Anthropology of Global Health  
Special Topics in Medical Anthropology Fall 2014  
ANTH 6506 | T 6:10-8:00pm

Instructor: Lauren Carruth  
Office Hours: Thursdays noon-2pm  
Office Location: 1957 E St NW/Suite 501  
Email: carruth@gwu.edu  
Phone: 401-484-2520

Course Overview:

This course aims to study “global health” and various problems framed by global health actors through the theoretical and methodological lenses of sociocultural and biocultural anthropology. The nascent field of global health is typically defined by its commitment to understand not just the manifestations and patterns of illness around the world, but the social, political and economic forces that place certain individuals and populations at greater risk of morbidity and mortality. Assigned readings, lectures, and visual media will draw from the disciplines of anthropology, epidemiology, nutrition, public health, history, and human biology – and we will attempt to put as many of these in conversation as possible each week. Although standard topics of international public health will be covered (including vaccination campaigns, HIV/AIDS, etc.), we will also focus on emerging health topics such as medical humanitarianism, global clinical research, chronic non-communicable diseases, and the fetal programming of disease. The concept of global health will therein be framed, variably, as a human right, a foreign policy, a science, an industry, and a charitable agenda. By critically examining these various frameworks for understanding disease around the world, the class will explore the potentials and challenges of improving health and healthcare. Students will exit the class with an advanced vocabulary about the major controversies and scientific concepts in the field of global health, and be able to ask critical questions about global burdens of diseases, popular global health campaigns, and global health disparities. Additionally, this class aims to demonstrate the value of anthropology to the field of global health and to efforts to solve global health problems. Students will be urged to think about “global health” as a dynamic cultural artifact and cultural system; and likewise, to think about ethnography as an important methodological tool, both to understand global health agendas as well as to investigate the subjects and elisions of global health interventions.

Required Texts:

1. ELECTRONIC MATERIALS POSTED ON THE PORTAL & LISTED ON THE SYLLABUS  
2. Biehl, João and Adriana Petryna  
3. Biehl, João  
4. Redfield, Peter  
5. Shah, Sonia  

Grading Scheme:
Class participation: 20%
Weekly responses: 20% (total)
Group presentation: 20%
Final paper 40%

Course Requirements and Assignments:

(1) Participation in discussions and engagement in the course are required. We won’t hesitate to call on you during class, and we expect you to come to class with questions prepared about the readings. There will be different opportunities for you to demonstrate your engagement with course materials: during class, through your assignments, and contributions you make to online discussions or forums, organized through Blackboard. Additionally: if you read or see something of relevance to the course material, please bring copies to class or post it on Blackboard so we can all take a look.

(2) Weekly responses conveying your own critical response to the week’s course materials. Your report must be turned in every week, in class, in hard copy, responding to that week’s assigned materials (EXCEPTIONS: no reports due the last two weeks of class, and when a special guest is speaking, as indicated in the syllabus). Reports should be no more than ONE double-spaced page or 400 words in length. Although you are expected to complete all required reading, your report should be more than a summary of what you have read. Choose a specific theme, focus, or question to guide you in crafting a thoughtful and critical response.

(3) Group project and presentation. Students will divide themselves among three or four groups, depending on the size of the class. Each group will explore the current constellation of actors, institutions, knowledges, and practices shaping one of the following broadly conceived global health topics: (1) climate change and the environment; (2) emerging infectious diseases; (3) neglected tropical diseases; (4) food and nutrition; (4) comparative national health systems; and/or (6) global clinical research. Each group will 20-30-minute PowerPoint summary of their findings, to be presented during the last two weeks of class. Each student must also submit a 1-page/400-word précis critically reflecting on the findings of his/her group, due on the group’s presentation date. Additional details TBA.

(4) A final individual research paper. The final paper is meant to allow you to explore your own global health interests and to encourage you to assess the potential methodological and analytical contributions of anthropology. The paper should focus on a specific case within the larger topic that you studied in collaboration with your group. In exploring your case—a particular global health challenge, policy, or problematic—you are expected to build on group findings and to critically apply the insights and analytics developed throughout the course. The paper should be 12-15 double-spaced pages in 12-point Times font. A short outline of the paper is due by email on December 5th, and the paper itself is due on a date TBD.

Class Policies

Electronic Device Policy: All electronic devices must be silenced AND PUT AWAY during class, except for laptops, e-readers, or tablets when we are discussing the assigned texts and you’re reading them on the screen. It’s simple: every time you’re using devices for anything except for class work, we will deduct 5 points from your final grade.

