

Instructor: Sharon Abramowitz  
Office Hours: Mondays 3:30-5:00pm, or by appointment.  
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Course Meetings: Tuesdays 12:50-1:40, Thursdays 12:50-2:45  
Class Location: New Physics Bldg 1002  
Course Website on Sakai.

### Synopsis

In our understanding of global health, the problem of culture is always an underlying issue. In this course, we examine the ways in which diverse societies construct illness and health experiences, balance healing traditions with multiple forms of medical practice, and integrate the human experiences of illness, recovery, and death with the technical world of biomedicine. Simultaneously, we engage with global health and biomedicine as cultural forms that have their own distinctive features. Looking at the global health interventions world-wide, we study how biomedicine - from epidemics, to infant mortality, to disaster relief, to DNA research – exists as a set of cultural constructs that transform human experiences of health and disease. Building upon the work of scientists, anthropologists, and scholars of the medical humanities, we explore new ways of thinking about global health and culture as global health institutions and forces are changing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### Course Description

How is the experience of being ill shaped by one's culture? Does biomedicine stand apart from "culture" and "tradition" in our understanding of health and disease? Are biomedicine and international public health as specific cultural domains in themselves, and how does that shape their practice? How do specific messages about culture get circulated in global health activism and development interventions? And how are culture and health being brought together in international research?

Using the work of scientists, anthropologists, and scholars of the medical humanities, we explore new ways of thinking about global health and culture as global health institutions and forces are changing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This course uses excerpts of ethnographies from all across the world – including China, South Africa, the former Soviet Union, and international NGOs, to explore health experience, health discourses, traditional and biomedical practices, and health governance in a global perspective. Our readings and conversations will serve as the springboard for a semester-long discussion about the meanings of health, sickness, and health justice, with an eye towards interrogating the emerging international principle of "health as a human right." Through this discussion, we will be challenged to reconsider some of our own taken-for-granted assumptions about the infections and inequalities, global hierarchies of power, health cultures and experiences, transnational health movements, and global arrangements of development and underdevelopment.

### Course Aims

- **By the end of the semester, you will have been introduced to a diversity of cultural approaches to health and illness.**
- **You will have been trained to distinguish between "traditional healing" and biomedical knowledge and practices, and you will have been trained to think critically about health in transcultural perspective.**
- **You will have studied biomedical knowledge as a cultural domain.**
- **You will have acquired an introduction to the realm of global health: which includes pandemic diseases, global forms of health intervention, the creation of international health standards, and the provision of NGO and state-sponsored health resources.**
- **You will have engaged thoughtfully with the concepts of "health justice" and "health as a human right," and formulated a distinct and individual position on the matter.**

### Requirements

Class Participation (30%)  
3 Response Papers (30%)  
Final Paper Assignment (40%)  
Extra Credit (+1 possible points towards final grade)

### Overview of Course Topics

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Date	Topic
Week 1	Introduction
Week 2	Infections and Inequalities
Week 3	Traditional Practices
Week 4	Illness and Narrative, Body and Experience
Week 5	Global Health, Global Medicine
Week 6	Health and the State
Week 7	Bioscience, Biotechnology
Week 8	Vulnerable Populations: Aging
Week 9	Vulnerable Populations: Mental Illness
Week 10	Vulnerable Populations: Women & Kids
Week 11	Food Security & Bad Water
Week 12	Healthcare Access and Development Aid
Week 13	'Bad' Drugs: Culture, and illicit drug use
Week 14	'Good' Drugs: Big Pharma
Week 15	<b>Final Paper Due, &amp; Presentation.</b> Structural Violence and Global Health: A wrap-up.

### Class Participation

This class will be reading intensive, and all weekly readings must be completed by the start of our Tuesday meeting every week. During our Tuesday meetings, every student will be expected to participate in class discussion in a way that provokes thoughtful engagement with classmates. During our Thursday meetings, we will alternately be continuing lectures, holding discussions, or screening films. You are expected to participate.

