CULTURE, DISEASE, AND HEALING

ANT 4408

Spring 2017
Monday and Wednesday, 4:30pm – 5:20pm & Online
CB1 318
3 Credit Hours

Dr. Shana Harris
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Teaching Assistant: Georgina Chasse
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Dr. Harris’s Office Hours:
Monday: 12:00pm - 4:00pm

Chasse’s Office Hours:
Monday: 10:00am-12:00pm

Course Description

This course explores the role of culture in shaping the experiences and perceptions of health, illness, and well-being in a variety of contexts. Drawing on work from the field of medical anthropology, we will examine how culture intersects with political, economic, and institutional forces to influence these experiences and perceptions. We will also look at different medical and healing practices in order to understand the delivery of healthcare in its various forms. Course material will cover an array of health-related topics, including biomedicine, ethnomedicine, medical pluralism, race and ethnicity, and social suffering, in multiple contexts such as China, Israel, and the United States. Ultimately, this course will reveal the various ways in which medical anthropologists research and think critically about health, illness, disease, the body, and medical and healing systems.

Course Objectives

This course has three objectives: 1) to familiarize you with the ways in which health, illness, and well-being are understood and experienced in various cultural contexts; 2) to expose you to key concepts and theoretical paradigms in medical anthropology; and 3) to instigate critical thinking about health-related issues in both the classroom and your everyday lives.

Course Requirements

Reading and Participation

Reading course materials and active participation in the course are both required. Students are expected to attend class having read the required readings for that day. The lectures will cover the readings, but will be supplemented with additional material. Doing well in the course will
depend on keeping up with readings and coming to class prepared to discuss them.

**Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend all face-to-face classes, and attendance will be recorded. Students who leave class early without letting me or the GTA know the reason before the class will be marked as absent for the entire class. Additionally, phone use during class will be noted in the grade roster, which will be used as a negative when calculating your final grade.

**Midterm Exam (40 points)**

There will be one midterm exam. The exam consists of 40 questions (multiple choice, true/false) and will cover concepts from all texts, videos, and lectures in the first half of the semester. There will be no make-up exam except for serious illness, personal/family tragedy, etc. You must let me know in advance of any extenuating circumstance that would prevent you from taking the midterm exam as scheduled. Please bring a brown scantron and #2 pencil to the exam.

**Final Exam (40 points)**

The final exam will consist of 40 questions (multiple choice, true/false) and is cumulative. It is based on concepts from all texts, videos, and lectures, with an emphasis on the last half of the course material. There will be no make-up exam except for serious illness, personal/family tragedy, etc. You must let me know in advance of any extenuating circumstance that would prevent you from taking the final exam as scheduled. Please bring a brown scantron and #2 pencil to the exam.

**Quizzes (6 points each, 60 points total)**

There will be 12 quizzes over the course of the semester. Quizzes are based on assigned readings for that day, and will consist of 1-2 questions aimed at assessing whether or not you read and understood the assigned material. The questions will be multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, or narrative. Quizzes will take 5-10 minutes at the beginning of class. There will be no make-up for missed quizzes because your two lowest scores will be dropped.

**Online Component – Research Paper (60 points)**

The online component of this course is a research paper, which I hope will be fun for you! This is an opportunity for you to learn more about a topic that interests you. The paper should be 1600-2000 words in length, plus bibliography. It will be based on a close reading of three medical anthropology articles, one medical anthropology book, or three chapters from an edited medical anthropology book. Online assignments are designed as a step-by-step process to develop and write a great research paper. The paper topic is your choice! You can choose any topic relevant to health and culture. For example, you can examine how ideas about health or the body manifest themselves in culturally-specific ways or you can select a specific disease as a lens through which to analyze cultural meanings of health and experiences of being sick. A list of topic ideas will be provided to help you think about possibilities. To have fun with this project, it is most important to choose a topic based on your own interest and on information available.
Grading Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (10 out of 12)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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Attendance record and class participation will be used to help students in borderline cases.

