

**San José State University  
College of Social Sciences  
ANTH 108, Medical Anthropology, Fall 2014**

**Instructor:** Dr. Guadalupe Salazar  
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**Office Hours:** Tuesday 7:20 am – 8:50 am  
**Class Days/Time:** Tuesday / Thursday 10:30 am – 11:45 am  
**Classroom:** Clark Hall 310

**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, Merrill and Hans Baer (2011) - Introducing Medical Anthropology, A Discipline in Action, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.
- 2) Holloway, Kris (2007) Monique and the Mango Rains: Two Years with a Midwife in Mali.
- 3) Fadiman, Anne (1998) The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors and the Collision of Two Cultures.
- 4) Skloot, Rebecca (2011) The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (available as e-book 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.
- If you miss a class, ask your fellow students for copies of their notes. If you need further help, please see me in my office hours.

## Assignments and Grading Policy

**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 three 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 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.

**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

Midterm	50 points	A- to A+ = 190-210 points
Homework Assignments (3@ 25)	75 points	B- to B+ = 165-189 points
Illness Narrative	35 points	C- to C+ = 140-164 points
Final Exam	50 points	D- to D+ = 116-139 points
<b>Total Possible Points</b>	<b>210 points</b>	F = below 115 points

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

## Departmental Goals

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Learn about the goals of the anthropology department and how it can benefit your education.

**Goals**    <http://www.sjsu.edu/anthropology/departmentinfo/goals/index.html>

## 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.

## University Policies

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Here are some of the basic university policies that students must follow.

### Dropping and Adding

Find the procedures and deadlines for adding and dropping classes.

**Catalog Policies**        <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>.

**Add/drop deadlines**    [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic\\_calendars/](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/)

**Late Drop Policy**        <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>

### Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

All students must obtain the instructor's permission if they wish to record lectures or distribute materials from the class.

**University Policy S12-7**    <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>

### Academic integrity

Learn about the importance of academic honesty and the consequences if it is violated.

**University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2**    <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf>

**Student Conduct and Ethical Development website**    <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>

### Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

Here are guidelines to request any course adaptations or accommodations you might need.

**Presidential Directive 97-03**    [http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD\\_1997-03.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf)

**Accessible Education Center**    <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec>

## Resources

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The university provides resources that can help you succeed academically. Just look here.

