Ethnic Studies 142: Medicine, Race, and the Global Politics of Inequality
Tuesday/Thursday, 3:30-4:50pm,
Warren Lecture Hall 2205
UCSD Spring 2014

Prof. Gabriel N. Mendes
Office: Social Science Building 229
Best way to contact me: gmendes@ucsd.edu. Please write “142” in the subject line.
Phone: 858.822.5118
Office hours: Wednesday 12:30-2:30 and by appointment

Overview:
We will examine the material bases for systemic, structural inequalities that shape the production of medical knowledge and the distribution of medical services and public health measures on global, national, and local scales. As we cover how race, as well as the intersecting categories of gender, class, sexuality and nation, affects both the unequal distribution of diseases and unequal access to medical treatment, we will also consider the human rights and social justice consequences of these phenomena.

Creating a learning environment: Only a portion of what you learn in this course will be from the instructor and the readings. Your classmates will play an instrumental role in your learning experience. In order for this class to be successful, you need to come to class prepared to share your ideas. The more involved you become, the more you will gain. Support your opinions with what you learned in the readings, prior discussion, and lecture. Listen carefully to others before you decide where you stand in relation to their argument and consider how to respond in a respectful and productive manner. Please also refer to UCSD’s Principles of Community, http://www.vcba.ucsd.edu/principles.htm.

Logistics and Policies

You can reach me by email, in my office hours, or by appointment at any time during the quarter. I respond to students’ emails by 10am every weekday; I do not answer students’ emails on weekends.

I do not accept late assignments or assignments submitted electronically. In case of a medical/personal emergency, you must produce a doctor’s note or other documentation in order for an exception to be made.

Please complete the readings by Tuesday in the week they are assigned, and bring the text(s) we are covering that week to class.

There are no computers allowed in this course. In my experience at UCSD, computers have proven to be an obstacle rather than an aid to student learning and engagement. Please obtain a notebook and a several writing utensils that you enjoy using, as well as a highlighter for reviewing your notes.
Turn off phones and refrain from text messaging during class. If I notice you texting, I will ask you to leave the classroom and that will count as an absence.

This syllabus is subject to change; any changes will be announced well in advance in class or by email.

**Grading and Course Requirements:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Notebook/Weekly Reports</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Book Review, Due May 2nd</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Book Review, Due June 9th</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Attendance and Participation:** 20%

Attendance and participation constitute a significant portion of your grade. Arrive to each class session on time and stay for its duration. Tardiness and absences will be noted and result in the lowering of your grade. You will be allowed one unexcused absence; any subsequent absence(s) requires a note from an official source or agency, i.e. a doctor.

Active participation means thoughtful engagement in the readings/lectures, meaningful contributions to class discussions, and respectful collegiality toward your classmates and instructor.

**Course Notebook:** 50%

Please purchase a suitable notebook, one within which you will feel comfortable writing a good deal of material.

For each assigned reading I want you to select and explain 3-5 keywords that represent the essential substance of the piece.

For each assigned reading please identify and re-type the primary argument/thesis of the piece. Please then write one paragraph of approximately 100-150 words explaining that argument to an imagined reader/listener who has not yet been initiated into the conversation, for instance your roommate or a sibling or a co-worker.

Each week you will type up a brief report derived from the notes you take on the course readings and course lectures/discussions. You will submit it to me in the form of a 250-300 word critical synthesis of the materials you’ve considered in the week.

If you think of it in terms of pages for the course, it’s only 10-15pp.

**Weekly Report due on Friday by 3pm.**

**Two Critical Book Reviews:** (15% each x 2= 30%)

Choose two of the following books and write a critical book review (500-650 words) for each of your picks modeled on the types of review one might find in a scholarly journal such as *American Quarterly, Bulletin of the History of Medicine, Journal of American History, American Sociological Review*:


1st Due Friday May 2nd 5pm
2nd Due Monday June 9th 5pm

**Plagiarism and other Academic Misconduct:** Please refer to the guidelines from the Academic Integrity Office. If you cheat or plagiarize in this class, you will fail the course.

http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/defining.html

**Required Reading:**
The majority of reading materials for this course will be available on the ted.ucsd.edu page for ETHN 142.
There is only one required book and one (strongly) recommended book on sale for this course:

**Course Schedule:**
**Introducing Race, Racism, Health, and Disease**
**Racial and Medical Genealogies**
**Week 1: April 1st and 3rd**

**Week 2: April 8th and April 10th**

Further Reading:

Section I—Racial Knowledge and the (Bio)Politics of Human Reproduction
Week 3: April 15th and April 17th


Week 4: April 22nd and April 24th


Section II: HIV/AIDS
Week 5: April 29th and May 1st


1st Critical Book Review Due May 2nd 5pm

Week 6: May 6th and May 8th


**Section III: Mental Health and Illness**

**Week 7: May 13th and May 15th**

• Gabriel N. Mendes, “Introduction” and “Psychiatry Comes to Harlem,” in *A Deeper Science: The Lafargue Mental Hygiene Clinic and the Promise of Antiracist Psychiatry, 1940-1960*.

**Week 8: May 20th and May 22nd**


**Week 9: May 27th and May 29th**


• **Thursday:** Joao G. Biehl, “Vita: Life in a Zone of Social Abandonment,” *Social Text*, 68, Volume 19, Number 3 (Fall 2001), 131-149.

**Week 10: June 3rd and June 5th**

**Conclusions: Structural Competency and Social Death**


2nd Critical Book Review Due Monday, June 9th by 5pm

---

**Majoring or Minoring in Ethnic Studies**

Many students take an Ethnic Studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of interest yet do not realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An Ethnic Studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, education, medicine, public health, social work, counseling, journalism, government and politics, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor, please contact:
Daisy Rodriguez, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor
858-534-3277 or d1rodriguez@ucsd.edu or visit [www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu](http://www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu)
Student Consent for Release of Student Information

I hereby authorize the UCSD Ethnic Studies Department to return my graded final examination/research paper by placing the examination/research paper in a location accessible to all students in the course. I understand that the return of my examination/research paper as described above may result in the disclosure of personally identifiable information, that is not public information as defined in UCSD PPM 160-2, and I hereby consent to the disclosure of such information.

Quarter: 

Course: 

Instructor: 

Student I.D.#: 

Print Name: 

Signature: 