

ANTH 174: ANTHROPOLOGY OF FOOD & HEALTH
Spring Quarter 2007
4 Credit Hours

Class Times: TTh 10:00-11:20am
Class Location: McKenzie 129

Instructor: Dr. Josh Snodgrass

Office: 354 Condon Hall
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:00-2:00 & by appointment
Phone: 346-4823
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Graduate Teaching Fellows (GTFs):

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Course Description: Overview of the evolution of human diet and health patterns. Adaptations to food availability, nutrients, and disease in different populations.

Course Content: This course provides an introduction to medical anthropology, in which we examine a variety of issues related to health from various perspectives outside the Western biomedical framework. We will follow four main threads in the class: 1) Evolutionary (or Darwinian) medicine, a relatively new field that recognizes that evolutionary processes and human evolutionary history shape health among contemporary human populations; 2) Biocultural perspectives on health, which focuses on variation in health and attempts to understand the underlying factors related to this health variation through a framework that considers biological and cultural factors; 3) Diet and health, in which we examine the evolution of the human diet and contemporary issues related to overconsumption; and 4) Cross-cultural understandings of health and illness.

Format: The course will consist of lectures and associated laboratory/discussion sections.

Required Readings:

1. McElroy A, Townsend PK. 2004. Medical Anthropology in Ecological Perspective (4th Edition). Cambridge: Westview Press. (Available at the UO Bookstore) (Listed as M&T on schedule)
2. Fadiman A. 1997. The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux. (Available at the UO Bookstore)
3. Assorted articles and book chapters

Evaluation Criteria: Your grade in the course will reflect performance on midterm and final exams, attendance and participation in lab/discussion sections, and 4 short (~1 page) lab write-ups.

Midterm Exam (5/8)	30%
Final Exam (6/11)	30%
Lab/Discussion Section Attendance	10%
Lab/Discussion Section Participation	10%
Lab Write-Ups (4 @ 5% each)	20%

The midterm and final exams will cover lectures, readings, videos, and lab/discussion section material; exams will be comprised of multiple choice, matching, and short answer (2-3 sentences) sections. The final exam will be cumulative but will primarily focus on the material from the second half of the class. Exams and assignments must be taken/turned in at the scheduled time—**under no circumstances will make-up exams or assignment extensions be given without a documented excuse** (e.g., signed note from your doctor). If you will not be able to take an exam or turn in an assignment, you **must** notify me in advance (preferably by e-mail).

SCHEDULE:

Week	Dates	Topics	Reading Assignment
1	4/3 & 4/5	Course Introduction; Introduction to Anthropology; Evolutionary Theory Lab 1: Evolutionary Theory	Futuyma 1982 Mayr 2001 Balter 2005
2	4/10 & 4/12	Human Evolutionary History; Human Adaptation & Adaptability; Evolutionary Medicine; Infectious Disease Lab 2: Human Evolutionary History & Modern Human Variation (Lab 1 DUE)	Goldsmith & Zimmerman 2001 M&T Ch. 3 Nesse & Williams 1998
3	4/17 & 4/19	Evolution of Human Life Histories; Reproductive Ecology; Epidemiological Transitions; Evolution of Hominid Diets Lab 3: Food Production & Health; Paleopathology (Lab 2 DUE)	Rosenberg & Trevathan 2001 Leonard 2002 M&T Ch. 4
4	4/24 & 4/26	The Nutrition Transition; Economic Development and Health; Physical Activity; Obesity <i>Video: Supersize Me</i> Lab 4: Activity, Diet & Body Comp. (Lab 3 DUE)	Cordain et al. 2005 Popkin 2002 Nesse & Williams 1994 (Ch. 10)
5	5/1 & 5/3	Chronic Diseases cont'd (Cardiovascular Disease; Diabetes; Cancers; Allergies); Evolutionary Perspective on Mental Health Lab 5: Review for Midterm Exam (Lab 4 DUE)	Nesse & Williams 1994 (Ch. 11, 12 & 14)
6	5/8 5/10	Midterm Exam Biocultural Perspectives on Health; Medical Ecology; Political Economy; World Systems Lab 6: Video--Rx for Survival	M&T Ch. 1 & 2 (<i>Not</i> covered on midterm exam)
7	5/15 & 5/17	Global Health & Health Disparities; Ethics; Politics & Economics of Food & Health Lab 7: Ethics in Medicine (Discussion)	M&T Ch. 5 Farmer 2005 (*Start Fadiman 1997)
8	5/22 & 5/24	Public Health & Individual Rights; Vaccination <i>Video: Typhoid Mary</i> Stress; Prenatal Stress; Culture Change; Poverty Lab 8: Public Health; Vaccination (Discussion)	M&T Ch. 7 Sapolsky 2005 (*Continue Fadiman 1997)
9	5/29 & 5/31	Social Construction of Health & Illness; Disability; Healers in Cross-Cultural Perspective; Ethnomedicine & Ethnopediatrics <i>Video: Between Two Worlds</i> Lab 9: The Spirit Catches You... (Discussion)	Fadiman 1997
10	6/5 & 6/7	Biomedicine & the US Health Care System; Anthropology & Violence (Forensic Anthropology & Human Rights) Lab 10: Review for Final Exam	M&T Ch. 8 Gawande 2002 M&T Ch. 10 (p 404-408)
	6/11	Final Exam (Monday, June 11 @ 8:00am)	