

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH441 – PROBLEMS IN MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
FALL 2013
T, R 9:30 – 10:45 SB 148

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Office Hours: MW 1:00 to 2:30 P.M.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The aim of this course is to give students experience with methods and theories in the anthropology of health. Following an inquiry based learning format, the course will consist of a series of components that will require the students to work collaboratively and individually. In addition, the students will learn how to work in a variety of academically relevant media including oral presentations, poster presentations, and term papers. Ideally, at the conclusion of the course students will have a better understanding of how anthropologists of health conduct and present their research, and will have acquired experience at working both on their own and in groups.

COURSE CONTENT

This course explores health from a broad anthropological perspective. The course consists of 4 components, each dealing with a specific topic related to the general theme of the anthropology of health. In the first component, students will uncover the predominant metaphors of health in Canadian society drawing from observations of popular advertisements. The first component will also expose students to the variety of different models for health that are found both cross-culturally and within Canadian society. In the second component, students will learn how to critically assess medical literature in terms of disease etiology, and use this knowledge to prepare a policy brief on public health interventions. The third component of the course will involve an observational study of cyborgs, a concept that anthropologists have developed to account for the increasing use of technology to enhance human biology. In the fourth component of the course, students will undertake a study of the social history of a particular medicine or drug, where they will try and uncover the underlying conflicts and controversy that characterize drug development and marketing in North America. Students will have class room time to explore essential themes and to prepare their written assignments for each component.

REQUIRED TEXT

Reading package for Problems in the Anthropology of Health, Fall 2013. The reading package will be available for purchase in the campus bookstore.



ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATIONS

The final grade will be based upon marks received on the assignments given in each of the components.

Assignments	Value
1. Exam on models of health	20%
2. Naidanac Health	
a. Group presentations	10%
b. Individual write-up	10%
3. Disease etiology	
a. promotional pamphlet	10%
b. policy brief	10%
4. Notes on cyborg observations	20%
5. Drug pipeline - poster presentation	20%

The grading system will use the following equivalencies:

A+	94.9–100	A	89.9–94.8%	A-	84.9–89.8 %
B+	79.9–84.8 %	B	74.9–79.8 %	B-	70.9–74.8 %
C+	66.9–70.8 %	C	62.9–66.8 %	C-	58.9–62.8 %
D+	54.9 %– 58.8%D		49.9–54.8 %	F	49.8 and below

The prerequisites for this course are ANTH 203 and ANTH 341.

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Plagiarism: “to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one’s own” (Webster’s). Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the submission. Any student caught plagiarizing July also be subject to additional University sanctions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Anthropology Departments policy on intellectual honesty available at: <https://www.anth.ucalgary.ca/home/links/intellectual-honesty-guidelines>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student’s responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who July require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In the event that the classroom should need to be evacuated due to an emergency situation please note that the primary assembly point shall be at the ICT Food Court. The Social Science food court will be the secondary evacuation point if necessary.

September

10 - Course Introduction

12 - **Component One** - Models of Health

Representation - the Naidanac

Readings - Horace Miner

17 - Humors, hot and cold

Readings - Richard Currier

19 - Mechanical model, personalistic and naturalistic systems

Readings - George Foster

24 - Canadian conceptions of Health

Readings - Irving Rootman and John Raeburn

26 - The Health Conundrum

Readings - Norman White

October

1 - *Models of Health Exam*

3 - Group work - Naidanac

8 - Group work - Naidanac

10 - Naidanac presentations

15 - Naidanac presentations

17 - **Component Two** - Evidence and public policy

How to read clinical journals

Readings - Kilgore Trout

Naidanac report due

22 - Fluoride papers

Readings - the fluoride papers

24 - Group work - Fluoride assignment

29 - Group work - Fluoride assignment

31 - **Component Three** - Cyborg anthropology

What is cyborg anthropology?

Readings - Gary Lee Downey, Joseph Dumit, and Sarah Williams

November

5 - Medical intervention and bodily enhancement

Readings - Linda Hogle

Fluoride pamphlet and policy brief due

7 - Technicity - technological tribes?

Readings - David Tomas

The Uncertain Body

Readings - Simon Williams

12 - Reading Break

14 - **Component Four** - The anthropology of pharmaceuticals

Readings Vander Geest et al

Study of cyborgs due

19 - The drug pipeline

Readings - 1) Lewis et al, and 2) Gibson et al

21 - Disease mongering

Readings - 1) Ashley Wazana, and 2) Mintzies et al

26 - Group work - pharmaceuticals

28 - - Group work - pharmaceuticals

December

3 - Poster session

5 - Poster session