Academic Dishonesty: If you are caught plagiarizing or copying anything from anyone else or any other source, including in your weekly responses, you will automatically fail the course. Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one’s own work, taking credit for the work of others without
crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information. For the remainder of the code, see: http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html

Support for Students Outside the Classroom: Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at (202) 994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. If you will need extra time to write answers to the quizzes and final exam, please make sure you contact this office first, and we will make all appropriate arrangements. For additional information please refer to: http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/.

University Counseling Center (202-994-5300) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students’ personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include: crisis and emergency mental health consultations, confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals. See: http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices
SCHEDULE OF READINGS

**Week 1. Introduction**
*No required readings.*

**Week 2. Histories of “Global Health” & the Contemporary Global Health Arena**
*Required Readings:*

- Nichter, Mark

- Biehl, Joao and Adriana Petryna

- The World Health Organization

- Verrnella R. Randall

- Richey, Lisa Ann and Stefano Ponte (on the portal)

- Mills, Edward J. et al

**Week 3. The Social Determinants of Health & Health Inequalities**
*Tuesday January 17, 2012*
*Required Readings:*


- Farmer, Paul

- Krieger, Nancy

- Krieger, Nancy

- Black, Robert E. et al. (on the portal)
**Week 4. Critical Approaches to Malnutrition and Hunger**

*Required Readings:*

Baro, Mamadou, and Tara Deubel  

Chaiken, Miriam J., S. Richard Dixon, Colette Powers, and Erica Wetzler  
2009  Asking the right questions: community-based strategies to combat hunger. Annals of Anthropological Practice. 32(1) 42-54.

Errington, Frederick, Tatsuro Fujikura, and Deborah Gewertz  

Kalofonos, Ippolytos Andreas  

Rödlach, Alexander  

**Week 5. HIV/AIDS & Tuberculosis: Diseases of Poverty**

*Required Readings:*

Nichter, Mark  

Hacking, Ian  

Pigg, Stacy Leigh  

Craddock, Susan  

**Week 6. Mosquito-Borne Diseases & the Failure of Magic Bullets**

*Required Readings:*

The Hesperian Foundation  

Cueto, Marcos  
2013  A Return to the Magic Bullet? In When People Come First.

Nading, Alex  
2012  Dengue Mosquitoes are Single Mothers: Biopolitics Meets Ecological Aesthetics in Nicaraguan Community Health Work. Cultural Anthropology. 27(4):572

Whiteford, Linda  

Kallander, Karin, et al  
Week 7. Vaccinations & Case Study of Polio
Friday February 17, 2012

Required Readings:

Obadare, Ebenezer

Renne, Ellise

Poliomyelitis
2011 Chapter 17, pp. 249-262. Centers for Disease Control.

Week 8. Global Pharmaceuticals—Counterfeits, Generics, Drug Testing, and Trust
Tuesday February 21, 2012

Nayyar, Guarvika ML, Breman, JG, Newton, PN and Herringon, J
2012 Poor-quality antimalarial drugs in southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. The Lancet Infectious Diseases. 12(6):488 – 496.

Nayyar, GML et al.
2012 KEI blog, "What's a counterfeit? And how many counterfeit drugs are there?"
http://www.keionline.org/node/1425

Shah, Sonia

Outterson, Kevin

Week 9. Gender-Based Violence and Gendered States of Emergency

NO READING RESPONSE DUE

Potential special guest speaker ... more TBD.

Merry, Sally Engle
2006 Human Rights & Gender Violence. Selections.

Additional texts TBD

Week 10. Medical Humanitarianism

Required Readings:

Redfield, Peter

The Sphere Project
Week 11. Elisions and Erasures in Global Health – “Zones of Abandonment”

Required Reading:
- Adams, Vincanne
  2013 Subjects, Profits, Erasures. In, When People Come First.
- Biehl, João

Week 12. Epidemiological Transitions & The Global Burden of Chronic, Non-Communicable Diseases

Required Readings:
- Livingstone, Julie
  2013 The Next Epidemic. In, When People Come First.
- Osmani, Siddiq, and Amartya Sen
- Carolina, M. S., and L. F. Gustavo (on the portal)
- Gluckman PD, Hanson MA, Beedle S.
- Gluckman, PD et al

Week 13. Student Presentations Part I.
No Required Readings.

Week 14. Student Presentations Part II.
No Required Readings.

Final Paper Details and Deadline TBA.