

Disease, Health, & Inequality

ANTH 139

MWF
12-12:50PM

ROOM
HH 262

UC IRVINE
SPRING 2014



Course Description and Objectives

Health inequities are well documented both within the United States and around the world: life expectancy is over 86 years in Monaco and under 48 years in Sierra Leone (UN 2013); the infant mortality rate is 2 per 1,000 births in Iceland and 120 per 1,000 births in Mozambique (WHO). Within the United States, black Americans are likely to die four years earlier than white Americans, and diabetes is most common among black, Latino, and poor communities (CDC).

This course draws on critical medical anthropology to examine

the relationship among disease, health, and social inequality.

We begin with a discussion of U.S. and global health disparities and examine the various understandings of human difference that have been invoked to explain and often justify these disparities.

Next, we will discuss the embodiment of inequality and the social, economic, and political factors that affect both infectious and chronic disease around the world.

The course continues with a discussion of structural violence, the commodification of human bodies,

and the health effects of neoliberal economic policies, and ends with an examination of medicalized resistance to power and health as a human right.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Apply a critical medical anthropological perspective to the analysis of contemporary local, national, and global health inequities.
- Analyze the relationship between social organization, health policy, and health inequities.

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What's in the syllabus?

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Grading

Lecture Attend. & Participation	40 pts.
Midterm Exam	100 pts.
Reading Reflections	60 pts.
Research Paper	100 pts.
Final Exam	100 pts.
TOTAL	400 pts.

Grade Scale

A ≥ 374	A- ≥ 360	
B+ ≥ 346	B ≥ 334	B- ≥ 320
C+ ≥ 306	C ≥ 294	C- ≥ 280
D+ ≥ 266	D ≥ 254	D- ≥ 240
F ≤ 240		

Accommodations

The UCI Disability Services Center ensures access to educational programs and resources for all students. If you need an accommodation because of the impact of a disability, please contact the Center at 949-824-7494 or <http://disability.uci.edu/> and bring your faculty notification letter to me.

Course Requirements

Lecture Attendance & Participation (10% of grade)

Lectures are a main source of learning for the course. Please arrive to class on time and plan to stay for the entire session. There will be multiple activities throughout the quarter that are designed to give you an opportunity to apply the concepts we have been learning in class. These may include quizzes, short reflections, film viewing guides, or other activities. No make-up or late assignments will be accepted, although missing one activity will not have an effect on your grade.

If you must miss class, please check the website for copies of handouts and presentation slides, and ask another student for a copy of the notes.

Reading Reflections (15% of grade)

A collection of articles and book chapters designed to introduce you to the breadth of the anthropology of disease, health, and inequality are available electronically on the course website. Some readings are posted as .pdf documents and others include links to the UCI library's electronic holdings (please remember that you will need to use the UCI VPN to [access these from off-campus](#)).

Please complete the readings before the class session for which they are listed in the calendar. Written, 250-word reflections on weekly readings are required for at least **FOUR** weeks throughout the class. These reflections may respond to one or several of the assigned readings. They should not simply summarize the readings, but should offer critical comments and points for discussion.

Reflections should be posted to the course MessageBoard before the relevant class session. Reflections posted after this time will not receive credit. You are welcome to respond to other students' reflections or post additional thoughts and comments on the board.

Midterm and Final Exams (50% of grade)

There will be one in-class midterm and a final exam. Exams will contain objective, short answer, and essay questions related to material covered in assigned readings, lectures, and discussion sections. You will receive a study guide one week before each exam.

Make-up exams will only be permitted in extraordinary and well-documented situations.

Course Policies	Missed or late work	Grade appeals	Academic integrity
	<p>You are responsible for all material covered in lecture and discussion sections. Class activities can not be made up, but missing one lecture activity and one discussion session will not affect your grade.</p> <p>Make-up exams will only be given in extraordinary and well-documented situations.</p> <p>All other assignments will lose 5 points for each day of lateness (including weekends, holidays, etc.).</p>	<p>Your final grade is based on the total points you earned during the quarter (see pg. 2). No individual extra credit is given.</p> <p>Requests for an assignment regrade must be submitted in writing within 48 hours of receiving the grade. You must submit your original graded assignment and a detailed written explanation of how your work meets the requirements of the assignment/rubric.</p>	<p>Learning in this class depends on you completing all required assignments yourself.</p> <p>Violations of academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will result in no credit for the assignment, course failure, and/or referral for disciplinary action.</p> <p>For more information, please review UCI's policies on academic integrity.</p>

Course Requirements, cont.

