

# **Medical Anthropology**

## **Sample**

*(Subject to Changes)*

**Instructor**    Jianfeng Zhu  
**Course Code**    SOCI130203  
**Credit**    3  
**Credit Hours Per Week**    3  
**Total credit hours**    48  
**Language of Instruction**    English

### **1.Course Description**

This course offers anthropologically and ethnographically informed perspectives on the issues of health, power, global health, and care in and beyond biotechnological world. The overall purpose of the course is to strengthen the students' scholarly knowledge in preparation for empirical research based in China's current health trends, transitions, and policies. With a focus on the socio-cultural dimensions of health, ill health, and medicine, we will first introduce the key concepts threading through this course such as culture, medicalization, biopower, medical subject and object as well as structural violence and biocapital. Then we will further explore the knowledge and practices of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and the underlying "local biologies." In the second section, we will look into the how global health issues like mental health and bioethics are practiced in Chinese context. In the last section, we will focus on such biomedical technologies IVF, prenatal genetic testing, organ transplant , which remakes life and death.

### **2.Course Objectives**

We are hoping that students can achieve the following goals:

- (1)To gain deeper understanding of biomedicine and medical practices in general from a more social and cultural point of view.
- (2)To understand how illness and suffering are shaped by political economy; how the medical and healing systems (including biomedical one) are considered as social institutions and sources of

epistemological authority.

(3) To grasp the meaning of medical pluralism and globalization.

(4) To conduct empirical studies in the field and explore how local people experience and respond to illness and how they take care of their individual health.

### **3. Course Schedule**

#### **Week 1 Course Overview:**

##### Recommended Reading:

Kleinman, A. 2009 "Caregiving: the Odyssey of Becoming More Human." *The Lancet*. Vol.373, January 24, 2009.

Kleinman, A. Catastrophe and Caregiving: the Failure of Medicine as an Art, *The Lancet*, Vol.371, January 5, 2008

Kleinman, A. "The Divided Self, Hidden Values, and Moral Responsibility in Medicine." *The Lancet*, Vol.377, March 5, 2011.

Kleinman, A. "Four Social Theories for Global Health." *The Lancet*, Vol.375. May 1, 2010

##### Recommended Readings:

Mukherjee, Siddhartha. 2015. *The Law of Medicine: Field Notes from an uncertain Science*.

#### **Week 2 Biomedicine and Culture**

Taylor, Janelle S. (2003). Confronting "Culture" in Medicine's "Culture of No Culture." *Academic Medicine* 78(3): 555-559.

Kleinman, Arthur and Peter Benson, 2006, " Anthropology in the Clinic: The Problem of Cultural Competency and How to Fix It," *PLoS Medicine* 3(10)

Good, Byron. 1994. " How does Medicine Construct Its Objects?" in *Medicine, Rationality and Experience*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp 65-87.

#### **Week 3 Social construction of Disease (Response Paper 1)**

Kitanaka, Junko. 2015. The Rebirth of Secrets and the New Care of the Self in Depressed Japan. *Current Anthropology*, 56(S12).

Conrad, Peter and Kristin Barker. 2010. *The Social Construction of Illness: Key Insights and*

Policy Implications. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 51(S)

Singer, M., Valentín, F., Baer, H., & Jia, Z. (1992). Why does Juan García have a drinking problem?

The perspective of critical medical anthropology. *Medical Anthropology*, 14(1), 77–108.

Filipe, A. M. (2015). Making ADHD Evident: Data, Practices, and Diagnostic Protocols in Portugal. *Medical Anthropology*, 35(5), 390–403.

#### **Week 4 Interpreting Illness**

Kleinman, Arthur. 1988. *Illness Narratives*. (Chapters) Pp 3-55

Ware, NC and Arthur Kleinman. 1982. Culture and somatic experience: the social course of illness in neurasthenia and chronic fatigue syndrome. *Psychosomatic medicine*.

