Instructor: Michelle M. Day
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Office Hours: T/Th 1-3, and by appointment (e-mail to set an appointment)
Office Location: GDH 309C
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Course Description: This course provides an introduction to medical anthropology, including various theoretical approaches and concepts important to the study of medicine in a cross-cultural perspective.

Course Requirements: Course material will be presented through readings, lectures, films, web sites, and class discussion. Attendance is required and will be taken at all class meetings (10%) and participation in classroom discussion is also expected (10%). Students will have two writing exercises during the term (20%). There will be an in-class midterm (25%) and a take home final exam (35%). Students are expected to fully cite all sources (including web sites) for all writing assignments. Any cases of suspected plagiarism or academic dishonesty will be referred to the Student Honor Board.

Attendance policy: On-time attendance at class meetings is required. Arriving late is disruptive and distracting, and your overall attendance grade will suffer. If you are ill or must miss a class for legitimate reasons, it is your responsibility to check with a classmate about all substantive material, announcements, hand-outs, etc. presented in class that day.

Participation: Although I will occasionally lecture, there will be opportunities in each class to discuss the assigned readings for that day, and some days will be entirely devoted to class discussions. It is thus essential that you do the assigned readings for each day before coming to class.

Required Texts:

Weekly Reading Assignments

Week One: Introduction to Medical Anthropology

Wednesday, March 23
Introduction to the class and requirements

Friday, March 25
“Understanding Medical Anthropology: Biocultural and Cultural Approaches,” pp. 1-9 in UAMA
“Medical Anthropology: An Introduction to the Fields,” pp. 10-18 in UAMA.

Week Two: Early Foundations /Cultural Approaches

Monday, March 28
FILM: “Strange Beliefs” (on Evans-Pritchard)

Wednesday, March 30
“Belief and Ethnomedical Systems” in UAMA, pp. 108-109
Good, Byron. 1994. Chapter 1, “Medical anthropology and the problem of belief” in Medicine, Rationality and Experience, pp. 1-24. (reserve)

Friday, April 1: Exercise #1 Handed Out
Foster, George. “Disease Etiologies in Non-Western Medical Systems.” In UAMA, pp. 110-117.
Finker, Kaja. “Sacred Healing and Biomedicine Compared.” In UAMA, pp. 118-128.

Week Three: Colonialism, Global Inequalities and Political Ecology

Monday, April 4

Wednesday, April 6

Friday, April 8- NO CLASS TODAY!
Brown, Peter. “Cultural Adaptations to Endemic Malaria in Sardinia.” In UAMA, pp. 79-91.
Week Four: Infections and Inequalities

Monday, April 11: Exercise #1 Due  
Farmer, Paul. Infections and Inequalities. Read the preface and Introduction.

Wednesday, April 13  

Friday, April 15  

Week Five: Infections and Inequalities

Monday, April 18:  

Wednesday, April 20  

Friday, April 22  

Week Six: Social Construction of Disease and Healing

Monday, April 25: MIDTERM EXAM

Wednesday, April 27:  
“The Social Construction of Illness and the Social Production of Health.” In UAMA, 144-146.  
Clark, Lauren. “Gender and Generation in Poor Women’s Household Health Production Experiences.” In UAMA pp. 158-168

Friday, April 29  

Week Seven: Bio-Medicine in Critical Perspective

Monday, May 2: Exercise #2 Handed Out  
Martin, Emily. “Medical Metaphors of Women’s Bodies.” In UAMA, pp. 345-356.  

Wednesday, May 4  
Good, Byron and Mary-Jo DelVecchio. “Learning Medicine”: The Constructing of Medical Knowledge at Harvard Medical School.” (ON RESERVE)
Friday, May 6
  Fadiman, Anne. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*. Read the preface and Chapters 1-4 (up to page 37)

**Week Eight: Cross-Cultural Issues in Health Care**

Monday, May 9
  Fadiman, Anne. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*. Read Chapters 5-7

Wednesday, May 11
  Fadiman, Anne. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*. Read Chapters 8-11

Friday, May 13
  Fadiman, Anne. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*. Read Chapters 12-15

**Week Nine: Race, Ethnicity and Health Care**

Monday, May 16: Exercise #2 Due

Wednesday, May 18
  “Ethnicity and Health Care.” In UAMA, pp. 259-260.

Friday, May 20
  Trotter, Robert. “A Case of Lead Poisoning from Folk Remedies in Mexican American Communities.” In UAMA, pp. 279-285.
  Singer et. al. “Why Does Juan García Have a Drinking Problem?” In UAMA, pp. 286-301.

**Week Ten: Evolutionary and Bioarchaeological Approaches**

Monday, May 23
  Eaton, et. al. “Stone Agers in the Fast Lane: Chronic Degenerative Diseases in Evolutionary Perspective.” In UAMA, pp. 21-32.
  Ritenbaugh et. al. “Beyond the Thrifty Gene: Metabolic Implications of Prehistoric Migration into the New World.” In UAMA, pp. 46-52.

Wednesday, May 25
  “Bioarchaeology and the History of Health.” In UAMA, pp. 58.
  McKeown, Thomas. “Determinants of Health.” In UAMA, pp. 70-76.

Friday, May 27: REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM/FINAL EXAM HANDED OUT