

San José State University
College of Social Sciences
ANTH 108, Medical Anthropology, Fall 2013

Instructor:	Dr. Guadalupe Salazar
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Office Hours:	Tuesday 8:00 am – 9:30 am 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday / Thursday 4:30 pm – 5:45 pm
Classroom:	Clark Hall 204

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
- 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.

- 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

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 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.

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

Reading Questions	30 points	A- to A+ = 221-240 points
Midterm	50 points	B- to B+ = 196-220 points
Homework Assignments (3@ 25)	75 points	C- to C+ = 170-195 points
Illness Narrative	35 points	D- to D+ = 146-169 points
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](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/>.

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.

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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. 22	Introduction Introduction to class goals and format, review syllabus, add/drop process and deadlines...
2	Aug. 27 Aug. 29	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 Homework Assignment 1 Due
3	Sep. 3 Sep. 5	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: McElroy and Townsend (2004) Ch. 1 The Ecology of Health and Disease <i>in Medical Anthropology in Ecological Perspective</i> Read: <i>Monique and the Mango Rains</i> , pp. 1-84 Video: <i>A Fistful of Rice</i> (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vm9toqsCpdo)
4	Sep. 10 Sep. 12	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 Read: <i>Monique and the Mango Rains</i> , pp. 85-154 Video: <i>When the Bough Breaks</i> (XD1543; 28 min.)
5	Sep. 17 Sep. 19	Health, Illness and Disease Read: S & B, Ch. 3: Understanding Health, Illness and Disease Read: <i>Monique and the Mango Rains</i> , pp. 154 – 208 Film: <i>The Split Horn</i> (XD0916 / 58 min.)
6	Sep. 24	Ethnomedicine Read: S & B, Ch. 4: Ethnomedicine: The Worlds of Treatment and Healing 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.
6	Sep. 26	Illness Narratives Read: <i>The Spirit Catches You</i> , pp. 3-59 Illness Narrative Due

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
7	Oct. 1 Oct. 3	<p>Healers Read: S & B, Ch. 5: Medical Pluralism in the Contemporary World Read: Brown (1998) Dark Side of the Shaman</p> <p>Read: <u>The Spirit Catches You</u>, pp. 60-118 Film: <i>Eduardo the Healer</i> (XS0896 / 54 min.) HW Assignment 2 Due</p>
8	Oct. 8 Oct. 10	<p>Patients Read: Sigerist (1977 [1942]) The Special Position of the Sick Read: Waxler, N. (1998) Learning to be a Leper: A Case in the Social Construction of Illness</p> <p>Read: <u>Batman Returns: How Culture Shapes Muddle into Madness</u> http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/neuronculture/ Read: Ruminations on Madness: maeror meror (in mourning) Read: <u>The Spirit Catches You</u>, pp. 119-170 Film: <i>Back from Madness: Struggle for Sanity</i> (XS1629 / 53 min.)</p>
9	Oct. 15 Oct. 17	<p>Midterm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Part 2: Topical Scope of Medical Anthropology</p> <p>Magic, Religion and Healing Read: Evans-Pritchard (1976 [1937]) <u>Witchcraft, Oracles, and Magic Among the Azande</u>, pp. 1-55 (21-39, 63-83, 240-244) Read: <u>The Spirit Catches You</u>, pp. 171-224</p>
10	Oct. 22 Oct. 24	<p>Gender and Health Read: Sargent & Bascope (1996) Ways of Knowing about Birth in Three Cultures.</p> <p>Read: <u>The Spirit Catches You</u>, pp. 225-288 Film: <i>Margaret Lock</i> (EAJO154 / 29 min.)</p>
11	Oct. 29 Oct. 31	<p>Health Disparities Read: S & B, Ch. 6: Health Disparity, Health Inequality Read: Horton & Barker (2008) Rural Latino Immigrant Caregivers' Conceptions of Their Children's Oral Disease</p> <p>Read: <u>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</u>, pp. 1-48 Film: <i>Becoming American</i> (XD1543; 28 min.)</p>
12	Nov. 5 Nov. 7	<p>Medical Ethics Read: Joralemon, Ch. 8: Anthropology and Medical Ethics</p> <p>Read: <u>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</u>, pp. 49-86 Video: The Way of All Flesh HW Assignment 3 Due</p>
13	Nov. 12 Nov. 14	<p>AIDS in Transnational Perspective Film: <i>Frontline: The Age of AIDS</i></p> <p>Read: Farmer & Kleinman (1998) AIDS as Human Suffering Read: <u>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</u>, pp. 89-151</p>
14	Nov. 19	<p>Stigma Read: Becker (1998) Coping with Stigma: Lifelong Adaptation of Deaf People Read: Inhorn (1998) Genital Herpes: An Ethnographic Inquiry into Being</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
	Nov. 21	Discreditable in American Society Read: <u>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</u> , pp. 152-206 No Class – American Anthropological Association Meetings
15	Nov. 26 Nov. 28	Culture Change and Its Impact on Health Read: Janes (2004) Free Markets and Dead Mothers Read: <u>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</u> , pp. 207-258 Happy Thanksgiving!
16	Dec. 3 Dec. 5	Health and the Environment Read: S & B, Ch. 7: Health & the Environment: Toward a Healthier World Read: Farmer (1998) Social Inequalities and Emerging Infectious Diseases Film: <i>Place Matters</i> (XD1543; 28 min.) Read: <u>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</u> , pp. 259-310 Film: <i>Collateral Damages</i> (XD1543; 28 min.)
Final Exam	Friday 12/13	2:45 pm – 5:00 pm Clark Hall 204