

ASB 462: Culture and Health: Medical Anthropology
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Course covers: The role of culture in health, illness and curing; health status, provider relations, and indigenous healing practices in US ethnic groups.

This course will address three major areas:

- 1) how culture plays a role in health and health behavior
- 2) anthropological approaches to understanding determinants of health
- 3) health status and behavior in major US ethnic groups

Texts

Winkelman, M. 2005. Culture and Health: Applying Medical Anthropology. Boston: McGraw-Hill Custom Publication.

Barnes, L. and S. Sered, eds. 2005. Religion and Healing in America. New York. Oxford University Press.

Assessment: Your grade will be based on three exams and 2 papers and associated requirements. Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade (total 60%). Your papers and associated requirements is worth 40% of your total grade.

Exams: There will be three on-line multiple choice exams.

The first exam will cover Winkelman chapters 1-5 and assigned readings in Barnes and Sered (Barnes and Sered 2, 3, 4, 19, 23, 24, 31).

The second exam will cover Winkelman Chapter 6-10 and assigned readings in Barnes and Sered (Barnes and Sered Chapter 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 16, 28, 30).

The third exam will cover the assigned readings in Barnes and Sered 1, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12-18, 20-27

Research Papers

A special outline will be provided on line on the blackboard site for each paper. The first one will be a cultural system analysis of the health status and determinants of US ethnic group; the second one will be a psychocultural and social interaction/communications analysis of a US ethnic group.

Extra Credit

There are two extra credit options, each of which may earn you up to 10% of the final grade

Extra Credit I

A before and after self-assessment and write up of your cultural competency skills may be assessed for credit up to 1 grade level on your final grade. To access this option, you must

- 1) complete the self-assessment 1.4 during the first week of class and turn it in by 1/23; keep a copy for yourself.
- 2) do a second self-assessment and turn in on April 26; keep a copy for yourself
- 3) write up an assessment of the relationships between the two self assessments following these guidelines, and focusing upon your self-development in the stages N through I (see later handout). This is due May 2, along with the two assessments.

Extra Credit Write-up must address

- 1) What were your most significant cross-cultural learning experiences prior to this class?
- 2) Based upon your first self-assessment, what was your major level of intercultural competence exhibited in your responses, using Bennett's ethnorelative stages as a framework for self-assessment (N through I)? What about your developmental experiences contributed to this as your level of development?
- 3) What are the major influences on your intercultural development that occurred during this class?
- 4) What was your level of intercultural competency indicated by your second self-assessment? How does it relate to your first assessment?
- 5) Address why your level of intercultural development has changed or why it remained the same.
- 6) Are there specific items (questions on the self-assessment) that you did (or did not) change your mind about in terms of the self-assessment? Why?
- 7) What are the attitudes and behaviors that you need to change or develop to move to the next major level of intercultural development?
- 8) How do you feel that your intercultural attitudes and skills have changed (or not) across the course of this class, and why?

Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Health and Illness

Date Lecture Topics and Readings

1/16-18 Overview of syllabus and course

Culture and Health: Applied Medical Anthropology and Health Care

Areas of Applied Medical Anthropology

Cultural Competence in the Health Professions

Ethnomedicines, Biomedicine and Society: Medicine as Culture

Concepts of Health: The Biopsychosocial Model of Health

Cultural-Ecological Systems Approaches to Health

Cultural Effects upon Health: Sociocultural Theories of Disease

Reading: Winkelman Introduction, Winkelman Ch 1

1/23-25 Health Maladies: Disease, Illness, Sickness and the Sick Role

Biomedical Assumptions About Disease

Social Models of Maladies

Illness and Sickness Accounts

The Sick Role and Sickness Career

Health Belief and Explanatory Models: Mediating Across Malady Conceptions

Overcoming Cultural Barriers: Health Belief and Explanatory Model

Assignment: Bring to class Self-Assessments 1.1 and 1.4 (extra credit) with your ID# on it

Reading: Winkelman Chapter 2, Barnes and Sered 31

1/30-2/1 Cultural Competence through Anthropological Medicine

Cultural Competence

Specialty Cross-Cultural Roles of Medical Anthropology

Enriching the Provider-Patient Relationship with Patient Perspectives

Assessing Culture in Clinical Reality and Diagnosis

Reading: Winkelman Chapter 3, plus Office of Minority Affairs posting to Blackboard

2/6-8 Cultural-Ecological Systems Models and Community Health Assessment

Cultural-Ecological Systems Approaches to Health

The Cultural System: Infrastructure, Structure and Superstructure

Community Health Assessment

Ethnographic Rapid Assessment, Response and Evaluation (RARE)

Discussion of Paper Assignment

Reading: Winkelman Ch 4

2/13-15 Ethnomedical Health Care Sectors: Popular, Folk and Professional

Popular Sector Health Resources

Culture and Symptoms

Culture and Pain

Cultural Conceptualizations of the Body

Folk Sectors and Ethnomedicines

Alternative Medicine in American History and Culture

"Unconventional" Medicine in the Contemporary U.S.