### Response Papers

Students are responsible for submitting 3 response papers consisting of 2 page *single-spaced* critical response papers to the course reading (750-1000 words). These response papers must (1) address *all readings assigned for that week*, (2) give some summary, (3) offer an extended, *in-depth critique and commentary*, and (4) include some *personal engagement with the readings*. Students may choose the 3 classes/topics on which their response papers are based within the date constraints set by the class, drawing upon the readings from the previous weeks. Further information about response papers will be provided at first meeting.

### Final Paper

Final papers will be due on the last day of final exams, and will involve a thoughtful discussion of the concept of "health justice" or "health as a human right" in any contextual and cultural application you choose. There will be a final presentation of your paper topics on the last day of class. The paper must be 6 *single-spaced* pages in length, or 3000-3500 words, exclusive of the bibliography. For reference format, please use MLA, APA, or Chicago Style conventions. Final Paper is due by 8:00am on Tuesday, April 24, 2012.

### Grades

Final grades will be based on the following scale: A (94-100), A- (90-93), B+ (87-89), B (84-86), B-(80-83), C+(77-79), C (74-76), C-(70-73), D+(67-69), D (64-66), D-(60-63), E (<60).

### Extra Credit

+1 point to final grade: Throughout the semester, I will give you the opportunity to attend topical events on-campus or off-campus and complete a 1-page essay, including summary and critique, about the event. Both elements must be present for EC to be awarded.

### Books

A Reader in Medical Anthropology: Theoretical Trajectories, Emergent Realities. Eds: Byron Good, Michael MJ Fischer, Sarah Willen, Mary-Jo DelVecchio Good. Wiley Blackwell Publishers.

Infections and Inequalities. Paul Farmer.

No Aging in India. Lawrence Cohen.

Death Without Weeping. Nancy Scheper Hughes.

Global Pharmaceuticals: Ethics, Markets, Practices. Adriana Petryna, Andrew Lakoff, Arthur Kleinman.

### Course Readings

Additional readings will be posted at the course website at least one week prior to class.

### Course Conduct

- **Put your cellphones on vibrate.**
- **Try not to check email or play Angry Birds on your iPhones during class.**
- **Read a lot.**
- **Write a little.**
- **Ask questions.**
- **Talk to each other.**
- **Be nice.**
- **Talk to me.**
- **Pay attention to the world around you.**
- **Don't cheat. (see below)**

### Attendance Policy

Students and auditors are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor, to include mandatory attendance at all class meetings. Absences count from the first class meeting. In general, acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other sound reasons may be offered.

Attendance is required at all class meetings. Excused absences will require appropriate documentation. Assignments missed due to excused absences will be accepted, without a penalty, within 1 week after the absence. Work missed due to unexcused absences will be accepted, but will be penalized, as the **Late Assignment Policy** explains.

### Policy on Late Assignments

You are required to complete all assignments by the stated due dates. Late assignments will lose one half-letter grade for each day past the deadline. There are no make-up opportunities for any assignment, as you will have ample time to complete each requirement. I will not assign grades of "incomplete" except under extreme circumstances (and only if you have completed 50% of the coursework). You must provide documentation of such circumstances from an appropriate authority.

### Academic Honor Code

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code of the University of Florida. The Academic Honor Code is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the University community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and responsibility on the part of the University community. Please see the following website for a complete explanation of the Academic Honor Code: [www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html).

### Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities, who need reasonable modifications to complete assignments successfully and otherwise satisfy course criteria, are encouraged to meet with the instructor as early in the course as possible to identify and plan specific modifications. Students requesting accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office and then provide documentation to the instructor. For more information about services available to University of Florida students:

Dean of Students Office Disability Resource Center  
202 Peabody Hall or 0020 Reid Hall  
Phone: (352) 392-1261 Phone: (352) 392-8570

### University of Florida Counseling Services

Resources are available on-campus for students that feel like they are struggling in their personal or academic life. These resources include:

- University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling
- Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling

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- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

**Other Resources on Global Health Cultures**

The department of anthropology offers numerous courses at all levels in culture, health, and medicine. Please consider them as you register for classes in coming semesters.

