Meaning and Healing

ANSC 129                                                   Professor Thomas Csordas
Class: SSB 269                                                                           Office: SSB 272
Tu/Th 11:00 – 12:20                     Office Hour:  Appointment
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This class addresses the nature of ritual healing across cultures. In a seminar/discussion format, we will examine the relation between medical and sacred realities in healing, and the analogy between psychotherapy and religious healing. Framed by concepts such as medical pluralism and the health care system, we will compare different types of healers and healing practices, how different problems submitted to ritual healing are identified, defined, and diagnosed, and how different types of healers may or may not collaborate in practice. We will discuss experiential aspects of therapeutic process and efficacy, with emphasis on the transformation of self and meaning, as well as the distinction between incremental and miraculous change.

Grades: 60% of your grade will be based on participation in the seminar, which will consist of 1) preparing a 1-2 page double spaced response to each session’s readings and active participation in the seminar discussion. I will not assign number or letter grades to the reading response papers, but if you turn yours in and contribute significantly to the discussion every week you will receive 50 points. Because there are 18 sessions with reading, each is worth 3.3 points. The other 40% of your grade will be based on a final 8-10 page paper consisting of a more in depth reflection on one of the themes we cover in the seminar. The paper can include rethinking the literature we have read in class but also must include 3-4 additional works that you find on your own or in the bibliographic material I have provided for week 1. The final paper will be worth 0-40 points. It will be due the Friday of finals week on Turn-It-In.com. You can turn it in earlier than that, but not later.

All readings listed in the class schedule below are required, and all the required readings will be available online at this course’s TritonEd/Blackboard site.

Attendance and participation are mandatory. If you have an unexcused absence and fail to turn in a reading response paper you will not receive participation credit for that session. Students may use laptop computers only for taking notes and if we need to investigate something online that comes up in discussion.

Class Schedule:

September 28 Health Care, Religious Healing, and the Psychotherapy Analogy
    “Practice, Performance, and Experience” T.Csordas and E.Lewton
    “Meaning and Healing Bibliography” T. Csordas
October 3  
*Conceptual Foundations for the Study of Healing I*

_Persuasion and Healing_ Jerome and Julia Frank, Chapters 2 and 5  

October 5  
*Conceptual Foundations for the Study of Healing II*

“The Effectiveness of Symbols” Claude Levi-Strauss  
“The Study of Folk Psychiaty” Ari Kiev

October 10  
*Healing in India I*

_Mudpacks and Prozac_ Murphy Halliburton, Chapter 3  
_Shamans, Mystics, and Doctors_ Sudhir Kakar Chapter 1&10

October 12  
*Healing in India II*

“Davaa and Duaa” Helene Basu  
“Ritual Healing and Mental Health in India” William Sax

October 17  
*Healing in Africa I*

_Ngoma: Healing in Central and Southern Africa_ John Janzen  
Preface, Introduction, Chapter 1

October 19  
*Healing in Africa II*

“Indigenous Yoruba Psychiatry” Raymond Prince  
“Boiling Energy” Richard Katz

October 24  
*Healing in Japan*

_Psychotherapy and Religion in Japan: Naikan._ (Chapters 1-2)  
C. Ozawa-de Silva

October 26  
*Healing in China I*

_Patients and Healers in the Context of Culture_ Arthur Kleinman  
Chapter 9

October 31  
*Healing in China II*

“Eating Chinese Medicine” Judith Farquhar  
“Chinese Healing in the US” Barnes  
Optional: “Spirit Possession and Healing” Kua, Chew, and Ko

November 2  
*Healing in Indonesia*

_Jero Tapakan: Balinese Healer_ Linda Conner (Chapters 2, 3, & 5)

November 7  
*Healing in South America*

“Uncanny Memories” Dorthe Brogaard Kristensen  
“Health and the Holy in the Candomblé” Thomas Csordas
November 9  Healing in the United States
   The Sacred Self  Thomas J. Csordas, Chapters 2 & 3

November 14  Latino Healing in the United States and Mexico
   “Miraculous Migrants to the City of Angels” Patrick Polk et al.
   “La Mesa del Santo Niño de Atocha” Inés Hernández-Ávila

November 16  Healing in the Navajo Nation
   “Ritual Healing and Identity Politics” Thomas J. Csordas
   “Psychiatry and the Sweatlodge” Thomas J. Csordas
   Optional: “Diagnosis and Distress in Navajo Healing” Thomas J. Csordas

November 21  Shamanism and Neo-Shamanism
   “Flights of the Sacred” Marjorie Balzer
   “Taltos Healers and Neoshamans” Imre Lazar
   Optional: “Making Selves and Meeting Others” Nofit Itzhak

November 23  NO CLASS -- THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

November 28  Healing and Political Violence
   Ritual and Recovery  (Post-Conflict Sri Lanka) Chapters 1&8
   J. Derges  Full text available online
   http://roger.ucsd.edu/search/a?searchtype=X&searcharg=Ritual+and+recovery+in+Post-Conflict+Sri+Lanka&searchscope=9&SORT=D&Search=Search
   OR
   When Religion Matters  (Liberian Civil War) Chapters 1&2
   A. Moody-Hardison  Full text available online
   http://roger.ucsd.edu/record=b9541845~S9

November 30  NO CLASS -- AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

December 5  Possession and Exorcism
   “Possession and Psychopathology, Faith and Reason” T. Csordas
   “Djinn, Psychiatry, and Notions of Misfortune” S. Dein et al.

December 7  Healing and Psychoactive Drugs
   “Ayahuasca and Other Sacred Medicines” Michael Winkler
   AND EITHER
   A Different Medicine  (peyote) Chapters 4&5, Joseph Calabrese
   OR
   Cosmopolitics among the Siona (ayahuasca) Chapters 8&9, Esther Jean Langdon

December 15  FINAL PAPERS DUE