San José State University  
College of Social Sciences/Anthropology  
ANTH 108, Medical Anthropology, Fall 2012

Instructor: Dr. Guadalupe Salazar  
Office Location: Clark Hall 402H  
Telephone: (408) 924-5730  
Email: guadalupe.salazar@sjsu.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesday / Thursday 8:00 am – 10:00 am  
Tuesday 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm  
Class Days/Time: Tuesday / Thursday 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm  
Classroom: Washington Square Hall 004

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging (Optional)  
Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on my faculty web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/people/guadalupe.salazar.

Course Description

This is an introductory course in medical anthropology focusing on health, illness and healing from a cross-cultural perspective. Through the examination of diverse case studies focusing on cultural beliefs and practices surrounding experiences of illness and disease, this course will explore biological, socio-economic, political and cultural contributors to health, illness, and healing. Ethnographic material from Western and non-Western settings will be used to explore how health, illness and healing practices are culturally constructed and mediated. We also consider how different theoretical orientations approach understanding health, illness and healing practices.

This survey course is designed to introduce students to the main theoretical approaches and major themes that shape medical anthropology. Due to the broad topical scope of interest in the field, it is not comprehensive. The course is divided into two sections – Part 1: Epistemology deals with ways of knowing and focuses on major themes, key concepts, terms, and theoretical orientations in medical anthropology. Part 2: Topical Scope of Medical Anthropology explores different areas of concern to medical anthropologists. Ethnographies will be read and analyzed to render the material tangible.
Goals of the Anthropology Department

1. Understanding culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationship of human biology and evolution;
2. Awareness of human diversity and the ways humans have categorized diversity;
3. Knowledge of the significant findings of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity of the important issues in each sub-discipline;
4. Knowledge of the history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history;
5. Comprehension of migration, colonialism, and economic integration as significant phenomenon shaping global society;
6. Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature;
7. Awareness of importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues;
8. Knowledge of the research methods of the sub-disciplines of anthropology, and the ability to apply appropriate research methods in at least one sub-discipline;
9. Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences;
10. Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research.

Course Content Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Think critically, especially using comparative frameworks, analyze processes and identify assumptions;
2. Distinguish major theoretical approaches to medical anthropology;
3. Identify and define major themes and key concepts;
4. Recognize and analyze the forces that foster social cohesion and fragmentation in health related social movements;
5. Understand the complexities of social life both locally and globally in their communities as they reflect different points of view.

Required Texts/Readings

1) Singer and Baer - Introducing Medical Anthropology, A Discipline in Action, 2nd ed.
2) Holloway, Kris (2007) Monique and the Mango Rains: Two Years with a Midwife in Mali
4) Skloot, Rebecca (2011) The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (available as ebook from the MLK Library)
The books are available through the Spartan Bookstore and Amazon.com.

**Classroom Protocol**
- No electronic submission of work – **DO NOT email me your papers!**
- You **MUST** turn in a hard copy of your paper.
- **No late papers** will be accepted.
- **Classroom Etiquette:** Please arrive on time. If you come late to class or leave early, please enter and exit quietly. Please **turn off and put away cell phones. No text messaging during class.** Computers may be used **only** for class purposes and **if** they are not disruptive to other students.

**Assignments and Grading Policy**

**Reading Questions** – Students must submit 2 questions (one set) 5 times during the semester. Each set of reading questions will be based on the assigned readings for the week submitted. Questions are due on Tuesdays. **No late submissions accepted.**

**Midterm** – The midterm will ask you to demonstrate your understanding of topics, concepts and arguments covered in the readings and class discussions. More details will be provided closer to the date of the midterm.

**Homework Assignments** – Students will complete four short homework assignments focusing on different elements of health, illness and disease.
   - Homework Assignment 1: Medicine Cabinet
   - Homework Assignment 2: Health and Advertising
   - Homework Assignment 3: Health and the Internet
   - Homework Assignment 4: Health and the News
   Each assignment has a handout with instructions specific to it. Please refer to the syllabus for due dates. **No late submissions accepted.**

**Illness Narrative** – Using a predetermined set of questions, students will interview one person regarding their experience with an illness.

**Graduate Students:** Write a critical analysis of three medical anthropological articles using an applied perspective. More details will be provided in a handout. **No late papers will be accepted.**

**Final:** The final is cumulative and will ask you to demonstrate your understanding of topics, concepts and arguments covered in the readings and class discussions. More details will be provided closer to the date of the final.

**Grading Distribution**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Questions</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>A- to A+ = 221-240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>B- to B+ = 196-220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments (4@ 20)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>C- to C+ = 170-195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illness Narrative</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>D- to D+ = 146-169</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Final Exam 50 points  F = below 145 points

Total Possible Points 240 points

I assign plus and minus grades at my discretion and use participation to adjust marginal grades.

Classroom Recording

Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.

Please speak to get permission to record class lectures.

Credit Hours

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation / studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.
University Policies

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University’s Academic Integrity policy, located at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/ to establish a record of their disability.
# ANTH 108 Fall 2012 Course Schedule

