

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Anthropology
ANTH 108, Medical Anthropology, Fall 2011

Instructor: Dr. Guadalupe Salazar
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Office Hours: Tuesday 8:00 am – 10:00 am
Tuesday / Thursday 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Class Days/Time: Tuesday / Thursday 10:30 – 11:45 am
Classroom: Washington Square 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. This course examines the theoretical orientations important to the discipline. 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 medical anthropologists use different theoretical and methodological approaches to understand how health, illness and healing practices are culturally constructed and mediated.

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. It 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) Joralemon, Donald (2010) Exploring Medical Anthropology
- 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
- 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.

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](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/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](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Reading Questions – Students must submit 3 questions *each* week based on the assigned readings. Questions are due via email by 5 pm Mondays. What do you think about the reading? Is there something with which you agree or disagree? Is something not quite clear? Is there something you would like to understand better?

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.

Critical Analyses – All students will write a critical analysis on The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down (**due 10/25**). All students will choose **one** ethnography from the list provided and write a critical analysis (**due on 11/29**). *Please note: No late papers will be accepted.* More details will be provided in a handout.

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

Reading Questions	45 points	A- to A+ = 225-245 points
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Midterm	50 points	B- to B+ = 200-250 points
Critical Analyses (2 @ 50)	100 points	C- to C+ = 175-199 points
Final Exam	50 points	D- to D+ = 150-174 points
Total	245 points	F = below 149 points

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

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm), 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](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) 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](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

ANTH 108 Fall 2011 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug. 25	Introduction Introduction to class goals and format, review syllabus, add/drop process and deadlines...
2	Aug. 30 Sep. 1	Part 1: Epistemology Medical Anthropology: An Overview and Key Concepts Read: Joralemon, Ch. 1: What's So Cultural About Disease? Read: Joralemon, Ch. 2: Anthropological Questions and Methods in the Study of Sickness and Healing Read: <u>Monique and the Mango Rains</u> , pp. 1-84 Film: <i>Eduardo the Healer</i> (XS0896 / 54 min.)
3	Sep. 6 Sep. 8	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 Read: <u>Monique and the Mango Rains</u> , pp. 85-154
4	Sep. 13 Sep. 15	Critical Medical Anthropology Read: Joralemon, Ch. 4: Expanding the Vision of 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 Read: <u>Monique and the Mango Rains</u> , pp. 154 – 208 Midterm
5	Sep. 20 Sep. 22	Ethnomedicine 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: <u>The Spirit Catches You</u> , pp. 3-59 Film: <i>The Split Horn</i> (XD0916 / 58 min.)
6	Sep. 27 Sep. 29	Healers Read: Joralemon, Ch. 6: Healers and the Healing Profession Read: Brown (1998) Dark Side of the Shaman Read: <u>The Spirit Catches You</u> , pp. 60-118

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
7	Oct. 4	Patients Read: Sigerist (1977 [1942]) The Special Position of the Sick Read: Waxler, N. Learning to be a Leper: A Case in the Social Construction of Illness
	Oct. 6	Read: <u>The Spirit Catches You</u> , pp. 119-170 Film: <i>Back from Madness: Struggle for Sanity</i> (XS1629 / 53 min.)
8	Oct. 11	Part 2: Topical Scope of Medical Anthropology Magic, Religion and Healing Read: Evans-Pritchard (1976 [1937]) <u>Witchcraft, Oracles, and Magic Among the Azande</u> , pp. 30-44
	Oct. 13	Read: The Spirit Catches You, pp. 171-224
9	Oct. 18	Gender and Health Read: Sargent, C. and Bascope, G. (1996). Ways of Knowing about Birth in Three Cultures.
	Oct. 20	Read: <u>The Spirit Catches You</u> , pp. 225-288 Film: <i>Margaret Lock</i> (EAJO154 / 29 min.)
10	Oct. 25	Health Disparities Read: Horton, S. and Barker, J. (2008) Rural Latino Immigrant Caregivers' Conceptions of Their Childrens' Oral Disease Critical Analysis 1 Due
	Oct. 27	Read: <u>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</u> , pp. 1-48 Film: <i>Health for Sale</i> (XD1473 / 52 min.)
11	Nov. 1	Medical Ethics Read: Joralemon, Ch. 8: Anthropology and Medical Ethics Read: Joralemon, Ch. 9: Body, Self and Biotechnologies
	Nov. 3	Read: <u>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</u> , pp. 49-86
12	Nov. 8	AIDS in Transnational Perspective Read: Farmer and Kleinman (1998) AIDS as Human Suffering
	Nov. 10	Read: <u>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</u> , pp. 89-151 Film: <i>Frontline: The Age of AIDS</i>
13	Nov. 15	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
	Nov. 17	Read: <u>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</u> , pp. 152-206
14	Nov. 22	Culture Change and Its Impact on Health Read: Janes (2004) Free Markets and Dead Mothers

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
	Nov. 24	Read: <u>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</u> , pp. 207-258 Happy Thanksgiving!
15	Nov. 29	Globalization and Emerging Diseases Read: Farmer (1998) Social Inequalities and Emerging Infectious Diseases Critical Analysis 2 Due
	Dec. 1	Read: <u>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</u> , pp. 259-310
16	Dec. 6	Future of Medical Anthropology Read: Joralemon, Ch. 7: Applying Medical Anthropology Read: Joralemon, Ch. 10: A Look Back and a Glance Ahead
	Dec. 8	Review
Final Exam	Tuesday Dec. 12/13	FINAL 9:45 am – 12:00 pm Washington Square 004