

**Anthropology 311
Medical Anthropology
Hume Room 110
9:30 AM – 10:45 AM T Th
University of Mississippi**

Dr. Kate M. Centellas

Office: Leavell Hall 116

Office Hours: Tu Th 2:30-4:30

Email: kmcentel@olemiss.edu

Office Phone: 915-7129

Course Description

How do people define and understand illness? Bodily integrity? Belief and healing? How does technology impact our understanding of these issues? These are some of the questions we examine in medical anthropology. During the semester, we develop & apply anthropological concepts to understand health, illness, and medical healing practices in diverse socio-cultural contexts. These concepts include: ideas of the body; personhood; reproduction; illness; deviance; the medicalization of healing; “alternative” medicine; and Western biomedicine and biopower. This course is a writing-intensive course, with short response papers (1-2 pages) due every other week and three longer analytic essays (5-7 pages) during the term.

Objectives

By the end of the course, students will:

1. Understand the diversity socio-cultural beliefs about illness and medicine
2. Relate these beliefs to global trends and processes
3. Use anthropological concepts to analyze social issues relating to medicine and healing practices
4. Read, analyze, and critique ethnographic writing

Course Units

This course is structured in six units plus an introductory module, with each lasting approximately 2 weeks:

- Introduction
- Illness & healing
- Culture, practice, & disease
- Biomedicine & biopower
- Reproduction, technology, and culture
- Organ transplantation, the body, and the self
- Globalization & Medical Pluralism

Required Readings

Course materials include full-length ethnographies, an analytic textbook, journal articles, websites, radio programs, and documentary films. You are expected to bring your assigned readings to class for discussion. All articles are available on Blackboard for downloading. Links are also provided to websites, streaming video, and radio podcasts. You can find these in a folder for the unit under "Course Documents."

The following books are available for purchase at the campus bookstore and via Amazon:

Lock, Margaret and Vinh-Kim Nguyen. 2010. *An Anthropology of Biomedicine*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

Petryna, Adriana. 2009. *When Experiments Travel: Clinical Trials and the Global Search for Human Subjects*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Rapp, Reyna. 2000. *Testing Women, Testing the Fetus: The Social Impact of Amniocentesis in America*. New York: Routledge

Sikkink, Lynn. 2009. *New Cures, Old Medicines: Women and the Commercialization Of Traditional Medicine in Bolivia*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Susser, Ida. 2009. *AIDS, Sex, and Culture: Global Politics and Survival in Southern Africa*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

Assignments

1. Response Papers

Every other week, students will submit a critical response paper focused on the 2-week unit of 1-2 pages. These papers are due by 5 PM **Friday**. There are no prompts for these. Instead, you should focus on exploring the implications a particular concept or theme that stands out for you from the unit's readings. You may hand these in via email or hard copy in a folder on my office door. If you email them, you will **not** receive a paper copy with comments. Instead, I will use the comment feature in Word to provide feedback and return the document via email.

2. Analytic Essays

There are 3 analytic essays throughout the semester. Students are required to select one essay prompt from a list of several and answer it using course readings and concepts. Your essays should be approximately 7 pages long (12 point font, double-spaced, typed, 1 inch margins) and must synthesize concepts and material from different units.

3. Discussion & Participation

Students are expected to be active participants in the classroom. Participation in discussion and engagement with course materials counts for 25% of your final grade

4. Extra Credit

Throughout the course there are optional readings & materials posted on Blackboard. Extra

credit can be earned by writing no more than **2** additional response papers that focus on these materials. 1 must come from the first 3 additional materials (up to 10/07) and 1 must come from the second 3. These are due 1 week **AFTER** the additional materials are assigned. I will use these to replace your lowest grade(s) on the response papers.

Grading

Attendance and Participation:	25%
Response Papers 6 * 5%:	30%
Analytic Essays 3 * 15%:	45%

Please be aware that any instance of plagiarism will result in a 0 for the assignment at minimum.

Late Policy

I do not accept late papers. The only exceptions are if you have a doctor's note or a note from your advisor. If you miss a response paper, you cannot write an extra credit one to make it up. The extra credit assignments only replace **submitted** response papers.

Participation

This course is both discussion and lecture based. Your participation in class activities is vital for your understanding (and enjoyment) of the material. A good participation grade is based on **engagement** with course themes in class. I encourage you to bring in examples from your lives, to mention anything that made you think of course themes, and try to expand course ideas to your understanding of the world around you. Evidence for this includes: asking questions about the material; answering questions posed by myself and other students; referencing interesting or puzzling popular examples such as magazine articles or T.V. shows in discussion; and respecting others' opinions.

Student Responsibilities

Along with the course readings, assignments, and class attendance, you are expected to know and understand the material on the syllabus. I **do no respond to** questions that are clearly answered on the syllabus or on Blackboard (e.g. "what's the reading?") Always check your syllabus, then Blackboard if you have a question!

