

9-2013

ANTY 426.01: Culture, Health & Healing

Gilbert A. 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 A., "ANTY 426.01: Culture, Health & Healing" (2013). *Syllabi*. 475.
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/475>

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.

Culture, Health & Healing
Anthropology 426, Fall 2013
TR 9:40-11:00am
JRH 204

Gilbert Quintero, Ph.D., Professor
Phone: 243-5825
Office: SS 224
Office hours: T 11:10-12:30, R 12:30-2:00
Email: gilbert.quintero@umontana.edu

UNDERGRADUATE SYLLABUS

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the field of medical anthropology – the study of human health, disease and curing from a cross-cultural, historical, archeological, and evolutionary perspective. Societies throughout the world recognize certain bodily, emotional, and mental conditions as undesirable and in need of change. Individual and societal definitions of disease and responses to illness are shaped by biological characteristics, social dynamics, cultural values, and collective expectations. In this course we will examine various theories, methods, and frameworks in order to explore how health, illness, and healing are conceptualized and experienced in different cultures. Topics will include: shamanism, medical ecology, cultural and political ecologies of disease, medical systems as cultural systems, global health issues, mental illness, and sociocultural definitions of health and illness.

After successfully completing this course the student should be able to:

- 1) Describe the interrelationships between human biological and sociocultural systems and diseases in several different sociocultural settings;
- 2) Compare core components of health systems, including etiology, diagnosis, help-seeking, treatment, evaluation of efficacy and effectiveness, and health care traditions and sectors in several different sociocultural settings;
- 3) Recognize major theoretical and methodological approaches to health in anthropology;
- 4) Identify several major contemporary issues in the anthropology of health and illness; and
- 5) Understand the contributions of applied anthropology in addressing health issues.

Course Requirements

Attendance & participation	10 %
Exams (best 2 of 3)	60 %
Critical book review	30 %

Final cumulative grades will be based upon the point totals for each of the requirements outlined above.

Attendance and participation: Students are responsible for attending class on time on a regular basis and contributing to in-class activities. If a student does not attend class or participate in an activity they generally will not receive points. Students are allowed to miss one in-class assignment due to an excused absence, at the discretion of the instructor, without penalty.

There will be approximately five of these assignments during the course of the semester. They are unannounced.

Exams: A portion of each student's grade will be based upon the best scores from two out of three exams. This means that the last exam is optional, based on your satisfaction with the scores on the previous two exams. Exams will consist of objective, multiple choice questions and will cover material from lectures and readings. Formal reviews or study guides for these exams will **not** be provided.

Critical book review: Students are required to write a single integrated critical review of two books, "Unimagined Community" (Thornton) and "AIDS and Accusation" (Farmer). This review must be approximately 3000 words in length, excluding the bibliography. No late papers will be accepted. Details regarding the structure and content of the review will be provided.

Policies

Adds, drops, grade changes: University policies on drops, adds, changes of grade option, or change to audit status will be strictly enforced. These policies are described in the current catalog. Students should specifically note that after a certain point in the semester, such changes are NOT automatically approved. They may be requested by petition, but the petition MUST be accompanied by documentation of extenuating circumstances.

Electronic devices: Cell phones, mp3 players and other electronic devices should be turned off for the duration of class. Laptop users must sit in the first row of the classroom.

Attendance: Please be on time for class and notify me if you intend to leave early. Irregular attendance will result in a lower grade. The instructor will not provide students with private "catch-up" sessions.

Notes and lecture materials: The instructor will not provide students with notes or other lecture materials (e.g., slides).

Make-up exams: All students must take at least two out of the three exams. If an exam is missed, the student will receive no points. Because a student can miss one exam without penalty there will generally be no make-up exams. **The only exceptions to this are those situations that fall under University policy** which states that a make-up will be allowed in circumstances where a student can provide documentation that they are missing a scheduled exam because of their participation in a University sponsored activity, which includes field trips, ASUM service, music or drama performances, and intercollegiate athletic events. Individuals missing a scheduled exam because of military service or mandatory public service (e.g., jury duty) may also petition for a make-up. Any student requiring a make-up must notify the instructor in writing no less than a week before the scheduled exam and must provide official documentation regarding the reason for the absence in advance. If a make-up exam is approved it must be completed within one week of the original exam.

Extra credit: There are no extra credit assignments offered in this course.

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. Please notify the instructor via email. He will work with the student and the staff of

the Disability Services for Students (DSS) to make accommodations. Please contact DSS (243.2373, Lommasson Center 154) for more information.

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

Code of Conduct: All students are expected to perform in accordance with the Student Conduct Code. The code is available at http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php

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

Required Texts

Farmer, Paul

2006 AIDS and Accusation Haiti and the Geography of Blame, 2nd edition. University of California Press. ISBN: 0520248392.

Thornton, Robert J.

2008 Unimagined Community: Sex, Networks, and AIDS in Uganda and South Africa. University of California Press. ISBN: 0520255534.

Course reader (available at the Bookstore). Reading assignments from this volume are denoted by an asterisk (*) in the course schedule (below).

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>.

Course Schedule, Topics, and Assignments

Week 1/Aug 27 – What is Medical Anthropology?

