SYLLABUS

MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY (AIW)

ANT 412.01 Spring 2010
Wednesdays 6:00-9:15 PM
Dr. Douglas A. Feldman
Professor
SUNY College at Brockport
Department of Anthropology
dfeldman@brockport.edu
(585) 395-5709

Course Description:

This course examines in the broadest sense the following topics: the nature of human illness and disease, the biological and social dimensions of health, public health policy, social epidemiology, infectious and chronic diseases, overpopulation and birth control, health demography, men and women’s health issues, health disparity, the effect of income inequality and lack of food distribution on malnutrition and hunger, traditional healers and alternative medicine, modern biomedicine, public access to health care, morbidity and mortality patterns, fertility and migration patterns, health care and subsistence level, applied medical anthropology, international health and development, emerging new infections, weapons of mass destruction and terrorism (biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons), critical medical anthropology, research methods in medical anthropology, research proposal development for NIH, environmental health, habitat destruction, and global warming, antibiotic resistance and vaccines, sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS), cancer, malaria, social stigma and disease, obesity and other eating disorders, and other health-related issues.

Required Text:


Reading Schedule

February 3: Helman: Chapter 1.
To the Student, pp. viii-ix; Part I: Understanding Medical Anthropology, Biological and Cultural Approaches, pp. 1-2; Medical Anthropology: An Introduction to the Fields (Brown, Barrett, Padilla, and Finley), pp. 3-15.
February 10: Helman: Chapter 3.
Evolution, Health, and Medicine, Conceptual Tools, p. 16; Stone Agers in the Fast Lane: Chronic Degenerative Diseases in Evolutionary Perspective (Eaton, Shostak, and Konner), pp. 17-27.

February 17: Quiz #1.
Helman: Chapter 4.
Human Biological Variation, Conceptual Tools, p. 34; The Tall and Short of It (Bogin), pp. 35-38; Bioarchaeology and the History of Health, Conceptual Tools, p. 49; Health and Disease in Prehistoric Populations in Transition (Armelagos), pp. 50-60; Cultural and Political Ecologies of Disease, Conceptual Tools, pp. 68-69; Social Inequalities and Emerging Infectious Diseases (Farmer), pp. 84-92; Why Is It Easier to Get Drugs Than Drug Treatment in the United States? (Singer), pp. 93-100.

Ethnomedicine and Healers, Conceptual Tools, pp.101-102; Disease Etiologies in Non-Western Medical Systems (Foster), pp. 103-110; Transcendental Medication (Konner), pp. 111-114; Belief and Healing, Conceptual Tools, pp. 122-123; The Nocebo Phenomenon: Concept, Evidence, and Implications for Public Health (Hahn), pp. 142-147.

March 3: Helman: Chapter 8.

March 10: Midterm exam.
March 17: No class – Spring break.
March 24: Video.
March 31: Helman: Chapter 10.
Do Psychiatric Disorders Differ in Different Cultures? (Kleinman), pp. 223-234; The Epidemiology of a Folk Illness: Susto in Hispanic America (Rubel), pp. 235-245; Part II: Applying Medical Anthropology, pp. 259-260; Case Studies in Explanatory Models, Conceptual Tools, pp. 261-262; Ethnomedical Beliefs and Patient Adherence to a Treatment Regimen: A St. Lucian Example (Dressler), pp. 263-268.

April 7: Scholar’s Day (classes held in evening).
Helman: Chapter 15.
Working With the Culture of Biomedicine, Conceptual Tools, pp. 272-273; Anthropology and the World of Physicians (Johnson), pp. 274-276; Ethnicity and Health Care, Conceptual Tools, pp. 297-298; A Case of Lead Poisoning from Folk Remedies in Mexican American Communities (Trotter), pp. 299-306; Stigma and Coping
with Chronic Illness, Conceptual Tools, p. 333; Coping with Stigma: Lifelong Adaptation of Deaf People (Becker), pp. 334-338.

April 14: Quiz #2.
Helman: Chapter 16.


April 28: Class presentations.
May 5: Final thoughts and review.
May 13: Final exam – 7:30-9:30 PM. All papers due today.

Course Requirements and Grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper:</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam:</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam:</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes:</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students will prepare an original research paper at least 10 pages on a topic pre-approved by the professor relating to medical anthropology. See attached guidelines for doing your paper. Students will give an oral presentation in front of the class about their paper topic. One or more extra credit projects may be assigned during the semester. Each extra credit project is worth up to 0.25; a maximum of 0.50 may be obtained for the semester.

Class participation includes constructive participation in which the student demonstrates having read the assigned readings and has thought deeply about the content. Students are expected to spend at least six hours per week preparing for the class.
sessions. The professor may call upon students to discuss the assigned readings. The midterm and final exams will be essay questions. The final exam is not cumulative.

**Disability Statement:**

Students with documented disabilities may be entitled to specific accommodations. SUNY Brockport’s Office for Students with Disabilities makes this determination. Please contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at (585) 395-5409 or osdoffic@brockport.edu to inquire about obtaining an official letter to the course professor. Faculty work as a team with the Office for Students with Disabilities to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

**Attendance Policy:**

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each session and again after the break, and it is important that you not be late for class. If you are present for one part of the class session, but not the other, you will be counted for a half absence. Students who have three and a half unexcused full absences (= seven unexcused half absences) will receive a lowered grade (e.g., A = A-). Each additional unexcused half absence will receive a further lowered grade (e.g., A = B+). Absences will be excused for a) written documented illnesses of the student, b) official representation of the College, c) death of a close relative, d) religious holiday, and e) other circumstances beyond the control of the student as determined by the professor. Students who arrive late to class must inform the professor at the end of the session to make sure they are not marked absent that day. Students who must leave early on a particular day need to notify the professor before the class begins.