#### **Week 5 Film: Unrest**

#### **First Response Paper Due**

#### **Week 6 The body in Different Cultures**

Shigehisa Kuriyama. 2002. "Grasping the Language of Life." Ch. 1,2 in *The Expressiveness of the Body and the Divergence of Greek and Chinese Medicine*.

Emily Martin. 1991. "The Egg and the Sperm: How Science has Created a Romance Based on Traditional Gender Stereotypes." *Signs* 16(3):485-501.

#### **Week 7 Local biologies**

Lock, Margaret and P. Kaufert. 2001. "Menopause, Local Biologies, and Cultures of Aging." *American Journal of Human Biology*. 13 (4): 494-504

Niewöhner, J., & Lock, M. (2018). Situating local biologies: Anthropological perspectives on environment/human entanglements. *BioSocieties*.

#### **Week 8 Human Differences: Kuru and HIV**

#### **Week 9 Traditional and Modern Medicine (Response Paper 2)**

Farquhar, Judith & Lili Lai. 2021. *Gathering Medicines: Nation and Knowledge in China's*

Mountain South. The University of Chicago Press. Introduction, Chapter 2-4

### **Week 10 Biocapital, surplus health and global market**

Rajan, Kaushik Sunder. 2017. Pharmocracy: Value, Politics &. Knowledge in Global Biomedicine.

Duke University Press. Chapter1-2

Martin, Emily. 2006. The Pharmaceutical person. *BioSocieties* 1(2): 273-87

### **Week 11. Structural violence and health**

Farmer, P. 2004. An Anthropology of Structural Violence. *Current Anthropology* 45: 305–326.

Fassin, Didier. 2007. “Humanitarianism as a politics of Life.” *Public Culture* 19[3]”499-520

### **Week 12 IVF around the world**

Bharadwaj, Aditya. 2016. Conceptions: Infertility and Procreative Technologies in India.

Berghahn Books. Chapters

Beker, Gay. 2000. The Elusive Embryo: How men and women approach New Reproductive Technologies. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapters.

### **Week 13 Health Science and Biomedical Technologies**

Franklin, Dolly. 2007. Dolly Mixtures: The Remaking of Genealogy. Duke University Press.

Chapter 1-3

### **Second Response Paper Due**

### **Week 14 Remaking of Death and Biomedical technologies**

Lock, Margaret. 1995. “Contesting the Natural in Japan: Moral Dilemmas and Technologies of Dying.” *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* 19(1):1-38

Nancy Shceper-Hughs.2000. The Global Traffic in Human Organs. In *Current Anthropology* 41 (2): 191-224

### **Illness Narrative Assignment Due**

### **Week 15-16 Take home exam**

#### **4.Grading & Evaluation**

Attendance and participation.	10%
Two Response Paper	20%
Illness Narratives	40%
A take home final exam.	30%

#### **5.Teaching References**

- (1)Kleinman, A. 2009 “Caregiving: the Odyssey of Becoming More Human.” *The Lancet*. Vol.373, January 24, 2009.
- (2)Kleinman, A. Catastrophe and Caregiving: the Failure of Medicine as an Art, *The Lancet*, Vol.371, January 5,2008
- (3)Kleinman, A. “The Divided Self, Hidden Values, and Moral Responsibility in Medicine.” *The Lancet*, Vol.377, March 5, 2011.
- (4)Kleinman,A. “Four Social Theories for Global Health.” *The Lancet*, Vol.375. May 1, 2010
- (5)Mukherjee, Siddhartha. 2015. *The Law of Medicine: Field Notes from an uncertain Science*.
- (6)Taylor, Janelle S. (2003). Confronting “Culture” in Medicine’s “Culture of No Culture.” *Academic Medicine* 78(3): 555-559.
- (7)Kleinman, Arthur and Peter Benson, 2006, “ Anthropology in the Clinic: The Problem of Cultural Competency and How to Fix It,” *PLoS Medicine* 3(10)
- (8)Good, Byron. 1994. “ How does Medicine Construct Its Objects?” in *Medicine, Rationality and Experience*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp 65-87.
- (9)Kitanaka, Junko. 2015. The Rebirth of Secrets and the New Care of the Self in Depressed Japan. *Current Anthropology*, 56(S12).
- (10)Conrad, Peter and Kristin Barker. 2010. The Social Construction of Illness: Key Insights and Policy Implications. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 51(S)
- (11)Singer, M., Valentín, F., Baer, H., & Jia, Z. (1992). Why does juan garcía have a drinking problem? The perspective of critical medical anthropology. *Medical Anthropology*, 14(1), 77–108.
- (12)Filipe, A. M. (2015). Making ADHD Evident: Data, Practices, and Diagnostic Protocols in Portugal. *Medical Anthropology*, 35(5), 390–403.

