

ANT 610: Theory and Method in Medical Anthropology

Professor William W. Dressler and
the Biocultural Medical Anthropology Faculty
Fall, 2005

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Office hours: 9:30AM-12PM Wednesdays, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is intended to lay a solid theoretical and methodological foundation for the doctoral program in medical anthropology. Different theoretical approaches to medical anthropology will be explored in detail, and case studies deriving from each theoretical perspective will be studied in an attempt to determine how theory combines with method to produce the outcomes: explanation of phenomena within medical anthropology. The theoretical approaches discussed will include biocultural theory, psychoanalytic theory, adaptation theory, stress theory, and a variety of additional theoretical approaches such as critical theory, political-economic theory, ecological theory and others. The objective is to give the student sufficient theoretical and methodological background to enable successful proposal writing and research in medical anthropology.

GRADING POLICY: Grades will be based on class participation and a series of five papers, one focusing on each of the theoretical orientations. The paper is due the week after the last case study within each approach. The paper on the last theoretical orientation is due in the finals period. The papers will be equally weighted and will comprise 80% of the course grade with class participation accounting for 20% of the grade.

Week 1, Aug. 31 – Introduction (Led by Dressler)

Good, Byron, Ch. 2: Illness Representations in Medical Anthropology: A Reading of the Field. *In* *Medicine, Rationality, and Experience*, Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Week 2, Sept. 7 - Biocultural Theory in Medical Anthropology (Led by Oths)

Dressler, William W. What's *cultural* about *biocultural* research? Paper presented at the symposium: Building Biocultural Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, March 6, 2003.

McEroy, Ann 1996 Should medical ecology be political? *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 10(4):519-521.

Goodman, A. and T. Leatherman 1998 Traversing the chasm between biology and culture: An introduction. *In* *Building a New Biocultural Synthesis*. Goodman, A. and T. Leatherman, eds. Pp. 3-42. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Thomas, B. 1998 The evolution of human adaptability paradigms: Toward a biology of poverty. *In* *Building a New Biocultural Synthesis*. Goodman, A. and T. Leatherman, eds. Pp. 43-74. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Pelto, Pertti and Gretel Pelto, Research designs in medical anthropology. *In* *Medical Anthropology: Contemporary Theory and Method*, Revised Edition, Carolyn Sargent and Thomas Johnson (eds), NY: Praeger, 1996.

Week 3, Sept. 14 - Biocultural Case Studies: Reproduction (Led by Oths)

- Leatherman, T. 1998 Illness, social relations, and household production and reproduction in the Andes of southern Peru. *In Building a New Biocultural Synthesis*. Goodman, A. and T. Leatherman, eds. Pp. 245-268. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Panter-Brick, C. 1991 Lactation, birth spacing, and maternal work loads among two castes in rural Nepal. *Journal of Biosocial Science* 23:137-154.
- Oths, K., L. Dunn, and N. Palmer 2001 A prospective study of psychosocial job strain and birth outcomes, *Epidemiology*, 12(6):744-747.

Week 4, Sept. 21 - Biocultural Case Studies: Embodiment (Led by Oths)

- Engel, G. 1977 The need for a new medical model: A challenge for biomedicine. *Science* 196:129-136.
- Foss L. and K. Rothenberg 1987 Introduction. *In The Second Medical Revolution: From Biomedicine to Infomedicine*. Pp. 1-17. Boston: Shambhala.
- Oths, K. 1999 Debilidad: A biocultural assessment of an embodied Andean illness. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 13(3):286-315.
- Dos-Santos, José Ernesto, Kathryn S. Oths, and William W. Dressler 2001 Socioeconomic factors and adult body composition in a developing society. *Revista Brasileira de Hipertensão*. 8(2):173-178.
- Jenkins J. and M. Valiente 1994 Bodily transactions of the passions: El calor among Salvadoran women refugees. *In Embodiment and Experience: The Existential Ground of Culture and Self*. Thomas J. Csordas, ed. Pp. 163-182. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 5, Sept. 28 – Psychoanalytic Basis of Psychiatric Anthropology (Led by Murphy)

- Paul, Robert (1989) Psychoanalytic Anthropology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 18:177-202.
- Spiro, Melford E. (1987) [orig. 1965] Religious Systems as Culturally Constituted Defense Mechanisms. *In Culture and Human Nature: Theoretical Papers of Melford E. Spiro*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Pp. 145-160.
- Weston, Drew (2001) Beyond the Binary Opposition in Psychological Anthropology: Integrating Contemporary Psychoanalysis and Cognitive Science. *In The Psychology of Cultural Experience*. C.C. Moore and H.F. Mathews, editors. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 21-47

Week 6, Oct. 5 – Shamanism I (Led by Murphy)

- Bogoras, Waldemar (1904-1909) Shamanistic Performance in the Inner Room. From *The Chukchee*, Vol VII of Franz Boas (ed) *The Jesup North Pacific Expedition*. American Museum of Natural History.

