

**San José State University**  
**Anthropology Department**

**Anth 108, Medical Anthropology, Section 1, Fall 2016**

**Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	John Marlovits
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesday 12-1
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Tuesday/Thursday, 10:30-11:45
<b>Classroom:</b>	Clark 204
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Anthropology 11 or Instructor's consent

**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. Finally, the course is designed to introduce students to the main theoretical approaches and major themes that shape medical anthropology.

**Learning Outcomes and Course Goals Program Learning Outcomes (PLO) of the Anthropology Department**

PLO 1. Understanding culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationship of human biology and evolution;

PLO 2. Awareness of human diversity and the ways humans have categorized diversity;

PLO 3. Knowledge of the significant findings of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity of the important issues in each sub-discipline;

PLO 4. Knowledge of the history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history;

PLO 5. Comprehension of migration, colonialism, and economic integration as significant phenomenon shaping global society;

PLO 6. Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature;

PLO 7. Awareness of importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues;

PLO 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;

PLO 9. Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences;

PLO 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:

CLO 1. Compare culture frameworks, analyze processes, identify assumptions and explain biocultural beliefs and practices;

CLO 2. Relate the integral concepts of wellness, knowledge and material culture to the subfield of medical anthropology as the domains interact in traditional and contemporary settings;

CLO 3. Differentiate and apply major theoretical approaches to medical anthropology;

CLO 4. Infer define major themes and key concepts from primary ethnographic data and secondary texts;

CLO 5. Differentiate health and wellness-related for diverse stakeholders, detect the diverse consequences of those actions and distinguish their different points of view.

### **Course Texts**

Marcia Inhorn and Emily Wentzel, eds. *Medical Anthropology at the Intersections*. Duke University Press

Alex Nading. *Mosquito Trails: Ecology, Health, and the Politics of Entanglement*. University of California Press

### **Other readings**

Other readings will be accessible electronically via the professor or through the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

### Group Facilitation (25 points x 2)

Students will be required to perform group facilitations of course material twice over the course of the semester. This will entail leading a class discussion about weekly course readings, and performing close readings that underscore and elucidate key concepts in course material.

### Exegesis papers (15 points x 7)

Students will be required to turn in seven 1-2 page exegesis papers over the course of the semester. Papers will require students to distill and articulate the central argument in chosen course readings.

### Illness Narrative Paper (100 points)

This 3-4 page paper will require students to 1) conduct an interview with a subject of their choosing regarding the experience of an illness or disability, and 2) perform an anthropological interpretation of their interview by engaging with course materials.

### Midterm and Final Exams (50 points each)

There will be a midterm and final exam consisting of multiple choice and short-answer questions.

### Critical Analysis Paper (100 points)

This 3-4 page paper will require students to write about the anthropology of a particular illness or disease of their choosing, or to engage broadly with Critical Medical Anthropology's (CMA) approach to the cultural politics of health and medical institutions and contributions to applied health interventions.

## Late Work

Late assignments disrupt the class. **No late papers will be accepted. All late papers will receive an F (a zero) grade.** Requests for exceptions must be in advance and will not be considered unless they are accompanied by a doctor's note or other verifiable evidence of an emergency.

## Final Examination Evaluation

The Final exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions.

## Grading Information

Grading Distribution is as follows:

100-97 = A+

92-90 = A-

86-83 = B

96-93 = A

89-87 = B+

83-80 = B-

79-77 = C+

76-73 = C

72-70 = C-

69-67 = D+

66-63 = D

Below 63 = F

## Determination of Grades

Grades will be determined on the basis of points. See descriptions above for point breakdown of individual assignments.

There will be no extra credit.

**LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF ZERO. A DOCTOR'S NOTE WILL BE REQUIRED FOR LATE PAPERS TO BE CONSIDERED, AND STUDENTS REQUESTING EXTENSIONS WILL NEED TO CONTACT THE PROFESSOR IN ADVANCE OF THE DEADLINE AND PROVIDE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE EXTENSION.**

**PLAGIARISM WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC "F" GRADE FOR THE ENTIRE COURSE. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

## Classroom Protocol

Laptop computers, tablets, smartphones, etc. are not permitted during the lecture or film portions of this class unless you have a note from the Disability Resource Center justifying a need. You should write lecture notes by hand, or else make audio recordings of lectures and transcribe them after class meetings. Cell phones must be turned off during class to avoid disruption and out of sight or else the instructor will collect the device from the student until the end of class. Text messaging is strictly prohibited. Any student who allows a cell phone to ring during class, or who texts messages will be given a formal warning by the instructor. A second infraction of this rule will be promptly reported to the Office of Student Conduct with a recommendation that the student be immediately expelled from the course. Students should be aware that according to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, "Standards for Student Conduct," grounds for student discipline includes: "Participating in an activity that substantially and materially disrupts the normal operations of the University," {Section 41301(b)(4)} which could include use of electronic devices in classroom settings.

