politics of Life Itself, ch. 1 & 2
 Lupton, Foucault and the Medicalisation Critique
 Sawicki, Disciplining Foucault
- Feb. 6 **Discourses at the Interface of Anthropology & Medicine**
 Interlude: *Welcome to Cancerland (Ehrenreich)*
 Lam, Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures (selected ch’s)
 Kleinman, Writing at the Margin (ch. 5 & 6)
 Mol, Pathology and the Clinic: An Ethnographic Presentation of
 Two Atheroscleroses
 DiGiacomo, Biomedicine as a Cultural System
 Fassin, The Politics of Life: Beyond the Anthropology of Health
- Feb. 13 **Reading Week – No Class**
- Feb. 20 **Anthropology at the Beginnings and Ends of Life**
 Interlude: *Touching the Corpse (Linke)*
 Kaufman and Morgan, The Anthropology of the Beginnings and
 Ends of Life
 Lock, Inventing a New Death and Making it Believable.
 Franklin, Stem Cells R Us
 Inhorn, “He Won’t Be My Son”

- Feb. 27 **Citizenship & The Bio-Technological Imaginary**
Interlude: Preponderance of the Virtual (Illich)
Rabinow, From Sociobiology to Biosociality
Rose & Novas, Biological Citizenship
Nahman, Materializing Israeliness
Busby & Martin, Biobanks, National Identity and Imagined Communities
- March 6 **Re-thinking Gender, Re-imagining the Body**
Rapp, Gender, Body, Biomedicine
Martin, Science and Women's Bodies
Einstein and Shildrick, The Post-Conventional Body
Lock, The Tempering of Medical Anthropology: Troubling Natural Categories
- March 13 **Narratives and Counter-Narratives of Indigenous Biologies**
Interlude: Love in the Time of Cholera
Duster, The Prism of Heritability and the Sociology of Knowledge
Harmon, DNA Gatherers Hit Snag
Harry and Dukepoo, Indians, Genes & Genetics
Mitchell, Sickening Bodies
Smith-Morris, Diagnostic Controversy: Gestational Diabetes and the Meaning of Risk for Pima Indian Women
- March 20 **Student Presentations of Research Paper Outlines**
Outlines DUE
- March 27 **HIV/AIDS, Inequity and the Politics of Metaphor**
Farmer, An Anthropology of Structural Violence
Nguyen, Antiretroviral Globalism, Biopolitics and Therapeutic Citizenship
Lindquist, Organising AIDS in a Borderless World
- April 3 **Post-Colonial Technoscience and the Globalizing Futures of Medical Anthropology**
Anderson, Postcolonial Technoscience
Adams, Randomized Controlled Crime: Post-Colonial Sciences in Alternative Medicine Research
Cohen, Where it Hurts: Indian Material for an Ethics of Organ Transplantation
Scheper-Hughes, The Last Commodity: Post-Human Ethics and the Global Traffic in "Fresh" Organs

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