ANG 6905: Medical Anthropology Journal Club
FALL 2015
Fridays, 5th period (11:45 am-12:30 pm)
Med Anthro Lab (TUR B103)

Instructor: Dr. Alyson G. Young
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Course Website: http://alysongyoung.org/medanthro/

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course focuses on intensive discussion of current peer-reviewed literature in medical anthropology and neighboring disciplines, with an emphasis on empirical research articles published in the last two years. The course takes the format of a journal club, an established part of graduate training in many health-related disciplines.

Learning Objectives
1. To broaden your understanding of current trends in medical anthropology and neighboring disciplines.
2. To enhance your ability to analyze the theory, methods, and significance of peer-reviewed articles from the primary literature.
3. To improve your presentation skills and ability to participate in discussion of the primary literature.

Course Format
Each week one student will present and lead a discussion of one peer-reviewed article from medical anthropology or an allied discipline. The presenter is responsible for selecting an article for discussion, in consultation with me. All students are expected to have read the assigned article and to participate actively in discussion.

Course Materials
There are no assigned texts. Reading materials will be drawn from the peer-reviewed literature and posted on the journal club website at least one week in advance.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Final grades are based on attendance, presentations, and written critical summaries of assigned journal articles.

Grade Components

1. Participation
   Attendance and participation are mandatory and will be recorded each week. You are allowed up to two unexcused absences without penalty. Each additional unexcused absence will deduct 5% from your final course grade. Excused absences will be dropped and will not affect your grade. An absence is considered excused if there is an acceptable reason according to UF policy (http://tinyurl.com/6k3y9w4). Active participation requires that you read the assigned article, take notes, and prepare thoughtful questions and critical discussion points.

2. Leading discussion
   Each student is required to select, present, and lead the discussion of at least one article per semester. Presentations should last no more than 15 minutes to allow ample time for discussion. Focus on identifying the central research questions or hypotheses; summarize the research methods and design; and evaluate the authors’ interpretation and argument. In the discussion, draw out strengths, not just weaknesses, of the paper and try to highlight its contribution to the literature.

3. Critical summaries
   You are required to write a short (~500-word) critical summary of five articles per semester. You may select from any of the readings we discuss. Your summary should identify the paper’s central research questions, hypotheses or argument; summarize the theory, methods, and findings; and critically evaluate the authors’ assumptions, interpretation, and argument. Highlight both strengths and weaknesses, and pose questions for further research or discussion. Critical summaries must be submitted by email before discussion of the article.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leading discussion</td>
<td>Once per semester</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical summaries</td>
<td>Five per semester</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Final grades are evaluated on the following scale: A = 93 or above; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; E = 59 or below

Key Journals

Articles for journal club should be published within the last 2-3 years in a peer-reviewed journal in medical anthropology or allied disciplines. The following list includes core journals in the field. This list is not exhaustive. Relevant articles from other fields are welcome.

American Anthropologist | Current Anthropology | Human Organization |
American Ethnologist | Ecology of Food & Nutrition | Medical Anthropology |
American Journal of Human Biology | Ethnicity & Disease | Medical Anthropology Quarterly |
American Journal of Public Health | Ethnicity & Health | Qualitative Health Research |
Anthropology & Medicine | Ethos | Social Science & Medicine |
Cultural Anthropology | Health and Place | Transcultural Psychiatry |
Culture, Medicine & Psychiatry | American Journal of Physical Anthropology |
COURSE POLICIES & INFORMATION
You are responsible for knowing and abiding by all course policies and procedures.

Academic Honor Code
All work should be individual unless it is specifically connected to assigned collaborative work. Evidence of collusion (working with someone not connected to the class or assignment), plagiarism (use of someone else’s published or unpublished words or design without acknowledgment) or multiple submissions (submitting the same paper in different courses) will lead to the Department’s and the University’s procedures for dealing with academic dishonesty. I expect all students to honor their commitment to the UF Honor Code (available online at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php).

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The DSO will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Please make any requests by the second week of class. Please contact the Disability Resources Center (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) for more information about resources available to students with disabilities.

UF Counseling Services
Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575; http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
• Schwartz, M. D., Dowell, D., Aperi, J., & Kalet, A. (2007). Improving journal club presentations, or, I can present that paper in under 10 minutes. Evidence-Based Medicine, 14(1), A8–9.