Lecture: 11:30-1:15 pm on Monday in NAH11.
Tutorial: 2:30-3:15 pm on Monday in Tsang Shiu Tim Bldg 105 (UG); 1:30-2:15 pm on Monday in NAH 11 (MA). The actual time and location of the tutorial(s) will be determined after discussing with the students.
Instructor: Hsuan-Ying Huang 黃宣穎 M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology
NAH 322, hsuan-ying.huang@cuhk.edu.hk
Office hours: by appointment
TA: Wu Ying-Ching 吳映青 (NAH 406, chyi517@gmail.com)
Language: Mandarin and English

Course Description:

This course offers an introduction to medical anthropology, a sub-field of social-cultural anthropology that attend to all kinds of phenomena associated with medicine, health, illness, and suffering. It is open to both advanced-level undergraduate students and MA students. The course begins with a survey of some of the foundational positions and concepts of the field. Then we make foray into a selection of topics, all of which provide further opportunities to apply and rethink the
ideas introduced beforehand. These topics also demonstrate the wide range and diversity of interests covered by medical anthropology in its relatively short history. In the end, we arrive at a core issue in medicine—caregiving—and use it to wrap up this semester-long course.

Learning outcomes:

Upon the completion of this course, student will be able:

1. to become familiar with the history and major theoretical positions of medical anthropology.

2. to comprehend the diversity of health-related beliefs, systems of knowledge and practices across different cultures and societies.

3. to analyze the interactions of biological, cultural, and social factors in the shaping of health-related experiences.

Expectations:

Reading:

As a upper-division/MA class, this course involves intensive reading, which is an essential part of the learning experience. You should finish the readings before the lecture. These readings are selected carefully by the instructor; together they make up a “tasting menu” of medical anthropology that covers its founders (for example, Arthur Kleinman, Byron Good, Margaret Lock, and Nancy-Scheper Hughes) and current leaders (for example, Paul Farmer, João Bihel, and Adriana Petryna). The articles labelled as “recommended” are optional for undergraduate students. However, MA students should try your best to finish these additional readings as well.

Attendance:

You should attend the lectures and tutorials regularly. The success of the course will to a very significant degree depend on your thoughtful reading and discussion.

Parallel work:

Anthropology is a branch of knowledge based on fieldwork; it’s hard—perhaps almost impossible—to learn anthropology sufficiently well without doing some ethnographic work in parallel. The students should endeavor to follow and understand various phenomena pertaining to illness and healing while he/she is taking the course. You are encouraged to keep a private journal on these occurrences; you are welcome to draw on these experiences during our course discussions.

Further resources:

Major textbooks:


Major medical anthropology journals:

*Medical Anthropology Quarterly; Medical Anthropology; Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry; Anthropology & Medicine; Medical Anthropology Theory* (http://www.medanthrotheory.org; an open access journal); *Social Sciences & Medicine; Transcultural Psychiatry*

The most influential medical anthropology blog:

Somatosphere (http://somatosphere.net)

**Evaluation:**

Course participation (25%):  
This part of the grade will be based on your preparation for and contribution to discussion in lectures and tutorials.

Mini-ethnography assignment (25%):  
Option A: Observation of a medical encounter  
Option B: Illness narrative of an individual

Write a paper based on the outcomes of your mini-ethnography. Its length should be around 1200 words in English or 2000 characters in Chinese (the same for UG and MA students). Due on Oct 23 (5pm).

Final Paper (50%):  
The final paper (UG students: around 2500 words in English or 4000 characters in Chinese; MA students: around 3000 words in English or 5000 characters in Chinese) should focus on a topic of particular interest to you (of course, it has to be related to medicine and health). This is an opportunity for you to engage in independent research that utilizes the ideas and themes from this course. Although this is an anthropology course, the project doesn’t need to be based on fieldwork. Due on December 14 (5pm).

You should discuss with the instructor about your proposed research no later than late October/early November so that you will have sufficient time to work on the project.

**Assignment:**

**Academic Integrity:**  
Students need to know how to cite properly and how to avoid plagiarism—using someone else’s ideas or words without attribution. Please read the University’s guidelines about academic honesty (https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academic honesty/). It’s worth refreshing your memory even if you have read it before. Pay particular attention to Section 1 (What is plagiarism), Section 2 (Proper use of source material), and Appendix 1 (Details guidelines on proper use of source material).

**Submission of papers:**
The papers should be submitted via the plagiarism-detecting website Veriguide (https://academic.veriguide.org/academic/login_CUHK.jspx). You should simultaneously send the file along with a signed declaration confirming your awareness of the University’s policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures to the instructor.

Late Policy:

The assignments are due on the day and time specified in the syllabus. Extension is only granted to medical or family/personal emergencies. You should contact the instructor as soon as possible if such unfortunate events occur. Each day late without an approved extension will result in a reduction of 1/3 of a letter grade (i.e. A becomes A-; B+ becomes B).

Grade Descriptors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Overall Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weekly Schedule (tentative and subject to minor revisions)

Sep 10: Introduction


Sep 17: Foundation I

Film: excerpts from *The River* (河流) by Tsai Ming-Liang (蔡明亮), 1997.


Recommended:


Sep 24: Foundation II


Recommended:


Oct 1: PRC National Day (No Class)

Oct 8: Narrative: A Psychoanalytic Example


Recommended:


Oct 15: Biomedicine


Mol, Annemarie. 2000. “Pathology and the Clinic: An Ethnographic Presentations of Two Atheroscleroses.” In Living and Working with the New Medical Technologies: Intersections of

Recommended:


Oct 22: Menopause/Local Biology


Recommended:


Oct 29: Epidemic/Global Health


Declaration of Alma-Ata (http://www.who.int/publications/almaata_declaration_en.pdf)

Recommended:


Nov 5: Screening of Bending the Arc (2017), followed by discussion


Recommended:


Nov 12: Disaster/Biological Citizenship

(Prof. Huang is going to attend two meeting in the U.S. during Nov 13-18, and therefore we might need to reschedule the following two classes.)

Film: Excerpts from Hiroshima Mon Amour (Hiroshima My Love) by Alain Resnais, 1959.

**Recommended:**


**Nov 19: Depression**


**Recommended:**


**Nov 26 Digital Health**


**Recommended:**


**Dec 3: Caregiving/Dementia—make-up sessions time/location to be determined**

Film: excerpts from *The Long Goodbye* (被遺忘的時光) by Yang Li-Chou (楊力州), 2010.

