



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Science

Department of Sociology & Anthropology

ANTH 3070- MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Spring 2021 Online

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the interchange between health, culture and illness in folk medical contexts. The course will examine meanings of illness, and sick and healing roles as they reflect and inform cultural systems, values and social roles and relationships. Particular attention will be given to the ways in which individuals and cultures define and experience illness and the body; the roles of folk healers and ritual; and tensions between folk medical models and the health care system in pluralistic contexts. We will also consider the culture of biomedicine, framing biomedicine as a folk, or ethnomedical, system with its own rituals and symbols.

REQUIRED MATERIAL

- Textbook: *Culture and Health: Applying Medical Anthropology* by Michael Winkelmann
- *Encounters with Witchcraft: Field Notes from Africa* by Norman Miller
- *The Red Market: On the Trail of the World's Organ Brokers, Bone Thieves, Blood Farmers, and Child Traffickers* by Scott Carney ISBN: 978-9351951001 **YOU MUST PURCHASE.**

EVALUATION

Exams—60%

Students will take 5 exams. 2 of the exams will be based solely on ethnographic texts, including Miller and Carney. The other 3 exams will be based on your text and powerpoints.

Interview-20%

Students will conduct an interview related to COVID19. The assignment will be provided in more depth by week 2 of the course.

Film reviews—20%

You will watch multiple films in this course and write film reviews (per explanation under content) for most of them.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	C-	70-72
A-	90-92	D+	67-69
B+	87-89	D	63-66
B	83-86	D-	60-62
B-	80-82	F	59 and below
C+	77-79		

C 73-76

MODULE 1: ILLNESS, BELIEF & MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

wk 1: 1/19-1/24

Reading: text, ch. 1 (Applied Medical Anthropology and Health Care)

Powerpoint: module 1, ch. 1

wk 2: 1/25-1/31

Reading: text, ch. 2 (Disease, Illness, Sickness, and the Sick Role)

Powerpoint: module 1, ch. 2

Film: *Healing: Miracles, Mysteries and John of God*—review due 1/29—After you view *Healing*, google *John of God* for updates—does this new information change your perspective? Address in final question on film guide

wk 3: 2/1-2/7 Review materials for Quiz 1 (Begin Miller, intro and ch. 1—not on Quiz 1)

Quiz 1—3/3-2/7

MODULE 2: WITCHCRAFT

wk 4: 2/8-2/14

Reading: Miller, intro, chs. 2-4

Film: *Witches of Gambaga*—no review due but be prepare to respond in Quiz 2

wk 5: 2/15-2/21

Reading: Miller, chs. 7-10, epilogue

wk 6: 2/22-2/28 Complete readings; Review materials for Quiz 2

Quiz 2—2/24-2/28

MODULE 3: HEALING AND CULTURAL COMPETENCE

wk 7: 2/29-3/7

Reading: text, ch. 3 (Cultural Competence in Health Care)

Powerpoint: module 3, ch. 3

wk 8: 3/8-3/14

Reading: text, ch. 5 (Ethnomedical Systems and Health Care Sectors)

Powerpoint: module 3, ch. 5

Film: *Big Bucks Big Pharma*—review due 3/12—*This is a unique time to consider the pharmaceutical companies' roles as they relate to vaccinations for COVID19—feel free to address this in the final question on your film guide

wk 9: 3/15-3/21 Review materials for Quiz 3

Quiz 3—3/17-3/21

MODULE 4: MIND, SPIRIT AND RITUAL

wk 10: 3/22-3/28

Reading: text, ch. 6 (Transcultural Psychiatry and Indigenous Psychology)

Powerpoint: module 4, ch. 6

wk 11: 3/29-4/4

Reading: text, ch. 9 (Psychobiological Dynamics of Health)

Powerpoint: module 4, ch. 9

Film: *Oxyana*—review due 4/2

wk 12: 4/5-4/11

Reading: text, ch. 10 (The Shamanic Paradigm of Ethnomedicine)

Powerpoint: module 4, ch. 10

Film: *The Split Horn*—review due 4/9

Quiz 4—4/7-4/11

MODULE 5: THE BODY TRADE

wk 13 (4/12)-wk 15 (4/29)

Reading: Carney

Film: *Tales from the Organ Trade*—no review but be prepared to discuss in Quiz 5

Quiz 5—You will have a take-home quiz for Module 5—due 5/3