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>186-200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>180-185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>174-179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>166-173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>160-165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>154-159</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>146-153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>140-145</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>134-139</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>126-133</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>120-125</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>119-0</td>
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</tbody>
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Course Policies

Computer Policy

Research has shown that taking notes on a computer is less effective than taking notes with pen and paper. Computers are also often a distraction for the students using them and for their classmates. Therefore, computers are not allowed in class. **Please come prepared to take notes by hand.** Also, because you will not have access to electronic versions of the online readings during class, please bring printouts of the readings for use during class discussion. You can print 50 pages (front and back/black and white) per week for **free** at different locations on the UCF main campus. If Student Accessibility Services has approved your use of a computer in class, please let me know at the beginning of the semester.

Grade Disputes

If you would like to dispute a grade on a particular assignment, please come to my office hours in person **and** submit your graded work along with a written explanation of why you would like me to read and review your work a second time. **Please be aware, though, that my willingness to re-read your work is not a guarantee that your grade for the assignment will be changed.**

Academic Integrity

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. I expect you to do your own work; cheating and plagiarism will carry serious consequences. It must be understood that anyone who knowingly aids in plagiarism or other cheating (i.e. allowing another student to copy a paper or assignment) is as guilty as the cheating student. In the case of cheating or plagiarism, a zero grade will be given for the exam, quiz, or assignment and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an F for the course. An offense may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. **Please see the UCF Golden Rule for further information.**
Punctuality

Arriving late to class is distracting to both me and your classmates. Please make every effort to be on time. Tardiness will be noted and marked on attendance records.

Respectful Behavior

Students are expected to have a respectful demeanor in all class discussions and interactions with me, other students, and the GTA. Any inappropriate behavior will be reflected in your final grade.

Knights Email Communication

Given that there will be important email communications between the professor, the GTA, and the class, students are responsible for checking their “knights.edu” email regularly.

Student Accessibility Services

UCF has services available to students with disabilities. These services are meant to ensure that students with disabilities receive appropriate accommodations in their instructional activities. If you are not familiar with these services and believe that you could benefit from them, please contact Student Accessibility Services (sas@ucf.edu or 407-823-2371) or me as soon as possible. If you have already used these services and need any form of accommodation to assist you with your learning for this course, please let me know immediately.

Academic Activity Record

DO THIS ASAP! All students have to document academic activity at the beginning of each semester. To show that you began this course, complete the “Academic Activity” assignment by Friday, January 13, by answering a question pertaining to this syllabus. The assignment can be found on the Webcourses page. This Academic Activity assignment is not part of your course grade; it only documents your presence in this class. Failure to complete the assignment may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Required Texts

The required books for this course are:

The required books are available for purchase at the student bookstore. Several articles and book chapters are also required and are available electronically on the class Webcourses website under Modules tab. All assigned articles are listed in the class schedule below, which specifies when students are expected to read them. Please download articles to your computers and/or print them so you can make notes on them and have them available for review later in the semester. To access Webcourses: login on http://webcourses.ucf.edu, then go to Courses, and then select our class ANT 4408-17Spring 0M01. For Webcourses technical support, call 407-823-0407.

Course Schedule

**Week 1**

**Monday, January 9**

- TOPIC: Syllabus and course overview

**Wednesday, January 11**

- TOPIC: Disease, Illness, and Narrative


**Online**

- Assignment #1: Become familiar with Webcourses site and make sure you can access readings (instructions on Webcourses).

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**Week 2**

**Monday, January 16**

NO CLASS (MLK DAY)

**Wednesday, January 18**

- TOPIC: Disease, Illness, and Narrative

Online

- Assignment #2: Submit preliminary paper topic ideas, keywords, and preferred geographic areas. Examples of topics listed on assignment (instructions on Webcourses).

Week 3

Monday, January 23

- TOPIC: Biomedicine as Cultural System


Wednesday, January 25

- TOPIC: Biomedicine as Cultural System


Online

- Assignment #3: Begin searching for articles/books/book chapters (instructions on Webcourses).

