

Spring 2-1-2019

ANTY 522.01: Medical Anthropology

Gilbert Quintero

University of Montana - Missoula, gilbert.quintero@umontana.edu

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

Recommended Citation

Quintero, Gilbert, "ANTY 522.01: Medical Anthropology" (2019). *Syllabi*. 9182.
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/9182>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Course Syllabi at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

Seminar in Medical Anthropology

ANTY 522, Spring 2019

M 11:00am-1:50pm, SS 252

Gilbert Quintero, Ph.D., Professor

Office: SS 225

Office hours: MW 2:00-2:50pm, R 1:30-2:30pm

Email: gilbert.quintero@umontana.edu

(please include "ANTY 522" in subject line of email)

Course Description

This graduate seminar will provide a critical overview of selected issues in the field of medical anthropology – the study of human health, disease, and healing in a cross-cultural perspective. It will include consideration of a range of socioculturally oriented theoretical and methodological approaches to medicine, health, and disease. In general terms the course has two principal emphases: 1) understanding the application of anthropological concepts and methods in medical settings; and 2) examining major issues and trends in theory and methodology. The course is organized around several topics, including cultural conceptualizations of health, illness and risk, and the body; as well as mental health, and social suffering. In addition, we will examine anthropological contributions towards understanding and addressing some of the major sources of human mortality and morbidity in the world – tuberculosis, malaria, and HIV/AIDS. Finally, there is a special emphasis on the utilization of ethnography as a tool for developing knowledge and understanding of health and illness. Each student will develop their expertise through assigned readings and focused discussions and will expand their knowledge base by producing a scholarly literature review on an approved topic in medical anthropology.

Course Requirements

	Percentage of grade
Active participation in discussions	10
Leading discussions	40
Take home essay exam	20
Literature review	30

Discussions: Each student is required to read the materials assigned for each particular class period, to attend class regularly, and to engage in productive critical discussion. Your ability to articulate and analyze the reading materials and the ideas of your classmates in an in-depth fashion will be crucial to your success in this course. A portion of this grade will be determined by the instructor's subjective assessment of the student's participation in discussions.

Students will also be evaluated on their discussion leadership performance. At least one student will be assigned the role of presenter for each class. This student will have a command of the assigned readings and organize and facilitate the class discussion. This will include providing productive, academic discussion questions to the class, presenting key concepts, and co-leading discussion with the instructor and any other assigned student presenters.

Each participant in this seminar will lead (or, in a few cases, co-lead) the discussion during several class sessions. As discussion leader, you are expected to provide a *brief* (no more than 5 minutes) descriptive summary of the reading(s) you were assigned, *withholding any critical comments* for the classroom discussion that follows. As part of your role as discussion leader, you should focus on *major questions or issues for discussion* raised by the reading(s). In addition, you should

highlight and define any *special terms or concepts* that are important in the reading. Your job is to systematically cover these questions and concepts during the course of the discussion, as well as facilitate the seminar more generally (e.g., keep the discussion focused, introduce questions, etc.).

Everyone should be prepared to discuss the readings. The following questions can serve as a general guide as you prepare for class:

- What are the central issues or questions addressed in the reading?
- What terms or concepts are discussed?
- What conclusions or claims are made?
- What evidence or data is offered to support these conclusions?
- What are the strengths and weakness of these data in relation to others?
- What makes this case convincing or otherwise compelling?

This seminar is intended to be an intellectual venue where we engage each other, courteously and constructively, in thoughtful discussions concerning anthropology and health. Everyone is expected to participate in these discussions, which are meant to be thought-provoking, focused and rigorous.

Literature Review: Your assignment is to write a professional quality scholarly literature review on an approved topic in medical anthropology. This paper will be similar in style and content to what one sees in an academic, peer-reviewed journal. The paper will not simply be descriptive, but analytically focused on issues, theory and/or methodology. Ideally, the final paper should be of publishable quality. The articles in the *Annual Review of Anthropology* provide a good general example of what you should aspire to. A complete assignment for this course component will consist of the following:

1. An abstract and preliminary bibliography: Each student will submit an abstract of no more than 250 words which includes a descriptive title with a theme or topic name, three keywords, and a preliminary bibliography of at least eight references.
2. Literature review: Each student will complete a literature review on a topic approved by the instructor. The body of this paper must be 22-25 pages in length, typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font with 1-inch margins all around. Please spell and grammar check your document and provide a bibliography. The paper should conform to the American Anthropological Association style guide.

