

Anth 380: Medical Anthropology

Teresa Delfin, Ph.D.
tdelfin1@whittier.edu

Hoover 106 MW 1:30-2:50
Office: Platner 209

Welcome to Medical Anthropology. Throughout this course you will learn about the cultural dimensions of health, illness, medicine, disease, and healing. We will explore the role of social inequalities in health outcomes and focus on cross-cultural interpretation of language, symbols, and practices related to health.

You will be expected to read one chapter or article in preparation for each class meeting. For each reading you will also have an additional assignment. This may be a Moodle quiz, a response paper, a project, or a combination of these. All assignments can be found on Moodle. Most Mondays we will discuss a chapter in the textbook, while on Wednesdays we will generally discuss an article online. The goal of the secondary article is to bring our discussion to the present by focusing on current or recent public health challenges such as Ebola and Zika and to allow students to bring attention to issues they are passionate about. Monday classes will be run seminar style, using the assignment for the chapter as a jumping-off point for the discussion. On Wednesdays we will be reading an article selected by a small group of students (with my approval). The same students will also be responsible for assigning a response paper prompt and for facilitating the discussion. Please be sure to meet with me to discuss the article you wish to assign in a timely manner. Articles and prompts should be assigned at least one week before you facilitate.

There will be no in-class exams or quizzes in this class, nor is there a midterm. Instead, success in this class will require consistent commitment to reading and writing assignments due at each class meeting and engaged participation in class. There will be a 5-7 page final paper due Friday May 5th. Guidelines for the paper will be discussed after Spring Break.

Policies:

- You are permitted 1 absence without adverse effects on your grade. Additional unexcused absences (or excessive tardiness) will result in grade reduction.
- All Moodle quizzes are open-book.
- Bring assigned reading and dedicated notebook to class each day.
- Writing notes is part of effective participation.
- Electronics of any kind may only be used during class with prior consent.
- It is your responsibility to effectively communicate with your peers. If there are problems with group projects you must let me know in a timely manner.
- You will be expected to listen and learn with an open mind. Please be generous and kind to your peers, who will also, at times, be your teachers.
- I check email Mon-Fri. Please don't expect an immediate response during the weekend.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, on the ground floor of the Library building (extension 4825).
- Academic honesty is required and expected of all students. For more information regarding Whittier College's policy, please visit <http://www.whittier.edu/academics/academichonesty>

Required Textbook:

Reimagining Global Health (Edited by Farmer, Kleinman, and Basilico)

Additional readings can be found on Moodle

Grade Breakdown:

Response Papers/Projects	20%
Moodle Quizzes	20%
Final Paper	20%
Facilitating	20%
Participation	20%

Week	Date	Reading
1	Mon 1/30	Intro to Medical Anthropology
	Weds 2/1	Preface & 1. "Introduction: A Biosocial Approach"
2	Mon 2/6	2. "Unpacking Global Health: Theory & Critique"
	Weds 2/8	<i>Reading TBA + Response Paper</i>
3	Mon 2/13	3. "Colonial Medicine & its Legacies"
	Weds 2/15	<i>Reading TBA + Response Paper</i>
4	Mon 2/20	4. "Health for All? Competing Theories and Geopolitics" + Article on Moodle
	Weds 2/22	<i>Reading TBA + Response Paper</i>
5	Mon 2/27	5. "Unpacking Global Health: Theory & Critique"
	Weds 3/1	<i>Reading TBA + Response Paper</i>
6	Mon 3/6	6. "Building an Effective Rural Health Delivery Model..."
	Weds 3/8	<i>Reading TBA + Response Paper</i>
Spring Break		
7	Mon 3/20	7. "Scaling Up Effective Delivery Models Worldwide"
	Weds 3/22	<i>Reading TBA + Response Paper</i>
8	Mon 3/27	8. "The Unique Challenges of Mental Health and MDRTB"
	Weds 3/29	<i>Reading TBA + Response Paper</i>
9	Mon 4/3	9. "Values and Global Health"
	Weds 4/5	<i>Reading TBA + Response Paper</i>
10	Mon 4/10	10. "Taking Stock of Foreign Aid" + Article on Moodle
	Weds 4/12	<i>Reading TBA + Response Paper</i>
11	Mon 4/17	11. "Global Health Priorities for the Early 21st Century"
	Weds 4/19	<i>Reading TBA + Response Paper</i>
12	Mon 4/24	12. "A Movement for Global Health Equity?"
	Weds 4/26	<i>Reading TBA + Response Paper</i>
13	Mon 5/1	TBA
	Fri 5/5	Final Paper due

Recommended Resources:

Medical Anthropology Quarterly
 Medical Anthropology: Cultural Studies in Health and Illness
 Society for Medical Anthropology
 Partners in Health