All assignments must be completed in order to pass. I will not accept late assignments nor will I administer makeup exams unless documents can be presented as evidence of illness, death in family, jury duty, etc. No assignments will be accepted via e-mail—I must receive hard copies of all assignments.

### **Email Etiquette**

Please write “Anth 108” followed by the subject of your email in the Subject line of your email. I will respond to your email as quickly as possible, however students should expect to wait at 24-hours for a response – and should not expect text messaging-like access via email. (I’m often in class, remember.) Students should also begin emails with appropriate formality, e.g., “Dear/Hi Professor Marlovits,” and should conclude with a salutation and their name (at least for the first in a string of emails).

I will not answer questions over email that can be answered by reading the syllabus. I will not answer questions over email about missed lectures – students are required to come to lecture, and if they can’t make it, ask a classmate to share notes. Substantial questions cannot be answered over email and students should come to my office hours instead. I cannot answer email queries about papers, such as: “I don’t know what to write about for the paper, can you help me?” The answer is that I can help you, but you must come to office hours, and you also must do more than say “I don’t know” and begin to formulate at least a vague attempt at a topic. I do not accept electronic papers, and will not edit or grade rough drafts via email. If you would like me to look at a rough draft, you must come to office hours or set up an appointment with me.

### **University Policies**

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

**Readings and assignment dates may change with fair warning.**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
		<b>Part 1: Subjectivity and Illness</b>
1	8/25	<b>Introduction</b>
2	8/30	<b>8/30 What is medicine and medical pluralism?</b> Roberta Bivins, “Pragmatism, Pluralism, and the (Im)Patient Consumer” in