Week 4

Monday, January 30

- TOPIC: Biomedicine and Ethnomedicine Compared


Wednesday, February 1

- TOPIC: Biomedicine and Ethnomedicine Compared

QUIZ #2

QUIZ #3
• **READING:** Baer, Roberta D. and Marta Bustillo. 1993. “*Susto* and *Mal de Ojo* among Florida Farmworkers: Emic and Etic Perspectives.” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 7: 90-100.

**Online**

• Assignment #4: Submit list of proposed articles/books/book chapters. Wait for approval and feedback (instructions on Webcourses).

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**Week 5**

**Monday, February 6**

• **TOPIC:** Cultural Collisions in Healthcare in North America

• **READING:** Fadiman, pg. 3-37.

**Wednesday, February 8**

• **TOPIC:** Cultural Collisions in Healthcare in North America

• **READING:** Fadiman, pg. 38-77

**Online**

• Assignment #5: Submit revised list of articles/books/book chapters and wait for approval or start reading and annotating (instructions on Webcourses).

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**Week 6**

**Monday, February 13**

• **TOPIC:** Cultural Collisions in Healthcare in North America

• **READING:** Fadiman, pg. 225-288

**Wednesday, February 15**

• **TOPIC:** Cultural Collisions in Healthcare in North America
• NO READING

• IN-CLASS FILM: Between Two Worlds: The Hmong Shaman in America

Online

• Assignment #6: Read and annotate (instructions on Webcourses).

Week 7

Monday, February 20

• TOPIC: Race, Ethnicity, and Health


Wednesday, February 22

• TOPIC: HIV/AIDS and Haitian Immigrants

• READING: Sangaramoorthy, pg. 1-55.

Online

• Assignment #7: Submit annotated bibliography (instructions on Webcourses).

Week 8

Monday, February 27

• TOPIC: HIV/AIDS and Haitian Immigrants

• READING: Sangaramoorthy, pg. 56-106.

Wednesday, March 1

• TOPIC: HIV/AIDS and Haitian Immigrants

• READING: Sangaramoorthy, pg. 107-143.
Online

- Assignment #8: Submit outline for research paper (~1 page) (instructions on Webcourses).

Week 9

Monday, March 6

- TOPIC: Midterm Exam Review
- NO READING

Wednesday, March 8

- MIDTERM EXAM

Online

- Assignment #9: Begin with writing research paper (instructions on Webcourses).

Week 10

NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)

- NO Assignment #10 – Happy Spring Break!

Week 11

Monday, March 20

- TOPIC: Culture, Politics, and the Body

Wednesday, March 22

- TOPIC: Disability and the Nation in Israel


Online

- Assignment #11: Proceed with writing research paper (instructions on Webcourses).

Week 12

Monday, March 27

- TOPIC: Population Control and Policies in China


Wednesday, March 29

- TOPIC: Health, Inequality, and Social Suffering


Online

- Assignment #12: Proceed with writing (instructions on Webcourses).

Week 13

Monday, April 3

- TOPIC: Drug Use and Homelessness in the U.S.

- READING: Bourgois and Schonberg, pg. 1-45
Wednesday, April 5

- TOPIC: Drug Use and Homelessness in the U.S.
- READING: Bourgois and Schonberg, pg. 79-115

Online

- Assignment #13: Proceed with writing (instructions on Webcourses).

Week 14

Monday, April 10

- TOPIC: Drug Use and Homelessness in the U.S.
- READING: Bourgois and Schonberg, pg. 209-239

Wednesday, April 12

- TOPIC: Drug Use and Homelessness in the U.S.
- READING: Bourgois and Schonberg, pg. 241-294

Online

- Assignment #14: Proceed with writing and final editing (instructions on Webcourses).

Week 15

Monday, April 17

- TOPIC: Drug Use and Homelessness in the U.S.
- READING: Bourgois and Schonberg, pg. 297-320

Wednesday, April 19

- NO CLASS
- AT-HOME FILM: Chasing Heroin
Online

- Research paper due on Sunday, April 23, at 11:59pm (instructions on Webcourses).

Week 16

Monday, April 24

TOPIC: Final Exam Review

- NO READING

Monday, May 1

FINAL EXAM
4:00pm – 6:50pm