Evaluating Biomedicine and Alternative Medicine

Professional Healers

Cultural Aspects of U.S. Biomedicine

Reading: Winkelman Ch 5; Barnes and Sered Intro, Ch 2, 3, 19, 23, 24

Exam 1 On line Must be completed by Feb 19th 5PM

Winkelman Intro, Chs 1-5, Barnes and Sered 2, 3, 4, 19, 23, 24, 31

2/20-22 Transcultural Psychiatry and Indigenous Psychologies

Introduction: Transcultural Psychiatry

Cultural Concepts of Normalcy and Abnormalcy

Possessions

Mental Illness: Universal or Culturally Specific?

Ethnomedical Theories of Illness: Universal and Cross-cultural Patterns

Ethnomedical Syndromes: Folk Illness and Culture-bound/reactive Syndromes

Psychocultural Open Systems Models and Evolutionary Population Psychology

The Psychocultural Model and Health Behavior

Biosocial Approaches to Cultural Psychology: The Socialization of Biology

Self, Personality and Indigenous Psychologies

Reading: Winkelman Ch 6; BARNES AND SERED 16

Paper Outlines Due 2/23

2/27 Medical Ecological Approaches to Health

3/1 Introduction: Medical Ecology Approaches to Disease and Health

Key Medical Ecology Concepts

Evolutionary Medicine and Contemporary Human Health

Pregnancy and Birthing as a Biocultural and Political Processes

Evolution of the Sickness and Healing Response

Triune Brain Structures and Social, Emotional and Mental Functions

Emotions in Biocultural Perspective: Universal or Culturally Specific?

Cultural Determinants of Human Races

Epidemiology: Conceptualization and Measurement of Disease

Cultural-Ecological Systems Approaches in Epidemiology

Cultural/Ethnographic Methodologies in Epidemiology

Reading: Winkelman Ch 7; Barnes and Sered 4

3/6-8 Political Economy and Critical Medical Anthropology Approaches

Introduction: Political Economy Approaches to Production of Health

Critical Medical Anthropology

Social Conditions as Fundamental Causes of Disease

Economic Status as a Cause of Poor Health

Macro Level Social Effects upon the Dynamics of Clinical Interactions

Changing the Micropolitics of Medicine

Changing Health Through Public Policy and Advocacy, Coalition Building

Reading: Winkelman Ch 8; Barnes and Sered Chapter 9, 10, 11

Film: Tuskegee Experiment

3/20-22 Psychobiocultural Dynamics of Health: Symbolic Effects on Physiology

Introduction: Cultural Healing and Medicine's Symbolic Reality

Metaphoric Processes in Symbolic Healing

Biosocialization: the Neurological Effects of Socialization

Stress: Symbolic Effects Upon the Autonomic Nervous System

Psychoneuroimmunology

Religious and Ritual Healing: Meaning, Assurance and Coping

Meaning Through Spirits: Attribution in Social and Psychodynamic Processes

Technical Functions of Ritual Healing: Effects on Emotions, Coping and Stress

Ritual and the Brain

Theories of Placebo Mechanisms: Meaning as a Placebo Mechanism

Social Networks, Social Support and Health Status

Stress, Culture and Symbolic Processes

Culture and Psychopharmacology

Reading: Winkelman Ch 9; Barnes and Sered Chapter 1, 2, 5, 28, 30

3/27-29 The Shamanic Paradigm of Ethnomedicine

The Classic Shaman: Ecstasy, Spirit World and Community

Shamanism as a Cross-cultural Phenomenon

The Integrative Mode of Consciousness: A Physiological Model

Dreams and Shamanic Consciousness

Neurognostic Structures: Innate Modules for Religion and Shamanic Thought

Animism: Spirits as Self and Other

Visionary Experience as Presentational Symbolism

The Shaman's Initiatory Crisis: Death and Rebirth

Physiological, Psychological and Psychosocial Bases for Shamanistic Therapies

Psychophysiological Bases of Shamanistic Therapies: ASC

Community Bonding: Opioid Release and Emotional Healing

Shamanistic Healing Through Spirit Meaning

Spirit Relations and Self

Shamanic Roots in Contemporary Religious Experiences and Healing

Reading: Winkelman Ch 10

4/6 Exam II completed online by 5PM; covers Winkelman Ch 6-10 and Barnes and Sered Chapter 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 16, 28, 30

Section III Culture and Health: American Minority Groups

4/3-5 European American Health Cultures and Behaviors

Readings: Barnes and Sered Chapters 1, 14-16, 23, 24

4/5-10 Native American Health Cultures and Behaviors

Readings: Barnes and Sered Chapters 8, 18

4/12 Discussions of Paper II

4/17 Paper Outline 2 Due

4/17-19 African American and Arabic Health Cultures and Behaviors

Readings: Barnes and Sered Chapters 10, 17, 20, 25

4/24-26 Mexican and Hispanic American Health Cultures and Behaviors

Readings: Barnes and Sered Chapters 6, 7, 12, 22

5/1 Asian American Health Cultures and Behaviors

Readings: Barnes and Sered Chapters 13, 21, 26, 27

11/8 Exam 3 Barnes and Sered 1, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12-18, 20-27

5/1 Extra Credit Due at 5PM

5/4 Research Paper II Due 5PM May 4

Final Exam TBD You will be responsible for the Barnes and Sered material only, not the lecture material; you may also take the lecture material exam for extra credit