Rasmussen, Knud (1929) A Shaman's Journey to the Sea Spirit. Report of the Fifth Thule Expedition, 1921-1924, vol VII, No. 1. Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel, Nordisk Forlag.

Winkelman, Michael James (1990) Shamans and Other "Magico-Religious" Healers: A Cross-Cultural Study of Their Origins, Nature, and Social Transformations. *Ethos* 18(3): 308-352.

Atkinson, Jane Monig (1992) Shamanisms Today. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 21: 307-330.

Week 7, Oct. 12 – Shamanism II (Led by Murphy)

Devereux, George (1980) [orig. 1956] Normal and Abnormal: The Key Problem in Psychiatric Anthropology. *In* Basic Problems of Ethnopsychiatry. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Pp.3-71..

Noll, Richard (1983) Shamanism and Schizophrenia: A State-Specific Approach to the "Schizophrenia Metaphor" of Shamanic States. *American Ethnologist* 10(3): 443-459.

Peters, Larry G. (1978) Psychotherapy in Tamang Shamanism. *Ethos* 6(2): 63-91.

Week 8, Oct. 19 - The Concept of Adaptation (Led by Bindon)

Baker PT. 1984. The adaptive limits of human populations. *Man*, 19:1-14.

Bargatzky T. 1984. Culture, environment, and the ills of adaptationism (with CA commentary). *Current Anthropology*, 25:399-415.

Mazess RB. 1975. Biological adaptation: aptitudes and acclimatization. *In* Watts ES, Johnston FE, and GW Lasker (eds), *Biosocial Interrelations in Population Adaptation*. The Hague: Mouton Press, pp. 9-18.

McEroy A. 1990. Biocultural Models in Studies of Human Health and Adaptation. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 4:243-265.

Singer M. 1996. Farewell to adaptationism: unnatural selection and the politics of biology. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 10(4):496-515.

Week 9, Oct. 26 - Adaptation Case Studies: Sickle Cell, Cow Love, Evolutionary Medicine (Led by Bindon)

Green L 1993. G6PD deficiency as protection against falciparum malaria: an epidemiologic critique of population and experimental studies. *Yearbook of Physical Anthropology*, 36:153-178.

Harris M 1966. The cultural ecology of India's sacred cattle. *Current Anthropology*, 7:51-66.

Livingstone FB 1958. Anthropological implications of sickle cell gene distribution in West Africa. *American Anthropologist*, 60:533-562.

Williams GC, and Nesse RM. 1991. The dawn of Darwinian medicine. *Quarterly Review of Biology*, 66:1-22.

Week 10, Nov. 2 - Adaptation Case Studies: Kuru (Led by Bindon)

Baker, Paul T. 1986. Rationale and research design. In: *The Changing Samoans: Behavior and Health in Transition*. P.T. Baker, J.M. Hanna, and T.S. Baker (editors). New York: Oxford University Press. Pp. 3-18.

Bindon, J. R. 1997. Coming of age of human adaptation studies in Samoa. In: S.J. Ulijaszek and R.A. Huss-Ashmore (editors). In: *Human Adaptability: Past, Present, and Future*. Oxford University Press. Pp. 126-156.

Lindenbaum, Shirley. 2001. Kuru, prions, and human affairs: thinking about epidemics. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 30:363-385.

Mead, Simon; Michael P.H. Stumpf; Jerome Whitfield; Jonathan A. Beck; Mark Poulter; Tracy Campbell; James B. Uphill; David Goldstein; Michael Alpers; Elizabeth M.C. Fisher; John Collinge. 2003. Balancing selection at the prion protein gene consistent with prehistoric kurulike epidemics. *Science*, 300: 640-643.