**Academic Success Center**    <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/>

**Peer Connections website**    <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu>

**Writing Center website**        <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>

**Counseling Services website**    <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>

# ANTH 108 Fall 2014

## Course Schedule

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

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug. 26	<b>Introduction</b> Introduction to class goals and format, review syllabus, add/drop process and deadlines...
	Aug. 28	<b>Part 1: Epistemology</b> <b>Medical Anthropology: An Overview and Key Concepts</b> <b>Read:</b> S & B, Ch. 1: Introduction to Medical Anthropology <b>Read:</b> S& B, Ch. 2: What Medical Anthropologists Do
2	Sept. 2	<b>Medical Ecology</b> <b>Read:</b> Joralemon, Ch. 3: Recognizing Biological, Social, and Cultural Interconnections: Evolutionary and Ecological Perspectives on a Cholera Epidemic <b>Read:</b> Brown (1998) Cultural Adaptations to Endemic Malaria in Sardinia <b>Homework Assignment 1 Due</b>
	Sept. 4.	<b>Read:</b> McElroy and Townsend (2004) Ch. 1 The Ecology of Health and Disease <i>in Medical Anthropology in Ecological Perspective</i> <b>Read:</b> <u>Monique and the Mango Rains</u> , pp. 1-84 <b>Video:</b> <i>A Fistful of Rice</i> ( <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vm9toqsCpdo">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vm9toqsCpdo</a> )
3	Sept. 9	<b>Critical Medical Anthropology</b> <b>Read:</b> Joralemon, Ch. 4: Expanding the Vision on Medical Anthropology: Critical and Interpretive Views on the Cholera Epidemic <b>Read:</b> Singer et al. (1998) Why Does Juan García Have a Drinking Problem? The Perspective of Critical Medical Anthropology
	Sept. 11	<b>Read:</b> <u>Monique and the Mango Rains</u> , pp. 85-154 <b>Video:</b> <i>When the Bough Breaks</i> (XD1543; 28 min.)
4	Sept. 16	<b>Health, Illness and Disease</b> <b>Read:</b> S & B, Ch. 3: Understanding Health, Illness and Disease <b>Read:</b> <u>Monique and the Mango Rains</u> , pp. 155 – 208
	Sept. 18	<b>Illness Narrative Due</b> <b>Video:</b> 9000 Needles (124 min)
5	Sept. 23	<b>Ethnomedicine</b> <b>Read:</b> S & B, Ch. 4: Ethnomedicine: The Worlds of Treatment and Healing <b>Read:</b> Foster, G (1976) Disease Etiologies in Non-Western Medical Systems <b>Video:</b> 9000 Needles (cont'd)
	Sept. 25	<b>Video:</b> 9000 Needles (cont'd)
6	Sept. 30	<b>Midterm 1</b>
	Oct. 2	<b>Film:</b> <i>The Split Horn</i> (XD0916 / 58 min.)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<b>Read:</b> <u>The Spirit Catches You</u> , pp. 1-59
7	Oct. 7	<b>Healers</b> <b>Read:</b> S & B, Ch. 5: Medical Pluralism in the Contemporary World <b>Read:</b> Brown (1998) Dark Side of the Shaman
	Oct. 9	<b>Read:</b> <u>The Spirit Catches You</u> , pp. 60-118 <b>Film:</b> <i>Eduardo the Healer</i> (XS0896 / 54 min.) <b>HW Assignment 2 Due</b>
8	Oct. 14	<b>Patients</b> <b>Read:</b> Sigerist (1977 [1942]) The Special Position of the Sick <b>Read:</b> Waxler, N. (1998) Learning to be a Leper: A Case in the Social Construction of Illness
	Oct. 16	<b>Read:</b> <u>The Spirit Catches You</u> , pp. 119-170 <b>Film:</b> <i>Back from Madness: Struggle for Sanity</i> (XS1629 / 53 min.)
9	Oct. 21	<b>Part 2: Topical Scope of Medical Anthropology</b> <b>Mental Health</b> <b>Read:</b> Watters (2010) The Shifting Mask of Schizophrenia in Tanzania <b>Read:</b> <u>The Spirit Catches You</u> , pp. 171-224
	Oct. 23	<b>Read:</b> Watters (2010) The Mega-Marketing of Depression in Japan
10	Oct. 28	<b>Gender and Health</b> <b>Read:</b> Sargent & Bascope (1996) Ways of Knowing about Birth in Three Cultures.
	Oct. 30	<b>Read:</b> <u>The Spirit Catches You</u> , pp. 225-288 <b>Film:</b> <i>Margaret Lock</i> (EAJO154 / 29 min.)
11	Nov. 4	<b>Health Disparities</b> <b>Read:</b> S & B, Ch. 6: Health Disparity, Health Inequality <b>Read:</b> Horton & Barker (2008) Rural Latino Immigrant Caregivers' Conceptions of Their Children's Oral Disease
	Nov. 6	<b>Read:</b> <u>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</u> , pp. 1-48 <b>Film:</b> <i>Becoming American</i> (XD1543; 28 min.)
12	Nov. 11	<b>Veteran's Day – No Class</b>
	Nov. 13	<b>Medical Ethics</b> <b>Read:</b> Joralemon, Ch. 8: Anthropology and Medical Ethics <b>Read:</b> <u>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</u> , pp. 49-86 <b>Video:</b> The Way of All Flesh <b>HW Assignment 3 Due</b>
13	Nov. 18	<b>AIDS in Transnational Perspective</b> <b>Film:</b> <i>Frontline: The Age of AIDS</i>
	Nov. 20	<b>Read:</b> Farmer & Kleinman (1998) AIDS as Human Suffering <b>Read:</b> <u>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</u> , pp. 89-151
14	Nov. 25	<b>Stigma</b> <b>Read:</b> Becker (1998) Coping with Stigma: Lifelong Adaptation of Deaf People <b>Read:</b> Inhorn (1998) Genital Herpes: An Ethnographic Inquiry into Being Discreditable in American Society <b>Read:</b> <u>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</u> , pp. 152-206

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
	Nov. 27	<b>Happy Thanksgiving! – No Class</b>
15	Dec. 2 & Dec. 4	<b>No Class – American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings</b>
16	Dec. 9	<b>Culture Change and Its Impact on Health</b> <b>Read:</b> Janes (2004) Free Markets and Dead Mothers <b>Read:</b> <u>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</u> , pp. 207-310 <b>Wrap up</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Tuesday 12/16</b>	<b>9:45 am – 12:00 pm</b> <b>Clark Hall 310</b>