Research Paper (25% of grade)

For this research project, choose any topic related to the study of disease, health, and inequality, whether it has been discussed in class or not.

Complete the project in two stages:

1. *Proposal (20 points)*: Write a 1-paragraph (~150 words) description of your research topic, and include the references for at least 3 scholarly sources you plan to use to begin research.
2. *Paper (80 points)*: Write a 1,200 word (~5 double-spaced pages plus a bibliography) paper analyzing and presenting your findings.

This project will be discussed more during class sessions and a grading rubric will be posted to the course website. Feel free to talk with the professor about your topic ideas, and remember that there are a variety of other resources available. The Anthropology Reference Librarian, Ms. Pauline Manaka, has developed an [online guide to Anthropology scholarship](#), and the [UCI Writing Center](#) offers drop-in peer consultations for students at any stage of the writing process.

Communication

If you have any questions not answered in this syllabus, please contact the Professor. It is best to visit office hours to speak in person.

Website

The course website can be found at <https://eee.uci.edu/14s/60300>. The website includes links to assigned readings, assignment information, lecture slides and handouts, and additional information about campus resources.

Course Schedule & Assignments (Changes to this schedule may be made as necessary).

TOPIC	DATE	WHAT TO READ	WHAT'S DUE?
Week 1: Introduction to the Course	Mon, 3/31	No readings.	
	Wed, 4/2	Singer, Merrill et al. 1992. "Why Does Juan Garcia Have a Drinking Problem? The Perspective of Critical Medical Anthropology." <i>Medical Anthropology</i> 14:77-108.	
	Fri, 4/4	Carter-Pokras, Olivia and Claudia Baquet. 2002. "What is a 'health disparity'?" <i>Public Health Reports</i> 117:426-434.	
Week 2: Making Sense of Health Disparities	Mon, 4/7	Goodman, Alan. 2000. "Why Genes Don't Count (for Racial Differences in Health)." <i>Am J of Public Health</i> 90(11):1699-1702.	
	Wed, 4/9	Chavez, Leo et al. 1999. "Ethnography and Breast Cancer Control among Latinas and Anglo Women in Southern California." Pg. 117-141 in <i>Anthropology in Public Health</i> . Robert A. Hahn, ed.	
	Fri, 4/11	Good, Mary-Jo DelVecchio et al. 2002. "The Culture of Medicine and Raical, Ethnic, and Class Disparities in Healthcare." Pg. 594-625 in <i>Unequal Treatment</i> . Betancourt, Joseph et al. 2003. "Defining Cultural Competence: A Practical Framework for Addressing Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care." <i>Public Health Reports</i> 118:293-302.	
Week 3: Embodiment of Inequality	Mon, 4/14	Waitzkin H. 1981. "The social origins of ill-ness: a neglected history." <i>Int. J. Health Serv.</i> 11:77-103 Marmot et al. 1991. "Health Inequalities among British Civil Servants: The Whitehall II Study." <i>The Lancet</i> 337(8754):1387-1393.	
	Wed, 4/16	Gravelee, Clarence C. 2009. "How Race Becomes Biology: Embodiment of Social Inequality." <i>American J of Physical Anthro</i> 139(1):47-57.	
	Fri, 4/18	Pfeiffer, James. 2002. "African Independent Churches in Mozambique: Healing the Afflictions of Inequality." <i>Medical Anthropology Quarterly</i> 16(2):176-199.	

Course Schedule & Assignments (Changes to this schedule may be made as necessary).

