

ANTHROPOLOGY 465/665: MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY  
SPRING 2009--Revision 1

Instructor: Dr. John Townsend

Anthropology Office: 209 Maxwell

Classroom: 4507 Setnor, SUNY Health Science Center. Thursdays, 6:30-9:20 pm.

Office Hours: 12:00-1:00 p.m., T, TH, and by appointment in 525 Eggers. Phone: Office 443-4851; ANT office, 443-22001. EMAIL: JMTSU44@AOL.COM

Books are on sale at the Orange Book Store, Marshall Square Mall (478-6821).

Texts:

(1) McElroy & Townsend, Medical Anthropology in Ecological Perspective (M & T)

(2) Brown, Understanding and Applying Medical Anthropology (B)

SUPPLEMENTARY

(3) Fadiman, The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down

(4) Spector, Cultural Diversity in Health & Illness

(5) Miscellaneous readings from instructor

Evaluation

1) Graduate students will come to class prepared to discuss the readings and will design and execute a term project in consultation with the instructor. Intermittent progress reports are due when the undergraduate assignments are due [Feb 19; March 19; April 23], and grad students will report on their work to the class intermittently. Papers must be typed, double-spaced.

2) All undergraduates will take two objective exams on Feb. 19 and March 19 [i.e., multiple-choice and true-false questions based on the readings and class discussions]. Missed exams receive zero points without an acceptable, documented medical excuse. For the third assignment, undergraduates may take an objective exam, or submit a paper based on class materials [about 10 pages, typed, double-spaced].

For both grads and undergrads, late papers will be accepted up to one week after the due date, but they will be penalized one grade point. Notes from the Student Health Service stating merely that the student was "seen" for a complaint are not acceptable excuses for tardy work. Medical excuses must specify that the student was incapable of completing school work during the time period in question and be signed by a physician or registered nurse.

Undergraduates who merely want to take a general elective should take another class. Instructor's consent is required to enroll in this course.

Classroom Discussion:

This class will be conducted as a seminar. Each week a student(s) will present and analyze some outside readings (to be assigned) which the class will then discuss and

relate to the main texts. This material, as well as the results of the discussion, will be incorporated in the papers. Class participation will affect your grade. I also welcome your questions and reactions in my office hours.

UNIT I:

Jan 15 Introduction and assignments

Jan 22 Read Chaps. 1, 2, in M & T

Jan 29 Read Chaps. 3 & 4 in M & T

Feb 5 Seminar reports on Brown articles and/or individual research projects in the following weeks and continued reading in M & T

Feb 12 Chapter 5 in M & T

Feb 19 Chapter 6 in M & T. Undergrad Test 1

Feb 26 Chapter 7, M & T

March 5 Chapter 8, M & T

March 12 SPRING BREAK

March 19 Chapter 9, M & T; Undergrad Test 2

March 26 Chapter 10, M & T.

April 2, 9, 16 Seminar reports on Brown articles and/or individual research projects.

April 23 Final reports due in class.; undergrad Test 3

**TESTS**--Undergrads will take exams on 2-19, 3-19, and/or submit a paper on 4-23.

**GRADS:** From grad students, an annotated bibliography is due on 2-19; a first draft of your research paper, on 3-19; the final paper, on 4-23. The final date is negotiable, if arranged in advance. The number and type of sources depend on the topic and project goals. These can be worked out on an individual basis. The bottom line is: project reports must reflect serious, competent, graduate-level effort. Thus, it is imperative that students work with me to determine the requirements and how and when they will be fulfilled.

**WEEKLY:** each week a grad or undergrad [or two students] will moderate discussion on the assigned reading--usually a chapter in M & T or Brown. **The moderator should email me a list of questions by Monday, so that I can forward them to the class.** Use of other handouts or audio-visual aids is optional for this role. We begin signing up for moderator slots and reports on Jan. 22.

In addition, **ALL** students must present at least one report on material not assigned to the whole class. Use handouts and/or audio-visual aids as appropriate for this role.

Obviously, for grads, this report can stem from their research project; undergrads who elect to write a paper instead of taking Test 3 could report on their research. Those undergrads who take Test 3 could choose material not generally assigned from Brown, Spector, or other sources.