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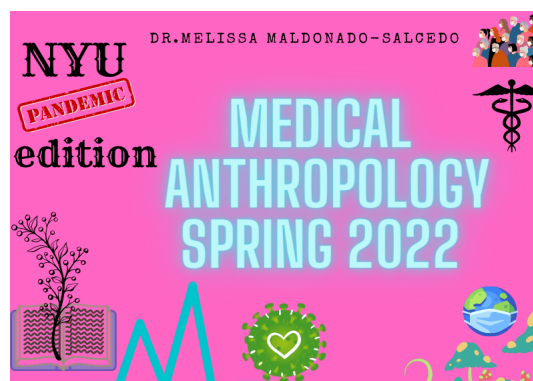
Office Hours: by Appointment, Saturdays 12-1pm EST

Podcast: "What is Medical Anthropology?"

Available on Spotify [here](#)

Course Assistants:

- Dr. Alyse Parker- Office Hours (by appointment) Email: alysemparker@gmail.com
- Nadia Mbonde-Office Hours (by appointment) Email: nmm259@nyu.edu
- Cella Masso-Rivetti (by appointment) Email: fmm7771@nyu.edu



**MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
SPRING 2022**

ANTH-UA 35 001

Wednesdays

6:20-8:50 PM EST

(ONLINE)

Course Outline

Medical anthropology is the study of how health and illness are shaped, experienced, and understood in light of global, historical, and political forces. It is one of the most dynamic subfields of anthropology and has clear relevance for health professionals and researchers interested in the complexity of disease states, diagnostic categories, and what comes to count as pathology or health. This course provides an overview of the intersection where health, culture, and political-economic power meet. It requires that you consider not only intellectually challenging materials on health and disease cross-culturally, but that you interrogate your own personal and social beliefs about bodies and the causes and responses to their vulnerabilities, as well.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Discussion Board Posts (25%)

Keep up with assigned readings and write 10 weekly one-paragraph entries onto the corresponding Forum on Classes responding to 2-3 of the texts in conversation with

the lecture (podcast.) These are due each Monday by midnight. Your responses should show that you've engaged with the texts of the week for which you are writing, and that you are thinking critically about the readings (you are interpreting and applying the main points of the authors in your own questions or in relation to your experiences – you are going beyond summary).

DUE- Mondays (midnight)

Please note: All additional discussion board posts beyond the required 10 will count as extra credit.

Short Reflections (30%) (1-2 pages)

- What is your cultural remedy when you get a cold? Share an experience.
(Due Week 3-February 13, 2022)
- What is your Anthropological Credo?
(Due-Week 5-March 7, 2022)
- Immigrant Fieldwork
(Due- Week 9 March 22,2022)
Please note - *2-3 Pages

Photo Essay (5 Photos) (15%)

- Reflect on the different examples of health, healing, and illness that we have explored thus far.
- Identify a big idea that you would like to visually explore. You might focus on a specific group or community. You can also choose to focus on local or global issues—just make sure you have a clear vision.
- Create a thesis statement that brings into focus your point of view.
- Create the body of your photo essay. Write four or five points that you want to make to prove your thesis statement. Select photos that will illustrate each of these points. Organize your points and the photos into an essay. If you want viewers to look at the photos in a certain order, make that clear. You may also use quotes from texts.
- Reflect on the photos you have chosen, why did you choose them, why they align with your supporting thesis.?
- Create a concluding statement for your photo essay. Include a clear thesis statement presenting a big idea about Health.
- Present four or five statements that support the thesis.
- Provide a photo illustrating each supporting statement.
- Include a concluding statement that is not simply a restatement of the thesis.

(Due- Week 12- April 11)

Death/Drugs Over Dinner (Instructions to Follow) - 10%

DUE-

www.drugsoverdinner.org

www.deathoverdinner.org

(Due-Week 13 April 25, 2022)

FINAL ILLNESS NARRATIVE (date assigned by Albert) (15%)

DUE- TBA

Each student is to engage in a final project that allows for individual exploration of themes relevant to the class by way of an illness narrative. The purpose of the project is to demonstrate knowledge of the material we have been studying and to extend that understanding in new directions. I am willing to consider a range of "traditional" and "creative" projects, including (but not limited to):

- a 4- to 5-page research paper
- creative writing (drama; fiction; poetry)
- artistic representation(s)
- magazine/news feature article
- film project
- graphic novel(la)
- website
- review essay (of two or more books—fiction or nonfiction—or films)

Creative projects require a research component just as the paper does—using a minimum of 4 independent sources—and must be accompanied by a bibliography of sources and a one- to two-page explanation linking the work produced with your research.

Class Participation - each week you respond to 2 of your classmate's discussion board post by Tuesday midnight. You are to complete a total of 10 (2 per week) OR you can do (1 per week) (10%)

Each additional post beyond the assigned will be counted as extra credit.

COURSE OUTLINE

January 26, 2022

WEEK 1- Introductions, Review of Syllabus

February 2, 2022

WEEK 2 Medical Anthropology Is....

Listen: Podcast Season 3, Episode 1

Read

- "An Anthropologist's Credo" by Franz Boas
- "Teaching Empathy with Anthropology" by Mitchel Ma
- "Anthropology, Empathy, and the Other, Regarding Emotions" by Lindsay A. Bell
- "Nazi Medicine and the Politics of Knowledge" by Robert Proctor "Community (recommended)

- Based Organizations as First-Responders and Agents of Change in the face of the COVID-19 Pandemic” by Nastaja Ilonka Roels, Amarelys Estrella, Melissa Maldoando, Rayna Rapp, Helena Hansen, and Anita Hardon

February 9, 2022

WEEK 3 Reimagining Illness

Listen: Podcast Season 3, Episode 2

Read

- “The Wounded Dresser” by Walt Whitman
- “The Man with Enormous Wings” by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- “I’m not Lazy, I’m Ill” by Melissa Maldonado-Salcedo
- “*The Masque of the Red Death*” by Edgar Allen Poe
- *Narrative Medicine: Honoring the Stories of Illness* (2006) by Rita Charon (selections)

Watch

- “How Racism makes us Sick” by David R. Williams

February 16, 2022

WEEK 4 A Climate of Plagues and Disasters

Listen: Podcast Season 3, Episode 3

Read

- *Infections and Inequalities* (1999) by Paul Farmer (selections)
- “The Magic Mountain” by Thomas Mann
- “Preface” in *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason* by Michel Foucault
- “Disaster Vulnerability in Anthropological Perspective” by A.J Faas
- *Love in the Time of Cholera* (1986) by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (Selections)

Watch

- *Forgotten Plague* (2015)

February 23, 2022

WEEK 5 BIOMEDICINE and its Truths

Listen: Podcast Season 3, Episode 4

Read

- “What is Specific to Biomedicine” by Arthur Kleinman
- “How Medicine Constructs its Objects?” by Byron Good
- “Panopticism” by Michel Foucault
- *Tales of the Biomed : A Collection of Short Stories from Biomed Techs from Around the World As Told to the Author* by David W. Braetigman (selections)
- “Health: Anthropological Aspects” by Arthur Kleinman and Adriana Petryna
- “How COVID-19 IS Changing Pharmaceutical Research and Development” by Emily Sokol

March 2, 2022

WEEK 6 Stories of Suffering/ Suffering and Storytelling

Listen: Podcast Season 3, Episode 5

Read

- “Biomedical Ambivalence: Asthma Diagnosis, the Pharmaceutical, and other Contradictions in Barbados” by Ian Whitmarsh
- “Making up People” by Ian Hacking
- “The Good Doctor” by Tracy Kidder
- “Hunger” by Roxanne Gay
- “Violence and Vulnerability in Anthropology” by Alix Johnson

Watch (In Class)

- *Poder* (2014)

March 9, 2022

WEEK 7 Dispossession, Transnationalism and Migrant Health

FIELDWORK

Listen: Podcast Season 3, Episode 6

Read

- “Dispossession, Disorganization, and the Anthropology of Labor” by August Carbonella and Sharyn Kashmir
- Testimony-“Immigrants and Essential Workers During COVID-19” by Tom Jawetz, vice president of Immigration Policy at the Center for American Progress (September 28, 2020)
- “Turf Wars” by Piri Thomas
- “Migration, Displacement, and Dispossession” by Nina Glick Schiller
- “Jacob Riis: the Photographer who Showed ‘How the Other Half Lives’ in 1890s New York” by Kelly Richman-Abdou
- *How the Other Half Lives: Studies Among the Tenements of New York* by Jacob Riis

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/45502/45502-h/45502-h.htm>

Review Guide (for assignment)

Watch

- “Europe of Die: People Smuggling in Sicily” by Vice News

WEEK 8

March 16, 2022

SPRING BREAK

Immigrant Story Fieldwork - Due March 22, 2022

March 23, 2022

WEEK 9 Medical Tourism

Listen: Podcast Season 3, Episode 7

Read

- “Diasporic Medical Tourism: a scoping review of quantitative and qualitative evidence” by Aneta Mathijssen
- “Affective Journeys: the emotional structuring of medical tourism in India” by Harris Solomon
- “Moral Maps and Medical Imaginaries: Clinical Tourism at Malawi’s College of Medicine” by Claire L. Wendland
- “Language, Medical Tourism, and the Enterprising Self” by Sebastian Muth and Neelashki Suryanarayan

March 30, 2022

WEEK 10 Feelings and Belief in the Field

Listen: Podcast Season 3, Episode 8

Read

- “The Cult of the Saints and the Reimagination of the Space and Time of Sickness in Twentieth-Century American Catholicism” by Robert Orsi
- “The Neuroscience of Emotions” by DD Franks (Recommended)
- “Shamanic Dreaming”, “Tobacco and Enlightenment,” & “Imagine a World without Tobacco” by Emily Sinclair in *Anthropology of Tobacco* (2019)
- “Medical Anthropology and the Problem of Belief” by Byron J. Good
- “Belief as Pathogen, Belief as Medicine” by Arthur Kleinman and Robert Hah
- “Reciprocal Vulnerability in the Face of Patriarchal Violence” by Pascale Schild
- “Argentinidad or Neurosis?” by Melissa Maldonado-Salcedo

Watch (in class)

- “These Hospitalized COVID Patients Still Refuse to get Vaccinated” by Vice News

HW: Tell a COVID story (1 Page)

April 6, 2022

WEEK 11 Medical Research: Promises and Ethics / Visualizing Pain

Listen: Podcast Season 3, Episode 9

Read

- “The Silent Drama of Photography by Sebastiao Salgado (TED Talk)
- “Little Suma” by Susan Sontag

- “Feral Animals, *Rastrojo*, and Dispossession: Images of the Afterlife of War in Bajo Atrato, Colombia” by Daniel Ruiz-Serna
- “Beauty Weights in Argentina” by Melissa Maldonado-Salcedo

Watch (In Class)

- “The Amazing Story of the Man Who Gave us Modern Pain Relief” by Latif Nasser

April 13, 2022

WEEK 12 Clinical Trials and Bodies

Listen: Podcast Season 3, Episode 11

Read

- “Symptom: Subjectivities, Social Ills, Technologies” by Amy Moran-Thomas and Joao Biehl
- “The Aftermath of Clinical Trials” by Adriana Petryna
- “Global Pharmaceutical Markets and Corporate Citizenship: The Case of Novartis’ Anti-cancer Drug Glivec” by Stefan Ecks

(Watch)

- *A Different Type of Drug Company* by Carl Byker and *The Economics of Health/Poor Peoples Diseases* (BBC)
http://www.oneworldhealth.org/media/audio_video.php

Watch (In Class)

“My Life as a Full-time Human Guinea Pig” by VICE News

April 20, 2022

WEEK 13-Dehumanizing Industries and Anti-Rights Systems

Listen: Podcast Season 3, Episode 12

Read

- “Challenging Orthodoxies: The Road Ahead for Health and Human Rights” by Paul Farmer
- “Rotten Trade: Millennial Capitalism, Human Values and Global Justice in Organs Trafficking” by Nancy Sheper-Hughes
- Chapter 1, “Institutional Burden to Care” in *Jailcare: Finding the Safety Net for Women Behind Bars* (2017) by Carolyn Sufrin
- “Global Health Diplomacy” (editorial) by Vincanne Adams, T. Novotny, H. Leslie (recommended)
- *Being Mortal* (2019) by Atul Gawande (selections)
- “Humanitarian as a Politics of Life” by Didier Fassin

- “Never Again? Reflections on Human Values and Human rights” by Paul Farmer

April 27, 2022

WEEK 14-Methods and Working the Field

Listen: Podcast Season 3, Episode 13

Read:

- “Queer Methods: Four Provocations for an Emerging Field” by Amin Ghaziani and Matt Brim
- “Emotions as Ethnography: The Story Doctor’s Toolbox” by Melissa Maldonado-Salcedo
- “Is Vulnerability Outdated? After Subjects and Spaces” by Elizabeth K. Marino, A.J Faas
- “Amérika, Amérika: A Palestinian abroad in the land of the Free” by Anton Shammas
- “What is Reproductive Justice?” by SisterSong
- “Anthropology and Ableism” by Erin Durban
- “Preface” in *Bipolar Expedition: Mania and Depression in American Culture* (2007) by Emily Martin

May 4, 2022

WEEK 15-Birthing (In) Justice

Listen: Podcast Season 3, Episode 14

Read

- “Premenstrual Syndrome, Work Discipline, and Anger” by Emily Martin
- “Making Muslim Babies: IVF and Gamete Donation in Sunni versus Shi’a Islam” by Marcia Inhorn
- “Life Along a Poisoned River” by Jonathan Blitzer
- “The Race of Hysteria: Overcivilization and the Savage Woman in Late Nineteenth-Century Obstetrics and Gynecology” by Laura Briggs
- “Stress and Resilience: The Sojourner Syndrome and the Social Context of Reproduction Harlem” by Leith Mullings

Watch (In Class)

- “Forced Sterilization” in *Yo Soy Boricua Pa’ Que tu los Sepas* (2008) by Rosie Perez

COURSE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

- Podcast Episode Drops

SUNDAY

- Submissions for HW/Assignments due by Midnight (this excludes the discussion board posts)
- I post a weekly schedule check-in with updates/reminders/etc on BrightSpace.
- You can respond to issues raised on the threads and the lecture/sessions on our “In the Mix” thread on Brightspace. We will use it to share news stories, etc.

MONDAY

- Post Weekly Discussion Board Post on Texts & Podcast by Midnight

TUESDAY

- Post Response to 2 classmates on their Discussion board Post

WEDNESDAY

- I will reach out to individual students to confirm they are prepared to read/expand on their discussion board post in the morning (before noon.) If the student confirms, I will create a slide for your discussion board post to read/elaborate on in class
- Meet on Zoom for class

Class Structure:

- Hot Button Issues (current events)
- Mini-Lecture Refresher (No more than 5 Slides)
- Viewing/Screening (no longer than 25 minutes)
- Conversation/Discussion based on Discussion Board Posts
- Discussions/Group Work
- House Matters (this is the opportunity to ask questions, discuss due dates, gradings, etc.)

I intend to sign on a few minutes before our sessions in case you have questions or want to chat.

We start at 6:25 and will end by 8:30pm starting Week 9

Starting

THURSDAY

- Class Recap is posted with reminders, extra credit opportunities, etc.

House Rules

- Expected a delayed response over the weekend to emails.
- I am flexible, but I will not revise due dates on the syllabus as the structure is helpful and purposeful. I wish to stay faithful to our plan. If you need an extension or accommodation, I will work with you. Reach out as soon as you can so we can support you.
- You will have a rubric for each big assignment.

Meetings

- I am happy to meet (Tuesday-Thursday) by appointment.
- No Saturday Hotline for the Month of March
- All class matters must be communicated over email. *Please do not use my social media to communicate class matters or concerns...I do not check frequently enough to rely on it.*
- If I am to fall ill during the semester- I will communicate 24 hours before in writing with an adjusted session.