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Date	Reading & Assignments
<b>Week 1</b> 1/10	<b>Introduction to the course</b> Lock and Sheper-Hughes, "The Mindful Body: A Prolegemnon" <i>A Guide to Reading and Writing in Social Anthropology</i>
1/12	Paul Farmer, <i>Infections and Inequalities</i> , Chapters 1-4
<b>Week 2</b> 1/17	Paul Farmer, <i>Infections and Inequalities</i> , Chapters 5-7
1/19	Paul Farmer, <i>Infections and Inequalities</i> , Chapters 8-10
<b>Week 3</b> 1/24	<i>RMA</i> Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 Brown, Barrett, Padilla, "Medical Anthropology: An Introduction to the Fields" (Sakai)
1/26	<i>RMA</i> Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8
<b>Week 4</b> 1/31	<i>RMA</i> Chapters 9, 10, 11 Shigehisa Kuriyama, "Grasping the Language of Life." <i>The Expressiveness of the Body</i> (Sakai)
2/2	<i>RMA</i> Chapters 12, 13, 14, 15
	<b>RESPONSE PAPER 1 DUE AT 5PM</b>
<b>Week 5</b> 2/6	<i>RMA</i> Chapters 31, 32, 33
2/8	<i>RMA</i> Chapters 25, 34, 35 Clarence Gravlee "How Race Becomes Biology: Embodiment of Social Inequality." <i>AJPH</i> (Sakai)
<b>Week 6</b> 2/14	<i>RMA</i> Chapters 16, 17
2/16	<i>RMA</i> Chapters 18, 19, 20
<b>Week 7</b> 2/21	<i>RMA</i> Chapters 27, 28
2/23	<i>RMA</i> Chapters 29, 30
<b>Week 8</b> 2/28	Lawrence Cohen, <i>No Aging in India</i> (first ½)
3/1	<i>No Aging in India</i> (rest of book) <b>Response Paper 2 due at 5pm</b>
	<i>Spring Break 3/5-3/9</i>
<b>Week 9</b> 3/13	Kleinman and Good, <i>Culture and Depression</i> (excerpts)
3/15	Emily Martin, <i>Bipolar Expeditions</i> (excerpts)
<b>Week 10</b> 3/20	Nancy Scheper-Hughes <i>Death Without Weeping</i> Chs 1-3
3/22	Nancy Scheper-Hughes <i>Death Without Weeping</i> Chs 4-6 Marilyn Nations "Angels With Wet Wings Won't Fly: Maternal Sentiment in Brazil and The Image of Neglect." <b>CMP</b>
<b>Week 11</b> 3/27	Dettwyler, K. <u>Breastfeeding: Biocultural Perspectives</u> (selected chapters)
3/29	<b>Guest Speaker: Alyson Young ???</b>
<b>Week 12</b> 4/3	Chapman, <i>Family Secrets</i> (excerpts)
4/5	<i>Reading Day</i> <b>Response Paper 3 due at 5pm.</b>

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<b>Week 13</b> 4/10	Angela Garcia, <i>Addiction and Dispossession along the Rio Grande (excerpts)</i>
4/12	Phillippe Bourgois, <i>Righteous Dopefiend (excerpts)</i>
<b>Week 14</b> 4/17	Adriana Petryna, Andrew Lakoff, and Arthur Kleinman, (Eds). <i>Global Pharmaceuticals: Ethics, Markets, Practices.</i>
4/19	Adriana Petryna, Andrew Lakoff, and Arthur Kleinman, (Eds). <i>Global Pharmaceuticals: Ethics, Markets, Practices</i>
<b>Week 15</b> 4/24	<b>Final Papers Due. Presentations of Final Paper Arguments in Class.</b> Singer, Merrill. "Beyond the Ivory Tower: Critical Praxis in Medical Anthropology."
4/26	<b>No Class. Reading Period.</b>