Clara Mantini-Briggs MD MPH
Ethnic Studies SECTION ID: 655672
Special Topics/Ethnic Studies 189
Racial Profiling and "Cultural Competency" in Public Health

Location: Sollis Hall 110
ENRL LIMIT: 46
Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 to 3:20 pm
Office hours: Wednesday from 10:00-12:00 am.

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Course description

As you know, liberal multiculturalism has now been institutionalized as “cultural competency”—the requirement (legally compulsive in California) that physicians become familiar with the perspectives on disease associated with racialized minorities. Doctors can thus carry in their white coat pockets a small book that will tell them that “Mexicans” conceive of diarrheal diseases, for example, as caused by the “evil eye.” The texts that support this movement provide an excellent initial focus for two reasons. First, they provide one of the most striking examples of the essentialization of discourses of culture in producing notions of racialized minorities as infected by what I referred to as “chronic cultural impossibility,” the transformation of racial stereotypes into “risk factors” that seem to explain how people of culture are to blame for their own purportedly pathological bodies. Agency and ethical superiority are thus reserved for health institutions, the state, and unmarked white subjects as racialized minorities appear to be ethnoculturally incompetent to deal with issues of their own health. This course draws on ethnographic, theoretical, and critical perspectives in enhancing students’ ability to critically analyze public health programs and discourses. Films, media reports, and public health journal articles supplement the lectures.

Prerequisite: No prior background in anthropology, medical anthropology, medicine or public health is necessary. Students will be given opportunities to draw on their own experience throughout the course.

Required Texts

**Recommended Texts**

**Assignments and Evaluation**

Your grade will be based on preparation for and participation in class (15%), midterm made up of two parts: A paper of 4-5 pages in length that critically looks at the class material; choose one theme, theoretical approach, or both, and work through course material using these tools. Provide an original and insightful analysis (30%) and group presentation that will involve an analysis of the material in class (15%), and a 7-10 pages maximum final paper addressing social dimensions of a public health prevention program/or health problem, drawing analytically on the material in the class (40%). Final papers are due on the last day of class

**Class Participation:** Students will be evaluated for their familiarity with required readings, their preparation and their general class participation. Students will be given opportunities to draw on their own experience/concern about Public health problem or program throughout the course in each class, in offices hours and emails.

Be prepared, be engaged, be respectful!

Repeated absences will adversely affect your grade.

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**Racial Profiling and "Cultural Competency" in Public Health**

**WEEK 1**

**Introduction**

**2009-03-31 The Health Professional’s Culture Vs the Other’s Culture I**

**Discussion:** Anne Fadiman. 1997. The Spirit Catches you and you Fall Down: A Hmong Child her American Doctors and the Collision of two Cultures. Farrar, Straus and Giroux/New York Chapters 1-9
**Supplementary Readings:**

H. Jack Geiger. 2001. Racial stereotyping and medicine: the need for cultural competence CMAJ • JUNE 12; 164 (12)

Farmer, Paul (1996), On Suffering and Structural Violence; Daedalus, Vol 125, No 1, Pp. 261-283

[http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/cgi-bin/resolve?id=doi:10.1086/382250]

2009-04-02 **The Health Professional’s Culture Vs the Other’s Culture II**


**Supplementary Readings:**

Ida Spruill and Bertha L. Davis Cultural Competence: Myth or Mandate Hampton University School of Nursing, Hampton Virginia


WEEK 2. **Understanding Inequality in Everyday Public Health Practice**

2009-04-07


2009-04-09


Supplementary Readings:

[http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0745-5194%28199203%292%3A6%3C83%3ACHAIAI%3E2.0.CO%3B2-C]


[http://www.jstor.org/view/00221465/di002537/00p0007q/0]

Gwatkin, D. R. (2000), Health inequities and the health of the Poor: What Do We Know? What Can We Do?; Bulletin of the World Health Organization Vol. 78, No. 1, Pp. 3-17

[http://whqlibdoc.who.int/bulletin/2000/Vol78-No1/]

2009-04-14


Supplementary Readings:


[http://www.ajph.org/cgi/content/abstract/95/12/2155]


WEEK 3: Finding a Relationship between Theories of Culture and Public Health

2009-04-16


Helman, Cesil (1992), Culture Health and Illness: An Introduction for Health Professionals; Medical Anthropology Quarterly, New Series, Vol.6, No 1, Pp. 83–85


Potvin et al. (2005), Integrating Social Theory into Public Health Practice. Social Determinants of Health Inequities; American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 95, No. 4, Pp. 591-595

[http://www.ajph.org/cgi/content/abstract/95/4/591]
Supplementary Readings:


Supplementary Readings:


WEEK 4. Social Control through Medicalization

2009-04-23


Supplementary Readings:


2009-04-28


Supplementary readings:

[http://www.jstor.org/view/07455194/ap020066/02a00010/0]


Gordon, Debora (1988), Tenacious Assumptions in Western Medicine In Biomedicine Examined, Edited by Margaret, Lock and Debora, Gordon New York: Springer. Pp 19-56


WEEK 5. Midterm/Group Presentation

2009-04-28

2009-04-30

WEEK 6. Communication that reinforces Health Inequalities

2009-05-05


Supplementary Readings:

Stepan, Nancy (1978), The Interplay between Socio-Economic Factors and Medical Sciece: Yellow Fever Research, Cuba and United States; Social Studies of Science, Vol.8, No. 4, Pp. 397-425

[http://ssssagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/8/4/397]

[http://www.anthrosource.net/doi/abs/10.1525/maq.1993.7.2.02a00030]

2009-05-12


Supplementary Readings:


WEEK 7. Film

2009-05-14

La Salud

2009-05-19


WEEK 8 Human Right, Ethics, and Justice Vs Power in Health Care

2009-05-21


Supplementary readings:


2009-05-26

Cohen Lawrence (2005), Operability, Bioavailability, And Exception, in Global Assemblages, Edited by Aihwa Ong and Stephen Collier. Blackwell. Pp. 79-90


Supplementary Readings:


WEEK 9 Social Medicine and its Critics

2009-05-28


Supplementary readings:


[http://www.jstor.org/view/00182168/di008683/00p0117y/0#&origin=sfx%3Asfx1]


[http://www.springerlink.com/content/5r304pt777757727/]

[http://www.jstor.org/view/01601997/s060006/06x0378n/0#&origin=sfx%3Asfx]


[http://www.ajph.org/cgi/content/full/91/10/1592]


[http://www.jstor.org/view/00377791/ap030137/03a00120/0#&origin=sfx%3Asfx1]

**Supplementary Readings:**


**WEEK 10 Review (using new materials)**

2009-06-04

Brown Peter (1987), Microparasites and Macroparasites; Cultural anthropology, Vol. 2, No 1, pp. 155-171

[http://www.jstor.org/view/08867356/ap020007/02a00120/0#&origin=sfx%3Asfx]


[http://www.anthrosource.net/doi/abs/10.1525/can.2001.16.4.481]


[http://healthaff.highwire.org/cgi/content/abstract/21/6/98]

**Supplementary Readings:**


[http://www.ajph.org/cgi/content/full/96/2/233]

Nina, Wallerstein and Bonnie Duran (2006), Using Community-Based Participatory Research to Address Health Disparities; Health Promotion Practice; Vol. 7, Pp.312