- * Brown et al., *Medical Anthropology* (p.1-13)
- Evans-Pritchard, *Witchcraft Explains Unfortunate Events*
- Turner, *A Ndembu Doctor in Practice*

Week 2/Sep 3 – Defining Health & Disease: Contending with Personal & Scholarly Frameworks

- Crawford, *A Cultural Account of "Health"*
- d'Houtaud and Field, *The Image of Health*
- Izquierdo, *When "Health" is Not Enough*

Week 3/Sep 10 – Disease and Early Human Evolution; Culture and Epidemiological Transitions

- * Armelagos, *Health and Disease* (p.15-26)
- * McKeown, *Determinants of Health* (p.27-33)
- Eaton, Konner & Shostak, *Stone Agers in the Fast Lane*
- Fabrega, *Earliest Phases in the Evolution of Sickness and Healing*

Week 4/Sep 17 – Medical & Political Ecologies of Health; Theories of Illness Etiology

- * Brown, *Cultural Adaptations* (p.34-49)
- * Farmer, *Social Inequalities* (p. 50-58)
- * Singer, *Why is it Easier?* (p. 59-66)
- * Foster, *Disease Etiologies* (p.67-76)
- Erickson, *What Causes Disease?*

Week 5/Sep 24 – Anthropological Theories of Healing

- * Konner, *Transcendental Medication* (p.77-80)
- * Blumhagen, *White Coat* (p. 81-87)
- * Lèvi-Strauss, *The Sorcerer's Magic* (p. 128-138)
- * Moerman, *Doctors & Patients* (p. 139-147)
- Reichard, *Theory of Curing*

Week 6/Oct 1 – Shamanism

Exam 1 (10/1)

- * Winkelman, *The Shamanic Paradigm* (p. 89-126)
- Finkler, *Sacred Healing and Biomedicine Compared*
- Frank, *Nonmedical Healing*
- Kendall, *Initiating Performance*
- Kleinman & Sung, *Why Do Indigenous Practitioners Successfully Heal?*

Week 7/Oct 8 – Beliefs, Illness & Healing: Placebos & Nocebos

- * Hahn, *The Nocebo* (p.148-153)
- * Dressler, *Ethnomedical Beliefs* (p.155-162)
- * CDC, *Health Beliefs* (p. 163-165)

Week 8/Oct 15 – Explanatory Models & Cultural Consonance

Chavez et al., *Beliefs Matter*
Dressler & Bindon, *The Health Consequences of Cultural Consonance*

Week 9/Oct 22 – The Social Construction of Illness

- Nichter, *Idioms of Distress*
Obeyesekere, *The Idiom of Demonic Possession*
- * Waxler, *Learning to be a Leper* (p.166-179)
 - * Hunt, *Strategic Suffering* (p. 180-189)
 - * Murphy, *The Damaged Self* (p. 190-201)
 - * Becker, *Coping with Stigma* (p.203-208)
 - * Inhorn, *Genital Herpes* (p. 209-215)
 - * Barrett et al., *Stigma Influenza* (p. 216-220)
 - * Farmer et al., *AIDS* (p.221-230)

Week 10/Oct 29 – Mind, Culture & Society: The Anthropology of Mental Health

- * Kleinman, *Psychiatric Disorders* (p. 231-244)
 - * Rubel, *Epidemiology of a Folk Illness* (p. 245-255)
 - * Ozawa-de Silva, *Internet Suicide* (p. 256-268)
- Obeyesekere, *Depression, Buddhism, and the Work of Culture in Sri Lanka*
Swartz, *Anorexia Nervosa as a Culture-Bound Syndrome*
Ritenbaugh, *Obesity as a Culture-Bound Syndrome*

Week 11/Nov 5 – Medicalization, Pharmaceuticalization & Disease Mongering

Exam 2 (11/5)

Conrad, *Medicalization and Social Control*
Williams et al., *Waking Up to Sleepiness*
Woloshin & Schwartz, *Giving Legs to Restless Legs*

Week 12/ Nov 12 – Health Care Seeking in Cultural Context: Anthropology of Drug Use

Agar & Reisinger, *A Tale of Two Policies*
Quintero, *The Lizard in the Green Bottle*

Week 13/Nov 19 – Nature or Nurture?: Race, Ethnicity & Disease

Armelagos & Goodman, *Race, Racism and Anthropology*
Gravlee & Sweet, *Race, Ethnicity, and Racism in Medical Anthropology*
Hahn & Stroup, *Race and Ethnicity in Public Health Surveillance*

Week 14/Nov 26 – Global Health in Anthropological Perspective

* Nichter et al., *Saving the Children* (p. 270-282)

* Kendall et al., *Ethnomedicine* (p.283-244)

* Green, *New Challenges* (p.291-293)

Singer & Erickson, *Global Health and the Anthropological Paradigm*

Singer & Erickson, *A Brighter or Bleaker Future?*

Thanksgiving Holiday 11/28 (no class)

Week 15/Dec 3 – Wrap Up

Readings to be announced.

Book reviews due (12/5)

Week 16/Dec 12 – Third Exam

Exam 3 during final exam period 10:10-12:10 (12/12)

Nota bene: Reading assignments for each week should be completed by the date outlined in this schedule (i.e., the first class meeting of the week).

This syllabus provides a general plan for the course. Changes may be necessary and will be announced in class.