**Academic Integrity and Student Behavior:**

Students are expected to maintain the highest level of academic integrity. Academic dishonesty (papers and exams) will not be accepted. Any student engaging in academic dishonesty during this course will receive a lowered grade for the course depending on the nature of the action, and could possibly be referred to the administration for further disciplinary action.

Students are asked not to carry on unrelated conversations during class. You are expected to pay attention and to be courteous. Major breaches of conduct or impropriety, including rudeness or insulting behavior to the professor or other students, disruptive behavior, or unrelated conversations, will receive a lowered grade. You will receive a lowered grade, possibly an E, for the class participation segment of your final grade. In addition, you will also receive an overall reduction of as much as one whole letter grade subtracted from your final grade.
Cell phones, blackberries, and pagers must be turned off (or set to vibrate) while attending class. Laptops may only be used for the purpose of taking notes during the class. Students may not IM (instant message) others during class time.

**Office Location and Hours:**

Dr. Feldman's office is located at Room C-15 in Cooper Hall. Office hours are Tuesdays from 4-6 PM, Wednesdays from 5-6 PM, and Thursdays from 3-4 PM, or by appointment. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with the professor during office hours or by appointment.

**GUIDELINES FOR DOING YOUR PAPER**

1. Your paper will be graded on the basis of both content and format. Failure to follow these format guidelines completely will lower the grade for your paper.

2. Papers should have a separate title page with your name, title of the paper, name of the course, course number, date, and name of the professor (Dr. Feldman).

3. Papers must be a minimum of 10 pages, not including your title page, reference cited page(s), any figure or table pages, or any appendices.

4. Papers should be entirely typed, double-spaced, use Arial font, on 12-point type (do not use smaller or larger point type), either printed one-sided or two-sided, with page numbers, and with either 1 inch or 1.25 inch margins on all four sides.

5. Papers need to be carefully spell-checked and then read over by you for grammatical errors. (Spell check, for example, will not change “and” when you meant to say “any”).

6. Do not use contractions (e.g., use “do not” instead of “don’t”).

7. Do not use Internet or chat line spellings or grammar (e.g., “u r gr8”).

8. Your paper must have an introduction, body, and conclusion. If you are not familiar with this approach, it is recommended that you use subheadings in your text, with the first subheading called “Introduction” and your last subheading called “Conclusion.” Then read over your Introduction and your Conclusion to ensure that they introduce and conclude. If you use subheadings, the body of your text should not be labeled “Body,” but be labeled by the subject matter and it is expected that you would have perhaps three or four subheadings in your text’s body.
9. If relevant, your paper may state your opinion. But carefully indicate that it is your opinion, and give evidence to support your opinion. Also, review what the opposing opinion is, and why you believe it is not valid.

10. Your paper must be entirely your own work. Papers found to have been plagiarized will receive an automatic E grade. If you are quoting more than three lines of your text from a published or Internet source, you must use quotes and cite your source and the page number of your source, otherwise it will be considered plagiarized. Avoid excessive quoting. It should not be a string of quotes. Use your own words.

11. Your reference cited page(s) must be keyed to your text. Only cite references that are stated in your text. Exclude all references that you read, but you are not citing in your text. Your text must cite references and they must be keyed to your reference cited page. Make sure that all the references cited in your text are properly listed in your references cited page(s). Your citations in your text should indicate the last name of your author and the year of publication (e.g., Smith 1998, or Jones, Freeman, Sills, and Wu 2006). Offset the name or the name and date in parentheses as appropriate. Do not list the page number in your text, unless you are quoting from the text (e.g., Smith (1998) says that the Navaho are matrilineal; Smith (1998:347) says, “The Navaho are matrilineal.”).

12. You must have at least ten references cited in your references page(s), and these must be keyed into your text.

13. When citing material from the Internet, list the author, title, name of web site, full web site address (e.g., www.dontbelievethisinformation.com/thisisthepage/) and date of publication. If there is absolutely no author for the material you are citing on the Internet site, the author’s name should be cited in your reference as Anonymous. If there is absolutely no date for the material you are citing on the Internet site, it is the current year (e.g., 2010).

14. The references in the Reference Cited page(s) should be listed in alphabetical order by first author’s last name. It should include the year in parentheses, and should appear as follows:

An article in a journal:


A book:


An article in a book with many authors:

Note, that if there are many authors, you may use “et al.” (meaning: and others) in your written text (e.g. Jaspers, et al. 2004), but cite all the authors in your references cited page as indicated above.

A newspaper or magazine article written without a cited author:


Note, that some authorship is listed at the bottom of the article (e.g., “prepared by Tim Jabbers with the assistance of Jane Dabbers” would be cited as -- Jabbers, Tim and Jane Dabbers (2001).)

Something without clear citation on the Internet:


The style used is neither MLA nor University of Chicago. It is a style used in anthropology books and journals.

15. A good paper topic is one that is broad enough in scope for you to find enough published information, but narrow enough that you feel you’ve covered the specific topic thoroughly and have a good grasp of what has been published on the topic.

16. Selected students will be expected to give a presentation on their papers before the class on April 28th.

17. E-mailed papers are not accepted.