Week 11, Nov. 9 - Stress Theory in Medical Anthropology (Led by Dressler)

Brown, George W. 1974. Meaning and the measurement of life events, pp. 217-244 in *Stressful Life Events: Their Nature and Effects*. Barbara S. Dohrenwend and Bruce P. Dohrenwend, Eds. New York: Wiley.

Cassel JC, Patrick R., and Jenkins CD. 1960. Epidemiological analysis of the health implications of culture change. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* 84: 938-949.

Cassel, J.C. (1976) The Contribution of the Social Environment to Host Resistance. *American Journal of Epidemiology* 104: 107-123.

Dressler, William W. (2004) Culture, stress and cardiovascular disease, pp. 328-334 in *The Encyclopedia of Medical Anthropology*. Carol R. Ember and Melvin Ember, Editors. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers.

Mason, John. 1975. A historical view of the stress field. *Journal of Human Stress* 1: 6-12; 22-36.

Week 12, Nov. 16 - Stress Case Studies (Led by Dressler)

Dressler, William W. (1992) Culture, stress, and depressive symptoms: building and testing a model in a specific setting, pp. 19-33 in *Anthropological Research: Process and Application*. John J. Poggie, Billie R. DeWalt, and William W. Dressler (eds.) Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.

Dressler, William W. (2004) Social or status incongruence, pp. 764-767 in *The Encyclopedia of Health and Behavior*. Norman B. Anderson, Ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Janes, Craig. 1990. Migration, changing gender roles, and stress: The Samoan case. *Medical Anthropology* 12: 217-248.

McDade, Thomas W. 2001. Lifestyle incongruity, social integration, and immune function among Samoan adolescents. *Social Science and Medicine* 53: 1351-1362.

McDade, Thomas W. 2002. Status incongruity in Samoan youth: A biocultural analysis of culture change, stress and immune function. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 16: 123-150.

Week 13, Nov. 23 - Stress Case Studies (Led by Dressler)

Dressler, W.W. & Bindon, J.R.. (2000) The health consequences of cultural consonance. *American Anthropologist* 102: 244-260.

Dressler, William W. and José Ernesto dos Santos. (2000) Social and cultural dimensions of hypertension in Brazil: A review. *Cadernos de Saúde Pública* 16: 303-315.

Dressler, William W., Rosane P. Ribeiro, Mauro C. Balieiro, Kathryn S. Oths, and José Ernesto Dos Santos. (2004) Eating, drinking and being depressed: The social, cultural and psychological context of alcohol consumption and nutrition in a Brazilian community. *Social Science and Medicine* 59: 709-720.

Dressler, William W., Mauro C. Balieiro, Rosane P. Ribeiro, and José Ernesto Dos Santos. 2004. Cultural consonance and arterial blood pressure in urban Brazil: A replication and extension. *Social Science and Medicine* (under review).

Decker, Seamus, Mark Flinn, Barry G. England, and Carol M. Worthman. 2003. Cultural congruity and the cortisol stress response among Dominican men, pp. 147-169 in *Social and Cultural Lives of Immune Systems*. James M. Wilce, Jr., Ed. London and New York: Routledge.

Week 14, Nov. 30 – No class, AAA meetings

Week 15, Dec. 7 - Theory and Method in Biocultural Research (led by Dressler)

Dressler, William W. (1995) Modelling biocultural interactions in anthropological research: an example from research on stress and cardiovascular disease. *Yearbook of Physical Anthropology* 38: 27-56.

Engel, George 1971 Sudden and rapid death during psychological stress. *Annals of Internal Medicine* 74:771-782.

Scotch, Norman A. 1963 Sociocultural factors in the epidemiology of Zulu hypertension. *Am J Public Health* 53:1205-1213.

Booth, Roger and Kathryn Davison 2003 Relating to our worlds in a psychobiological context: The impact of disclosure on self-generation and immunity. Pp. 36-49 in *Social and Cultural Lives of Immune Systems*. James M. Wilce, Jr., Ed. London and New York: Routledge.

STATEMENT ON DISABILITY: If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary. If you have a disability but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call 354-5175 or visit Osband Hall to register for services.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: All acts of dishonesty in any work constitute academic misconduct. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of information, misrepresentations, and abetting of any of the above. The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy will be followed in the event that academic misconduct occurs. Students should refer to the Student Affairs Handbook, which can be obtained in the Office of Student Life and Services in the Ferguson Center.