

Anthropology 110M—Disability and Technology

UC Santa Cruz

Summer 2014

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-4:30PM

Social Sciences 1, Room 110

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Office Hours, Tuesdays, 5:00-6:30PM, Lulu's at the Octagon, 118 Cooper Street, or by appointment

This course provides an entryway into the more advanced study of medicine, science, health, illness and the body. “Disability” and “technology” are two keywords we will explore and take up together. Disability marks the boundary where the “normal” and the “abnormal” meet up, underscoring how living with illness and limited mobility renders all of us “other” in one sense or another. Technology, an important object of inquiry in medical anthropology and science and technology studies, names the terrain where knowledges and practices are put to work around particular things and problematics. In this class, we will consider the worlds that medicine and science conjure forth while taking seriously the embedded—and embodied—ways that ordinary peoples respond to the conundrums of sickness, loss and disability around the world. Students will come away with a solid understanding of the work of medical anthropologists while learning to ask critical questions of the taken-for-granted assumptions of contemporary health/care. Film/video screenings will complement our lectures, readings and conversations as well.

Course Reader

A course reader comprised of essays and book excerpts will be required. The reader can be purchased at the Bay Tree Bookstore on campus.

Recommended Texts

Hans A. Baer, Merrill Singer and Ida Susser, eds., *Medical Anthropology and the World System: Critical Perspectives*

Mario Biagioli, ed., *The Science Studies Reader*

Byron J. Good, Michael M.J. Fischer, Sarah S. Willen and Mary-Jo DelVecchio Good,

eds., *A Reader in Medical Anthropology: Theoretical Trajectories, Emergent Realities*
Marcia C. Inhorn and Emily A. Wentzell, eds., *Medical Anthropology at the Intersections: Histories, Activisms, and Futures*
Margaret Lock and Vinh-Kim Nguyen, *An Anthropology of Biomedicine*

These texts are recommended for further exploration around the key theories and queries we will be delving into.

Evaluation

Attendance and participation are important to your success in this course. ***Attendance will be taken daily. Weekly in-class exercises will form a central component of our conversations.*** Tardiness, absence from class or leaving early will negatively impact your grade.

You all will turn in ***four short response papers*** (2-3 pages each) addressing the issues, questions and ideas provoked by the readings I have assigned for a particular class. Papers will be due on the date I will lecture on the readings.

A final exam comprised of short answers and essay questions will take place during our last class meeting.

Your final grade will be determined based on the following breakdown—

Attendance	25% of final grade
In-Class Participation	25% of final grade
Response Papers	24% of final grade
Final Exam	26% of final grade

Please note that no late assignments will be accepted nor will I accept e-mailed papers. Give yourself enough time to complete all written work and make sure to see me in office hours with any questions or issues that may arise.

Week 1 / Mappings

I

Read: Teri Reynolds, “Dispatches from the Emergency Room” (2010)

View: *The Waiting Room* (Peter Nicks, 2012)

II

Read: Horacio Fabrega, Jr., “Medical Anthropology” (1971)

Nancy Scheper-Hughes and Margaret M. Lock, “The Mindful Body: A

Prolegomenon to Future Work in Medical Anthropology” (1987)
Peter Conrad, “Medicalization and Social Control” (1992)

View: *The Death of Mr. Lăzărescu* (Cristi Puiu, 2005)

Week 2 / Knowledges

I

Read: Byron J. Good and Mary-Jo DelVecchio Good, “‘Learning Medicine’: The Constructing of Medical Knowledge at Harvard Medical School” (1993)
Emily Martin, “Anthropology and the Cultural Study of Science” (1998)

View: *The Act of Seeing with One’s Own Eyes* (Stan Brakhage, 1971)

II

Read: Barry F. Saunders, *CT Suite: The Work of Diagnosis in the Age of Noninvasive Cutting* (2008) [excerpts]
Sherine F. Hamdy, “When the State and Your Kidneys Fail: Political Etiologies in an Egyptian Dialysis Ward” (2008)

View: *The English Surgeon* (Geoffrey Smith, 2007)

Week 3 / Pills

I

Read: Adriana Petryna and Arthur Klienman, “The Pharmaceutical Nexus” (2006)
Joseph Dumit, *Drugs for Life: How Pharmaceutical Companies Define Our Health* (2012) [excerpts]

View: *Health for Sale* (Michele Mellara and Alessandro Rossi, 2007)

II

Read: Cori Hayden, “A Generic Solution? Pharmaceuticals and the Politics of the Similar in Mexico” (2007)
Jonathan Kahn, “Exploiting Race in Drug Development: BiDil’s Interim Model of Pharmacogenomics” (2008)

View: *Habit* (Gregg Bordowitz, 2001)

Week 4 / Disabilities

I

Read: Ruth Benedict, “Anthropology and the Abnormal” (1934)

Gelya Frank, "On Embodiment: A Case Study of Congenital Limb Deficiency in American Culture" (1986)

View: *Breathing Lessons: The Life and Work of Mark O'Brien* (Jessica Yu, 1996)

II

Read: Matthew Kohrman, "Why Am I Not Disabled? Making State Subjects, Making Statistics in Post-Mao China" (2007)

Susan Reynolds Whyte and Herbert Muyinda, "Wheels and New Legs: Mobilization in Uganda" (2007)

View: *Emmanuel's Gift* (Lisa Lax and Nancy Stern, 2005)

Week 5 / Care

I

Read: Arthur Kleinman and Peter Benson, "Anthropology in the Clinic: The Problem of Cultural Competency and How to Fix It" (2006)

Frances Norwood, "Nothing More to Do: Euthanasia, General Practice, and End-of-Life Discourse in the Netherlands" (2007)

Janelle S. Taylor, "On Recognition, Caring, and Dementia" (2008)

View: *Amour* (Michael Haneke, 2012)

II

FINAL EXAM