

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY, GENDER AND AFRICAN STUDIES
MASTERS OF ARTS IN MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

COURSE OUTLINE 2014

NAF 607: Culture, Health and Disease

LECTURER: Dr. S. Bukachi

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The general aim of this course is to study cultural perspectives of health and disease and how culture influences health and illness behaviour. This course addresses the underlying belief systems or assumptions that drive behaviour, together with the wider social context in which behaviour takes place in relation to health problems, health care systems, health practices and theories about illness in different cultures and ethnic groups.

ASSESSMENT: Will comprise participation in tutorials, class attendance and a term paper (40%) and final written examination (60%).

COURSE CONTENTS

- 1. Definition of Culture, Health and Disease**
- 2. Patient-Practitioner interactions/ Health care systems**
- 3. Culture and epidemiology**
- 4. Cultural definitions of anatomy and physiology**
- 5. Pain and Culture**
- 6. Diet and nutrition**
- 7. Gender, health and disease**
- 8. Culture and pharmacology**
- 9. Changing patterns of health and disease**

Reading materials

Alexander K.C. 1992. Culture and development. New Delhi: India Put Ltd.

Alland, A.Jnr. Medical Anthropology and the study of biological and cultural adaptation. *American Anthropologist*. 68: 40-51.

Bagshawe A.F., G. Maina, E.N. Mngola (Eds) 1974. The use and abuse of drugs and chemicals in tropical Africa. East African Medical Research Council.

Barbosa CS : Epidemiology and anthropology : an integrated approach dealing with bio-socio-cultural aspects as strategy for the control of endemic diseases. *Mem Inst Oswaldo Cruz*. 1998;(93) Supp 1:59-62

Bukachi S.A. (2007). *The socio-cultural and economic impacts of human African Trypanosomiasis in the Busoga focus*. Phd thesis, Institute of Anthropology, Gender and African Studies, University of Nairobi.

Corbin JM (2003). The body in Health & illness. *Qualitative Health Research* 13:256

Eunice Nyumba Were (2010). *Perceptions experiences and practices in relation to lymphatic filariasis in Kwale district, Kenya*. MA thesis, Institute of Anthropology, Gender and African Studies, University of Nairobi

Foster, G.M. and Anderson, B.G. 1978. Medical Anthropology. Toronto:John Wiley & Sons.

Gachihi R. N. (2012). *Sacred folk healing practices and conservation of Kaya forests, Coastal Kenya*. MA thesis, Institute of Anthropology, Gender and African Studies, University of Nairobi

- Good B. J.** (1994). *Medicine, rationality and experience: An Anthropological perspective*. Cambridge University Press, New York.
- Hartwig G.W. & K.D.Patterson (Eds)**. 1978. *Diseases in African History*. Durham:Duke University Press.
- Helman,C.G.** 1994. *Culture, health and illness*. London: Butterworth – Heinemann, 3rd edition
- Imperato,P.J.** 1977. *African folk medicine*. Baltimore: York Press.
- Kleinman A.** (1980): *Patients and healers in the context of culture. An exploration of the borderland between Anthropology, Medicine and psychiatry*. University of California Press, London.
- Kleinman A.** (1995). *Writing at the margin. Discourse between Anthropology and medicine*. University of California Press. London.
- Logan, M.H.** 1978. *Health and the human condition: Perspectives on medical anthropology*. California: Wadsworth.
- Loustaunau M.O. and E. J. Sobo** (1984). *The cultural context of health, illness and medicine*. London: Bergin and Garvey.
- Manderson L.** : Applying medical anthropology in the control of infectious disease. *Trop Med Int Health*. 1998 Dec;3(12): 1020-7 Review.
- Mcelroy A. and P.K. Townsend** (2004). *Medical Anthropology in Ecological perspective*. London: Westview Press.
- Mwenesi HA:** Social science research in malaria prevention, management and control in the last two decades: an overview. *Acta Trop*.2005 Sep;95(3):292-7. Review
- Romanucci-Ross L., Moerman D. E., Tancredi L. R.** (Eds). (1997). *The Anthropology of Medicine from culture to method*. Bergin and Garvey, London.
- Sarfent C. F. & Johnson T. M.** (Eds). (1996). *Medical Anthropology: Contemporary theory & Method*. Praeger publishers, London.
- Sommerfeld J.** Medical anthropology and infectious disease control. *Trop Med Int Health*. 1998 Dec;3(12):993-5
- Sommerfeld J.:** Emerging epidemic diseases. Anthropological perspectives. *Ann N Y.: Acad Sci*. 1994 Dec 15;740:276-84. Review
- Sommerfeld J.S.** Social science and the study of Emerging infectious diseases. *Emer Infect Dis* 1996 Jan 27;2(1);72
- Vlassoff C. Manderson L.:** Incorporating gender in the anthropology of infectious diseases. *Trop Med Int Health*. 1998 Dec;3(12):993-5
- Wasserheit J.N., S.O. Aral, and K.K. Holmes (Eds)** 2005. *Research issues in human behaviour and sexually transmitted diseases in the AIDs era*. Washington DC.: American Society for Microbiology.
- Whyte S. R.** (1997). *Questioning misfortune. The pragmatics of uncertainty in eastern Uganda*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Additional readings

Burri, R.V. Biomedicine as culture/ IAS R 733 .B535. 3 copies available.

Gibbon, Biosocialities, genetics & the social sciences: making biologies and identities/ Ias QH 430 G457. - 3 copies available.

Nitcher New horizons in medical anthropology/ Nitcher, M. IAS GN 296 .N49. 3 copies available.

Anthropology and public health: bridging differences in... /Hahn, R.A. IAS RA 418 .A655 2009.3 copies available.

Social lives of medicines/ Whyte, S.R. IAS RS 153 .W496. 3 copies available.

Strategic communication in the HIV/AIDS epidemic/ McKee, N. Ias RA 644 .A25M38.3 copies available.

Exploring medical anthropology/ D. Joralemon.-3rd Ed.**Ias GN 296 .J65 2010**

Food and culture: a reader/ Ed. By C. Counihan & P. Van Esterik. – 2nd Ed.**Ias GT 2850 .F64 2008**

Infections and inequalities: the modern plaques/ P. Farmer **Ias RA 418.5 .P6F37 1998**

The Anthropology of infectious disease: international health perspectives/ Ed. By M.C. Inhorn and P.J. Brown Ias GN 296 .A5

The Cultural politics of food and eating: a reader/ Ed. By J.L. Watson & M.L. Caldwell **Ias GT 2850 .C853**

The Global threat of new and reemerging infectious diseases: reconciling U.S. National Security and Public Health Policy/ J. Brower & P. Chalk

Emerging infectious diseases: trends and issues/ed. By Felissa R. Lashley and Jerry D. Durham.-2nd . Ias RA 643 .E465 2007. 3 copies

Gender and health: the effects of constrained choices and social policies/ Chloe E. Bird & Patricia P. Rieker. Ias RB 212 .B57. 3 copies.

Letting them die: why HIV/AIDS prevention programmes fail/ Cathrine Campbell. Ias RA 644 .A25C35. 3 copies.

The social lives of medicines/ S. R. Whyte, S. Van der Geest & A. Harsoon. Ias RS 153 .w49. 3 copies