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
	9/1	<p><i>Alternative Medicine: A History</i>; Judith Farquar, "Eating Chinese Medicine"</p> <p><b>9/1 Medical Anthropology at the Intersections</b></p> <p>Marcia Inhorn and Emily Wentzel, "Introduction" in <i>Medical Anthropology at the Intersections</i></p> <p>Recommended: Peter Conrad, "Medicalization and Social Control"; Lennard Davis, "Constructing Normalcy," in <i>Enforcing Normalcy</i></p> <p><b>9/1 Group 1 Facilitation</b></p>
3	9/6 & 9/8	<p><b>Illness Narratives</b></p> <p>Nancy Depper, tba; Nancy Scheper-Hughes, "Nervosa"; Rapp and Ginsburg in <i>Medical Anthropology at the Intersection</i>; Parker in <i>Medical Anthropology at the Intersections</i>; Taussig, "Reification and the Consciousness of the Patient"</p> <p><b>9/8 Group 2 Facilitation</b></p>
4	9/13 & 9/15	<p><b>Subjectivity, Embodiment, Disability, Difference</b></p> <p>Nancy Depper, tba; Nancy Scheper-Hughes, "Nervosa"; Rapp and Ginsburg in <i>Medical Anthropology at the Intersection</i>; Parker in <i>Medical Anthropology at the Intersections</i>; Taussig, "Reification and the Consciousness of the Patient"</p> <p>9/15: Guest lecture by Nancy Depper</p>
		<p><b>Part 2: Cultural Approaches to Biomedicine</b></p>
5	9/20 & 9/22	<p><b>Cultures of Biomedicine</b></p> <p>Bruno Latour, "On the Partial Existence of Existing and Non-Existing Objects," in <i>Biographies of Scientific Objects</i>, L. Daston, ed.; Sarah Franklin, "Science as Culture, Cultures of Science" <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i>; Emily Martin, "Grafting Together Medical Anthropology, Feminism, and Technoscience" in <i>Medical Anthropology at the Crossroads</i></p> <p>Recommended: Ludwig Fleck, "How the Modern Concept of Syphilis Originated" in <i>Genesis and Development of a Scientific Fact</i>; Donna Haraway, "Biopolitics of Postmodern Bodies" and "A Manifesto for Cyborgs"</p> <p><b>9/22 Group 3 Facilitation</b></p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6	9/27 & 9/29	<p><b>Local Biologies</b></p> <p>Lock and Kaufert, "Menopause, local biologies, and cultures of aging"; Warwick Anderson, "The Possession of Kuru: Medical Science and Biocolonial exchange"; Michael Montoya, "Bioethical Conscription: Genes, Race and Mexicana/o Ethnicity in Diabetes Research" <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> 2007, 22(1)</p> <p><b>9/29 Group 4 Facilitation</b></p>
7	10/4 & 10/6	<p><b>10/4 Governing Bodies and Populations</b></p> <p>Michel Foucault, "Body/Power" (55-62) and "The Politics of Health in the Eighteenth Century" in <i>Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings</i></p> <p><b>10/4 Group 5 Facilitation</b></p> <p><b>10/6 Medicine and Colonialism</b></p> <p>Jean Comaroff, "Medicine, Colonialism, and the Black Body" in <i>Knowledge, Power, and Practice: The Anthropology of Medicine and Everyday Life</i>; Frantz Fanon, "Colonial Wars and Mental Disorders," in <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i></p> <p>Viewing: <i>Les Maitres Fous</i>, dir. Jean Rouch</p> <p>Recommended: Anna Grimshaw, "The Cinema of Jean Rouch," in <i>The Ethnographers Eye: Ways of Seeing in Anthropology</i></p> <p><b>Illness Narrative Assignment Due</b></p>
8	10/11 & 10/13	<p><b>Posthumanism? Multispecies Assemblages and Entanglements</b></p> <p>Alex Nading, <i>Mosquito Trails</i>, first half</p> <p><b>10/13 Group 6 Facilitation</b></p>
9	10/18 & 10/20	<p><b>Dengue Fever</b></p> <p><b>10/18 Midterm Exam</b></p> <p>Alex Nading, <i>Mosquito Trails</i>, second half</p> <p><b>10/20 Group 7 Facilitation</b></p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<b>Part 3: Medicine, Power, and Structural Violence</b>
10	<b>10/25 &amp; 10/27</b>	<p><b>Medical Authority and Citizen Science: Cultural and Health Citizenship</b></p> <p>Steven Epstein, excerpts in <i>Impure Science</i>; Gabriela Coleman, “The Politics of Rationality: Psychiatric Survivors Challenge to Psychiatry”; Deborah Heath, “Bodies, Antibodies, and Modest Interventions” in <i>Cyborgs and Citadels</i></p> <p>Viewing: <i>United in Anger</i></p> <p><b>10/27 Group 8 Facilitation</b></p>
11	11/1 & 11/3	<p><b>Medicine and Social Transformations</b></p> <p>Nancy Chen, excerpts in <i>Breathing Spaces, Qigong, Psychiatry, and Healing in China</i></p> <p><b>11/3 Group 1 &amp; 2 Facilitation</b></p>
12	11/8 & 11/10	<p><b>Transient Mental Illness</b></p> <p>Ian Hacking, selections from <i>Mad Travelers</i>; Vincent Lyon-Callo, selections from <i>Inequality, Poverty, and Neoliberal Governance: Activist Ethnography in the Homeless Sheltering Industry</i></p> <p><b>11/10 Group 3 &amp; 4 Facilitation</b> (Group 3: Hacking; Group 4: Lyon-Callo)</p>
13	11/15 & 11/17	<p><b>Public Feelings: What is Depression?</b></p> <p>Tom Lutz, excerpts in <i>American Nervousness, 1903</i>; Ann Cvetkovich, Introduction in <i>Depression: A Public Feeling</i>; Christine Ross, Introduction to <i>The Aesthetics of Disengagement</i>; Lauren Berlant and Lee Edelman, excerpt from “Sex without Optimism” in <i>Sex, or the Unbearable</i></p> <p>Viewing: <i>Me and You and Everyone We Know</i>, dir. Miranda July</p> <p>Recommended: Franco “Bifo” Berardi, “The Sensitive Infosphere” in <i>And: Phenomenology of the End</i></p> <p><b>11/17 Group 5 &amp; 6 Facilitation</b> (Group 5: Cvetkovich; Group 6: Ross)</p>
14	11/22 & No class 11/24	<p><b>Structural Violence and Health Care Disparities</b></p> <p>Paul Farmer, “On Suffering and Structural Violence” in <i>The Paul Farmer Reader</i>; Phillippe Bourgois and Jeff Schonberg, “Introduction” and “A community of addicted bodies” in <i>Righteous Dopefiend</i>; Gay Becker,</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<p>“Deadly Inequality in the Health Care “Safety Net”: Uninsured Ethnic Minorities’ Struggle to Live with Life-Threatening Illnesses, MAQ 18(2); Deborah Heath and Rayna Rapp, “Genetic Citizenship” in <i>A Companion to the Anthropology of Politics</i></p> <p>Viewing: <i>Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?</i></p>
15	11/29 & 12/1	<p><b>Neoliberal Logics and the Frontiers of Medicine</b></p> <p><b>11/29 Group 7 &amp; 8 Facilitation</b></p> <p>Kaushik Sunder Rajan, “Subjects of Speculation: Emergent Life Sciences and Market Logics in the US and India,” <i>American Anthropologist</i> 107(1), 2005; Joao Biehl, “The Brazilian Response to AIDS and the Pharmaceuticalization of Global Health”</p> <p><b>12/1 Critical Analysis Paper Due</b></p>
16	12/6 & 12/8	<p><b>Applied Medical Anthropology and Public Health</b></p> <p>Robert Hahn and Marcia Inhorn, Introduction to <i>Anthropology and Public Health: Bridging Differences in Culture and Society</i>; Merrill Singer, “Medical Anthropology and Public Policy” in <i>Medical Anthropology at the Intersections</i></p>
Final Exam	12/15	<p>Thursday, December 15, 9:45-12</p> <p>You can find the exam schedule here in order to double-check your exam times:</p> <p><a href="http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/final-exam-schedule-fall.html">http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/final-exam-schedule-fall.html</a></p>