Students will be informed about changes to the schedule ahead of time. Students are responsible for noting those changes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Aug. 23  | **Introduction**  
Introduction to class goals and format, review syllabus, add/drop process and deadlines… |
| 2    | Aug. 28  | **Part 1: Epistemology**  
**Medical Anthropology: An Overview and Key Concepts**  
Read: S & B, Ch. 1: Introduction to Medical Anthropology  
Read: S & B, Ch. 2: What Medical Anthropologists Do  
Aug. 30  
**Video:** *In Sickness and in Wealth* (XD1543; 56 min.) |
| 3    | Sep. 4   | **Medical Ecology**  
Read: Joralemon, Ch. 3: Recognizing Biological, Social, and Cultural Interconnections: Evolutionary and Ecological Perspectives on a Cholera Epidemic  
Read: Brown (1998) Cultural Adaptations to Endemic Malaria in Sardinia  
Sep. 6  
**Video:** *A Fistful of Rice*  
Read: McElroy and Townsend (2004) Ch. 1 The Ecology of Health and Disease *in Medical Anthropology in Ecological Perspective*  
Read: Monique and the Mango Rains, pp. 1-84  
**Homework Assignment 1 Due** |
| 4    | Sep. 11  | **Critical Medical Anthropology**  
Read: Joralemon, Ch. 4: Expanding the Vision on Medical Anthropology: Critical and Interpretive Views on the Cholera Epidemic  
Read: Singer et al. (1998) Why Does Juan García Have a Drinking Problem? The Perspective of Critical Medical Anthropology  
Sep. 13  
Read: Monique and the Mango Rains, pp. 85-154  
**Video:** When the Bough Breaks (XD1543; 28 min.) |
| 5    | Sep. 18  | **Health, Illness and Disease**  
Read: S & B, Ch. 3: Understanding Health, Illness and Disease  
Sep. 20  
**Illness Narratives**  
Read: Monique and the Mango Rains, pp. 154 – 208  
**Illness Narrative Due** |
| 6    | Sep. 25  | **Ethnomedicine**  
Read: S & B, Ch. 4: Ethnomedicine: The Worlds of Treatment and Healing |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|      |      | **Read:** Foster, G (1976) Disease Etiologies in Non-Western Medical Systems  
**Read:** Reiff et. al., (2003) Ethnomedicine in the Urban Environment: Dominican Healers in NYC.  
**Read:** The Spirit Catches You, pp. 3-59  
**Film:** The Split Horn (XD0916 / 58 min.) |
| Sep. 27 |      | **Read:** Reiff et. al. (2003) Ethnomedicine in the Urban Environment: Dominican Healers in NYC.  
**Read:** The Spirit Catches You, pp. 60-118  
**Film:** Eduardo the Healer (XS0896 / 54 min.) |
| 7 | Oct. 2 | **Read:** S & B, Ch. 5: Medical Pluralism in the Contemporary World  
**Read:** Brown (1998) Dark Side of the Shaman  
**Homework Assignment 2 Due** |
| | Oct. 4 | **Read:** The Spirit Catches You, pp. 60-118  
**Film:** Eduardo the Healer (XS0896 / 54 min.)  
**Homework Assignment 2 Due** |
| | Oct. 9 | **Read:** Sigerist (1977 [1942]) The Special Position of the Sick  
| | Oct. 11 | **Read:** Batman Returns: How Culture Shapes Muddle into Madness  
http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/neuronculture/  
**Read:** Ruminations on Madness: maeror meror (in mourning)  
**Read:** The Spirit Catches You, pp. 119-170  
**Film:** Back from Madness: Struggle for Sanity (XS1629 / 53 min.) |
| 8 | Oct. 16 | **Midterm**  
**Part 2: Topical Scope of Medical Anthropology**  
**Magic, Religion and Healing**  
**Read:** Evans-Pritchard (1976 [1937]) Witchcraft, Oracles, and Magic Among the Azande, pp. 1-55 (21-39, 63-83, 240-244)  
**Read:** The Spirit Catches You, pp. 171-224 |
**Read:** The Spirit Catches You, pp. 225-288  
**Film:** Margaret Lock (EAJO154 / 29 min.) |
| 10 | Oct. 23 | **Read:** S & B, Ch. 6: Health Disparity, Health Inequality  
**Read:** Horton & Barker (2008) Rural Latino Immigrant Caregivers’ Conceptions of Their Childrens’ Oral Disease |
| | Oct. 30 | **Read:** The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, pp. 1-48  
**Film:** Becoming American (XD1543; 28 min.)  
**Homework Assignment 3 Due** |
| Nov. 1 |      | **Read:** The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, pp. 1-48  
**Film:** Becoming American (XD1543; 28 min.)  
**Homework Assignment 3 Due** |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 12   | Nov. 6     | **Medical Ethics**  
**Read:** Joralemon, Ch. 8: Anthropology and Medical Ethics  
**Read:** The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, pp. 49-86                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|      | Nov. 8     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 13   | Nov. 13    | **Culture Change and Its Impact on Health**  
**Read:** Janes (2004) Free Markets and Dead Mothers  
**Read:** The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, pp. 89-151                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|      | Nov. 15    | **No Class - American Anthropological Association Meetings**                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 14   | Nov. 20    | **Stigma**  
**Read:** Becker (1998) Coping with Stigma: Lifelong Adaptation of Deaf People  
**Read:** Inhorn (1998) Genital Herpes: An Ethnographic Inquiry into Being Discreditable in American Society  
**Read:** The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, pp. 152-206  
**Homework Assignment 4 Due**                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|      | Nov. 22    | **Happy Thanksgiving!**                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 15   | Nov. 27    | **AIDS in Transnational Perspective**  
**Read:** Farmer & Kleinman (1998) AIDS as Human Suffering  
**Read:** The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, pp. 207-258  
**Film:** Frontline: The Age of AIDS                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|      | Nov. 29    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 16   | Dec. 4     | **Health and the Environment**  
**Read:** S & B, Ch. 7: Health and the Environment: Toward a Healthier World  
**Read:** Farmer (1998) Social Inequalities and Emerging Infectious Diseases  
**Film:** Place Matters (XD1543; 28 min.)                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|      | Dec. 6     | **Read:** The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, pp. 259-310  
**Film:** Collateral Damages (XD1543; 28 min.)                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Final Exam | Weds. Dec. 12/12 | **9:45 am – 12:00 pm**  
**Washington Square 004**                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |