Course Description
This seminar provides an in-depth examination of contemporary applied medical anthropology, focusing on applications of theory, methods, and praxis. Each week explores core orientations, skills, and roles for medical anthropologists in professional healthcare settings. Special emphasis is placed on engagement and collaboration between anthropologists, community stakeholders, healthcare policymakers, health provider organizations, and other social and behavioral health sciences. A core focus is on how applied medical anthropology influences policies, programs, and services that advance community health and wellbeing and reverse health disparities.

Course Goals
1. Explore applications of medical anthropology in health policies and services
2. Understand techniques used in applied medical anthropology to improve healthcare practice.
3. Examine diverse roles of medical anthropologists in a range of healthcare settings.
4. Survey benefits and challenges of engaged partnerships to address health needs and disparities.

Required Text

Note: additional required readings will be posted on eCourseware.

Course Requirements
1) Two mini-projects (each worth 25% of course grade)
2) Two essay exams (each worth 20% of course grade)
3) Weekly reading questions and lead instruction on one required reading (10% of course grade)

Course Expectations
1. Comportment: Respectful discussion and shared perspectives are both welcome and expected. However, disruptions are unacceptable; students must attend all meetings and arrive on time, prepared to discuss required readings for that date. Phones must be off; computer use is prohibited without instructor permission. Students with disabilities are welcome. All students should address any concerns or special requests to the instructors. Attendance is essential; students who miss 3 or more lectures will receive a grade of “Fail” for this course.
2. Deadlines: Late or incomplete assignments are unprofessional and will not be graded. “Incomplete” grades will not be granted except in documented emergencies; please budget your time accordingly to complete all readings and graded projects by the deadline.
ANTH 7511 SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS
(NOTE: topics and assignment and dates are subject to change)

January 22   Orientation to Applied Medical Anthropology
Objective: review core principles of medical anthropology within healthcare praxis
REQUIRED READING: none due today; prepare next week’s readings

January 29   Illness Narrative Methods, and Explanatory Models Theory
Objective: examine how patient histories shape treatment and meaningful wellbeing
Suggested reading: Kamat, V. The anthropology of childhood malaria in Tanzania. Hahn & Inhorn pp. 35-64

February 5   Medical Systems Overview, and Rationalism & Bureaucracy Theory
Objective: understand how structural and contextual forces shape healthcare
REQUIRED READING: Foster, G. Bureaucratic aspects of international health programs. Hahn & Inhorn pp. 681-701; and excerpts from Weber, M. Bureaucracy in eCourseware.

February 12 Prevention & Harm Reduction Methods, and Embodiment Theory
Objective: understand how sociocultural variables shape health interventions

February 19 Nutrition Assessment Methods, and Evolutionary Medicine Theory
(Guest speaker: Dr. Ross Sackett)
Objective: evaluate relationships between environmental forces, dietary practices, and wellbeing
February 26  Bioethics Methods and Theory
Objective: examine ethical standards and the role of review panels in healthcare research

March 5  GIS Methods in Health, and Habitus in Health Theory (Guest Cindy Martin)
Objective: examine geographical, political, and biosocial boundaries shaping wellbeing
Suggested reading: Glantz, N. Using formative research to explore and address elder health and care in Chiapas, Mexico. Hahn & Inhorn, pp. 266-297
NOTE: PROJECT I (MEDICAL NARRATIVE) DUE TODAY

March 12  SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

March 19  SfAA Meetings – NO CLASS
NOTE: FIRST EXAM DUE TODAY

March 26  Cultural Competency Methods, and Authoritative Knowledge Theory
Objective: explore dynamics of training to promote culturally appropriate care

April 2  Health Marketing Methods and Critical Medical Anthropology Theory
Objective: develop insight on and applications of health commodification
April 9  Needs Assessment & Inventory Methods, and Structural Violence Theory  
Objective: learn how resource access shapes wellbeing and health disparities  
Suggested reading: Petryna, A Biological citizenship after Chernobyl. Hahn & Inhorn, pp.623-51  

April 16  Health Program Evaluation Methods, and Hierarchies of Resort Theory  
Objective: understand and assess how health services influence wellbeing  
Suggested reading: Nichter, Mark et al. Anthropological contributions to the development of culturally appropriate tobacco cessation programs. Hahn & Inhorn pp. 298-331  

April 23  Health Policy Methods, and Biopower Theory (Guest Dr. Joy Clay)  
Objective: understand how sociopolitical forces shape health regulations, funding, and services  

April 30  Panel: Medical Anthropology Praxis  
Guests: Deborah Gibson, Jason Hodges, Gail House, August Marshall, Kimberly Norwood  
Objective: identify links in professional development and networking to advance praxis  
NOTE: PROJECT II (CULTURAL COMPETENCY/HEALTH MARKETING) DUE TODAY

May 7  SECOND EXAM DUE TODAY