Take home exam: There will be a take home essay exam based on assigned course readings. The specifics of this assignment will be handed out in class about a week before it is due. This exam is to be developed and completed by each student individually.

Policies

Students with disabilities: University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with documented disabilities to contact instructors during the first week of the semester to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in grading, classroom experiences, and outside assignments. The instructor will work with the student and the staff of the Disability Services for Students (DSS) to arrange accommodations. Students should contact DSS (243.2373) for more information.

Professional courtesy: Please be on time for class and notify me if you intend to leave early. Irregular attendance and lack of timeliness will result in a lower grade.

Electronic devices: Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off for the duration of class. Laptops adversely affect the quality of seminar discussion and are highly discouraged.

Email: Please conduct all class related email communications with me through your UM account.

Late assignments: Late assignments are generally not accepted.

Code of conduct: All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The code is available for review online at the UM website.

Plagiarism: As noted in the course catalog:

Plagiarism is the representing of another's work as one's own. It is a particularly intolerable offense in the academic community and is strictly forbidden. Students who plagiarize may fail the course and may be remanded to Academic Court for possible suspension or expulsion.

Students must always be very careful to acknowledge any kind of borrowing that is included in their work. This means not only borrowed wording but also ideas. Acknowledgment of whatever is not one's own original work is the proper and honest use of sources. Failure to acknowledge whatever is not one's own original work is plagiarism. (<http://www.umt.edu/catalog/acad/acadpolicy/default.html>)

Hard copies and paper formats: Unless explicitly noted, all written assignments must be turned in as hard copies – electronic submissions will not be accepted. All written assignments should be typed, double-spaced in 12-point Arial or Times font with 1 inch margins.

Return of course materials: Literature reviews will not be returned. If you want copies of these materials please make yourself duplicates before turning them in.

Course Supplement

A web-based supplement for this class is available on Moodle: <http://umonline.umt.edu/>. Technical support is provided at: <http://umonline.umt.edu/techsupport/helpdesk.aspx>.

Required Course Texts

Biehl, J. Vita: *Life in a Zone of Social Abandonment*. University of California Press, 2013. ISBN 978-0-520-27295-8.

Castañeda, Heide, and Jessica M. Mulligan, eds. *Unequal Coverage: The Experience of Health Care Reform in the United States*. NYU Press, 2017. ISBN-13: 978-1479848737. ISBN-10: 1479848735

Kenworthy, N. *Mistreated: The Political Consequences of the Fight against AIDS in Lesotho*. Vanderbilt University Press, 2017. ISBN 9780826521552/ 082652155X.

Other readings will also be assigned.

Schedule	
Week 1/Jan 14	Introductions
Week 2/Jan 21	MLK Day – No class
Week 3/Jan 28	Health, Illness & Risk
Week 4/Feb 4	The Body
Week 5/Feb 11	Tuberculosis
Week 6/Feb 18	President’s Day – No class
Week 7/Feb 25	Malaria (Abstracts for literature review due)
Week 8/Mar 4	HIV/AIDS
Week 9/Mar 11	Mental Health
Week 10/Mar 18	Social Suffering (Take home exam due)
Week 11/Mar 25	Spring Break – No class
Week 12/Apr 1	Unequal Coverage
Week 13/Apr 8	Mistreated
Week 14/Apr 15	Vita
Week 15/Apr 22	Health in the Anthropocene
Week 16/May 2	Literature reviews due by 12 noon

Complete lists of required readings for each week are available in Moodle. Reading assignments for each week should be completed by the date outlined in this schedule.

Nota bene: This syllabus provides a general plan for the course. If deviations are necessary they will be announced in class.