In addition, there may be changes to the syllabus as the course proceeds. If this occurs, I will a) post an announcement on Blackboard b) announce the change in class and c) send an email to everyone informing them of the change.

Statement on Accommodations

I am happy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities when necessary. It is the responsibility of any student with a disability who requests a reasonable accommodation to contact the Office of Student Disability Services (915-7128). SDS will then contact the instructor through the student by means of an Instructor Notification of Classroom Accommodations form.

Office Hours

If you have questions, concerns, or ideas about the material come and talk to me. I prefer to work with students in person (not over email) whenever possible. I have an "open door" office hours policy,

meaning you can come to my office during these times with no appointment. If you cannot make these times, send me an email and we can arrange an alternate time.

Blackboard and Email

You are expected to check your email. I will send reminders and important notices to your Ole Miss account. I have posted the syllabus on Blackboard and additional readings on Blackboard. I will add PowerPoints, additional materials, and handouts as the semester proceeds. You also must post your discussion questions in the discussion board, under the appropriate forum for the day.

A heads up: I do not keep the late hours many of you do! Therefore, if you email me late at night (after about 8 PM) I will likely not receive or respond to your email until the next day.

Course Schedule

Week & Unit	Tuesday	Thursday	Assignments & Additional Materials
1. Introduction	8/24	8/26 Text: Ch. 1 & Ch 3 (skim Ch. 2)	None
2. Illness & Healing	8/31 Articles: Whyte, "Identity & Subjectivity." Schneider, S. "Radical Remedies."	9/2 NO CLASS	
3. Illness & Healing	9/7 Video in-class: "Taboo: Healers"	9/9 Articles: Greenway, C. "Healing Soul Loss" Pylypa, J. "Healing Herbs and Dangerous Doctors"	Film worksheet on Tuesday Response #1 DUE FRIDAY
4. Culture, Practice, and Disease	9/14 Textbook: Ch. 6	9/16 AIDS, Sex, & Culture: Intro, Chs. 1 & 2 (through p. 64)	Spend time exploring the Frontline website on AIDS. Watch an episode, listen to interviews, read articles (linked on BB)

5. Culture, Practice, and Disease	9/21 AS & C: 3-5 (through 117)	9/23 AS & C: 6, 7, 11, 12 (118-154; 199-221).	Response #2 DUE on FRIDAY Optional Reading on BB: Nguyen, V-K. "Antiretroviral Globalism."
6. Biomedicine & Biopower	9/28 Textbook: Ch 7 In-Class Film: FRONTLINE: The Vaccine Wars	9/30 When Experiments Travel: Intro & Ch. 1 (through p. 46)	1st ANALYTIC ESSAY DUE BY 5 PM FRIDAY Listen to This American Life story on the Frontline website (linked on BB)
7. Biomedicine & Biopower, cont.	10/5 WET Ch. 2 & 3	10/7 NO CLASS WET Ch. 4 & Conclusion (for response paper & discussion on Tuesday)	DEADLINE for 1 st extra credit assignment on Friday Response #3 DUE via email FRIDAY Optional reading on BB: Lakoff, A. "The Private Life of Numbers."
8. Reproduction, Technology, and Culture	10/12 Textbook Ch. 10 Testing Women Intro, Ch. 1, 2	10/14 Testing Women, Ch 4, 5	
9. Reproduction, Technology and Culture cont.	10/19 Testing Women Ch 6 & 7	10/21 Articles: Irvy, "The Ultrasonic Picture Show" Gammeltoft, "Sonography and Sociality."	Response #4 DUE on FRIDAY Optional reading on BB: Roberts, E. "Extra Embryos."

10. Organ Transplantation, the Body, and the Self	10/26 Textbook Ch. 8 & 9	10/28 Articles: Sharp, L. "Commodified Kin"	2nd ANALYTIC ESSAY DUE BY 5 PM FRIDAY
11. Organ Transplantation, the Body, and the Self continued	11/2 Article: Scheper-Hughes, N. "The Last Commodity."	11/4 Articles: Hamdy, S. "When the State and Kidneys Fail." Foley, E. "Neoliberal Reform and Health Dilemmas."	Response #5 DUE on FRIDAY Optional Readings on BB: Franklin, S. "Stem Cells R Us." Seabrook, J. "The Last Babylift."
12. Globalization & Medical Pluralism	11/9 New Cures Old Medicines Ch 1-3	11/11 New Cures Ch. 4-6	DEADLINE for 2 nd extra credit assignment
13. Globalization & Medical Pluralism cont.	11/16 New Cures Ch. 7-end	11/18 Article: Miles, A. "Healers as Entrepreneurs" In-class film: "Vanguard: Elixir of the Toxic Frog."	Response #6 DUE on FRIDAY
NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK	11/23	11/25	
14. Summary, review	11/30	12/02	3rd ANALYTIC ESSAY DUE BY 5 PM FRIDAY