- (13) Kleinman, Arthur. 1988. *Illness Narratives*. (Chapters) Pp 3-55
- (14) Ware, NC and Arthur Kleinman. 1982. Culture and somatic experience: the social course of illness in neurasthenia and chronic fatigue syndrome. *Psychosomatic medicine*.
- (15) Shigehisa Kuriyama. 2002. "Grasping the Language of Life." Ch. 1,2 in *The expressiveness of the Body and the Divergence of Greek and Chinese Medicine*.
- (16) Emily Martin. 1991. "The Egg and the Sperm: How Science has Created a Romance Based on Traditional Gender Stereotypes." *Signs* 16(3):485-501.
- (17) Farquhar, Judith & Lili Lai. 2021. *Gathering Medicines: Nation and Knowledge in China's Mountain South*. The University of Chicago Press. Introduction, Chapter 2-4
- (18) Lock, Margaret and P. Kaufert. 2001. "Menopause, Local Biologies, and Cultures of Aging." *American Journal of Human Biology*. 13 (4): 494-504
- (19) Niewöhner, J., & Lock, M. (2018). Situating local biologies: Anthropological perspectives on environment/human entanglements. *BioSocieties*.
- (20) Rajan, Kaushik Sunder. 2017. *Pharmocracy: Value, Politics & Knowledge in Global Biomedicine*. Duke University Press. Chapter 1-2
- (21) Martin, Emily. 2006. The Pharmaceutical person. *BioSocieties* 1(2): 273-87
- (22) Farmer, P. 2004. An Anthropology of Structural Violence. *Current Anthropology* 45: 305–326.
- (23) Bharadwaj, Aditya. 2016. *Conceptions: Infertility and Procreative Technologies in India*. Berghahn Books. Chapters
- (24) Beker, Gay. 2000. *The Elusive Embryo: How men and women approach New Reproductive Technologies*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapters.
- (25) Franklin, Dolly. 2007. *Dolly Mixtures: The Remaking of Genealogy*. Duke University Press. Chapter 1-3
- (26) Fassin, Didier. 2007. "Humanitarianism as a politics of Life." *Public Culture* 19[3]:499-520
- (27) Lock, Margaret. 1995. "Contesting the Natural in Japan: Moral Dilemmas and Technologies of Dying." *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* 19(1):1-38
- (28) Nancy Shceper-Hughs. 2000. The Global Traffic in Human Organs. In *Current Anthropology* 41 (2): 191-224

### **Course Director's Academic Background:**

Jianfeng Zhu, professor of anthropology, Fudan University, Shanghai. She gained her Ph. D. in cultural anthropology for University of Minnesota in 2008. She is the author of *Winning the competition at the start line: Chinese modernity, reproduction and the desire for a “high quality” population*. (East China Normal University Press,2014) and *Twelve Lectures of Medical Anthropology* (Shanghai Education Press 2021) She publishes widely in the fields of medical anthropology and STS. Her research interests include reproductive health, selective reproductive technologies, genetic testing, mental health, biopower and governmentality.