TOPIC	DATE	WHAT TO READ	WHAT'S DUE?
Week 4: Infectious Disease	Mon, 4/21	Merson, Michael. 2006. "The HIV-AIDS Pandemic at 25: The Global Response." <i>New England J of Medicine</i> 354:2414-2417. Kalofonos, Ippolytos Andreas. 2010. "All I Eat are ARVs": The paradox of AIDS Treatment Interventions in Central Mozambique. <i>Medical Anthropology Quarterly</i> 24(3): 363-380.	Research paper proposal due
	Wed, 4/23	Farmer Paul. 2004. "Cruel and unusual: drug-resistant tuberculosis as punishment." 179-195 in <i>Pathologies of Power</i> .	
	Fri, 4/25	Nations and Monte. 1996. "'I'm not a dog, no!': Cries of resistance against cholera control campaigns." <i>Social Science and Medicine</i> 43(6):1007-24.	
Week 5: Chronic Illness	Mon, 4/28	Wiedman, D. 2012. "Native American embodiment of the chronicities of modernity: reservation food, diabetes, and the metabolic syndrome among the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache." <i>Medical Anthropology Quarterly</i> 26(4):595-612.	
	Wed, 4/30	Sze, Julie. 2004. "Gender, Asthma Politics, and Urban Environmental Justice Activism." Pg. 177-190 in <i>New Perspectives on Environmental Justice</i> . Rachel Stein, ed.	
	Fri, 5/2	No readings. Catch up and review.	
Week 6: Suffering and Structural Violence	Mon, 5/5	Midterm exam in class	Midterm exam
	Wed, 5/7	Holmes, Seth. 2013. "How the Poor Suffer: Embodying the Violence Continuum." Pg. 88-110 in <i>Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States</i> .	
	Fri, 5/9	Baer and Singer. 2008. <i>Global Warming and the Political Ecology of Health: Emerging Crisis and Systemic Solutions</i> . Excerpt.	

TOPIC	DATE	WHAT TO READ	WHAT'S DUE?
Week 7: Markets, Commodification, and Neoliberalism	Mon, 5/12	Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 2000. "The Global Traffic in Organs," <i>Current Anthropology</i> 41(2):191-224.	
	Wed, 5/14	Millen JV and Holtz TH. 2000, "Dying for Growth, Part I: Transnational Corporations and the Health of the Poor." Pg. 177-223 in <i>Dying for Growth: Global Inequality and the Health of the Poor</i> . Kim et al., eds.	
	Fri, 5/16	Ooms & Schrecker. 2005. "Expenditure ceilings, multilateral financial institutions, and the health of poor populations." <i>The Lancet</i> 365:1821-23. De Vogli, R. 2011. "Neoliberal globalisation and health in a time of economic crisis," <i>Social Theory & Health</i> 9(4): 311-325.	
Week 8: Health Care Access and Reform	Mon, 5/19	Abraham, Laurie. 1994. <i>Mama Might be better Off Dead: The Failure of Health Care in Urban America</i> . Excerpt.	
	Wed, 5/21	Maskovsky J. 2000. "'Managing' the poor: neoliberalism, medicaid, HMOs and the triumph of consumerism among the poor." <i>Med. Anthropol.</i> 19:121-46	
	Fri, 5/23	Horton, Sarah et al. 2014. "Critical Anthropology of Global Health 'Takes a Stand' Statement: A Critical Medical Anthropological Approach to the U.S.'s Affordable Care Act." MAQ 1-22.	
Week 9: Medicalization, Resistance and Protest	Mon, 5/26	NO CLASS: Memorial Day	
	Wed, 5/28	Aretxaga, Begona. "Dirty Protest: Symbolic Overdetermination and Gender in Northern Ireland Ethnic Violence."	
	Fri, 5/30	Metzl, Jonathan. 2011. <i>The Protest Psychosis: How Schizophrenia Became a Black Disease</i> . Excerpt.	
Week 10: Health and Human Rights	Mon, 6/2	Farmer, Paul. 1999. "Pathologies of power: Rethinking health and human rights." <i>American Journal of Public Health</i> 89(10):1-11.	
	Wed, 6/4	No readings. Work on research paper.	
	Fri, 6/6	No readings. Wrap-up and review.	Research paper due
Final Exam	Wednesday, June 11, 4pm-6pm		