



Announcing New Course: ANTH 475

The Anthropology of COVID-19 and Other Health Equity and Healing Issues

Beginning with the 1980's HIV/AIDS pandemic, infectious diseases have impacted millions around the world. Since the 21st century other deadly infectious disease pandemics have occurred (extensively drug resistant Tuberculosis (XDR-TB), Severe coronaviruses [Swine Flu (H1N1), Acute Respiratory Disease Syndrome (ARDS), Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-1 (SARS-1), and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-2 (SARS-2-AKA COVID-19)]. Why is this happening? How are health systems confronting these issues? How do health and culture intersect?

Medical anthropology is the discipline that seeks to answer these, and other questions regarding health and healing practices from a holistic, ethnographically informed perspective. In this course we will explore these questions and investigate the “biocultural and biosocial processes in health, illness, and treatment, including environmentally mediated factors in human health and well-being” (Singer 2015, p. 15). We will also explore various theoretical approaches within medical anthropology to gain a deeper, understanding of health, illness and health systems. This course is relevant to social work and sociology majors, nursing, biology and pre-med majors, international studies majors, anthropology majors and anyone interested in health, culture, and infectious diseases.

Prof. Jalil-Gutierrez's research focuses on culture, health and healing, health systems and health policy, health equity, immigrant health, and health and human rights.

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