

ETHN 142: Medicine, Race, and the Global Politics of Inequality
MWF 11:00-11:50, Solis 110
Spring 2009

Instructor: Grace Kim
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Office hours: Mondays 2-5, Wednesdays 2-3, or by appointment
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Overview:

This course examines how race has functioned as an organizing principle in the social life of health and disease in the 19th and 20th centuries in the United States and beyond. Beginning with a critical look at scientific and medical “objectivity,” we will trace the ways in which the intersections of race, disease and health have shaped and been shaped by larger social and historical processes, including immigration, settlement, assimilation, labor exploitation, colonialism, imperialism, and globalization. In so doing, we will discuss how particular populations are socially constructed as victims and/or carriers of disease, while others are constructed as “sanitary citizens.” As we cover how race as well as gender, class, sexuality and nation affect both the unequal distribution of diseases and unequal access to medical treatment, we will also consider their human rights and social justice consequences.

Required Texts:

- 1) Anne Fadiman. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1997.
- 2) Alan Kraut. *Silent Travelers: Germs, Genes, and the ‘Immigrant Menace’*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994.
- 3) Alexandra Stern. *Eugenic Nation: Faults and Frontiers of Better Breeding in Modern America*. University of California Press, 2005.
- 4) Nayan Shah. *Contagious Divides: Epidemics and Race in San Francisco’s Chinatown*. University of California Press, 2001.
- 5) Laura Briggs. *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science, and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico*. University of California Press, 2002.
- 6) Course Reader – available for purchase from University Readers online at <http://www.universityreaders.com/students> or call 800 200 3908. Also available at the UCSD Library through E-Reserves.

*All texts, including the reader, are on reserve at Geisel Library.

Grading and Course Requirements:

Attendance and active class participation	20%
Essay #1 (3-5 pages), due week 5	25%
Essay #2 (3-5 pages), due week 9	25%
Final examination	30%

Scale: A	93-100 points	C	73-75
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	86-89	D+	66-69
B	83-85	D	63-65
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	76-79	F	below 60

*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.

*Active participation means thoughtful engagement in the readings/lectures, meaningful contributions to class discussions, and respectful collegiality toward your classmates and instructor. Visits to my office hours will also count toward class participation.

*As this is a fairly writing-intensive class, I strongly suggest that you see me during my office hours to discuss your drafts and/or visit the Office of Academic Support & Instructional Services (OASIS) for writing support. You can drop by OASIS on the 3rd floor of Center Hall, M-F 8am-4:30pm, or contact them at 858 534-3760 or oasis@ucsd.edu.

*All written work must be typed in 12 pt Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins. For proper essay format and citation guidelines, please refer to the MLA stylebook. Proofread, spell-check, paginate and staple all work before handing in.

*The final exam will consist of both short and long essays. It will focus primarily on the 2nd half of class, but will ask students to integrate concepts and perspectives covered in the 1st half.

Policies:

*All course requirements must be completed by the specified due date and time in order to pass the course and receive a grade. Any one missing assignment will result in a course failure. If you are taking the course P/NP, you must complete all assignments and receive at least a 70% on each.

*Ten points will be deducted from your papers for every 24 hours they are late. In order to receive an extension, you must contact me at least 24 hours **PRIOR** to the due date and time. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** In the 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 readings by at least Wednesday of the week they are assigned, and bring the text(s) with which we are currently covering to class.

*Turn off phones and refrain from text messaging during class.

Schedule (subject to change):

Week 1 (30 March-3 April): Health, Disease, and Race as Social Constructions

- 1) Smedley, Brian D., Adrienne Y. Stith, and Alan R. Nelson. "Summary." In Smedley, Stith, and Nelson, eds., *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care* (Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2002), 1-27. (READER)

- 2) Marks, Jonathan. "Scientific and Folk Ideas About Heredity." In Zilinskas and Balint, eds., *The Human Genome Project and Minority Communities: Ethical, Social, and Political Dilemmas* (Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2001), 53-66. (READER)
- 3) Omi, Michael and Howard Winant. "Racial Formation," *Racial Formation in the United States: From the 1960s to the 1990s* (New York: Routledge, 1994), 53-76. (READER)

Week 2 (6-10 April): Health Inequalities and Social Justice

- 1) Farmer, Paul. "On Suffering and Structural Violence," and "Health, Healing, and Social Justice," *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003), 29-50, 139-159. (READER)
- 2) Hunter, Tera W. "Tuberculosis as the 'Negro Servants' Disease," *To 'Joy My Freedom: Southern Black Lives and Labors After the Civil War* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1997), 187-218. (READER)
- 3) Baynton, Douglas C. "Disability and the Justification of Inequality in American History," In Longmore and Umansky, eds., *The New Disability History: American Perspectives* (New York: New York University Press, 2001), 33-57. (READER)

Week 3 (13-17 April): Immigration and Sanitary Citizenship in the United States

- 1) Kraut, *Silent Travelers*, Introduction, Chapters 2-3, 5, 7, 9-10

Week 4 (20-24 April): Eugenics and "Race Betterment"

- 1) Stern, *Eugenic Nation*, Introduction, Chapters 1-3, Epilogue

**** ESSAY #1 DUE MONDAY, 27 APRIL**

Week 5 (27 April-1 May): Race, Gender, Domesticity and Health

- 1) Shah, *Contagious Divides*, Introduction, Chapters 2-4

Week 6 (4-8 May): Race, Health, and Labor

- 1) Shah, *Contagious Divides*, Chapters 6-7, Conclusion.
- 2) Pellow, David Naguib and Lisa Sun-Hee Park. "The Emergence of Silicon Valley," *The Silicon Valley of Dreams: Environmental Justice, Immigrant Workers, and the High-Tech Global Economy* (New York: New York University Press, 2002), 59-84. (READER)

Week 7 (11-15 May): Race, Gender, Medicine and Empire I

- 1) Arnold, David. "Introduction" and "Occidental Therapeutics and Oriental Bodies," *Colonizing the Body: State Medicine and Epidemic Disease in Nineteenth-Century India* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993), 1-60. (READER)
- 2) Anderson, Warwick. "The Trespass Speaks: White Masculinity and Colonial Breakdown," *American Historical Review* 102(5): 1343-70. (READER)

Week 8 (18-22 May): Race, Gender, Medicine and Empire II

- 1) Briggs, *Reproducing Empire*, Introduction, Chapters 1-5
Film: *La operación*

****NO CLASS, MONDAY, 25 MAY (Memorial Day)**

****ESSAY #2 DUE WEDNESDAY, 29 MAY**

Week 9 (27-29 May): Disease and Cultural Competence I

- 1) Farmer, Paul. "AIDS and Racism: Accusation in the Center," *AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992), 208-228. (READER)
- 2) Briggs, Charles L. and Clara Mantini-Briggs. "Introduction," "Preparing for a Bacterial Invasion," "Culture Equals Cholera," "Challenging the Logic of Culture," *Stories in the Time of Cholera: Racial Profiling During a Medical Nightmare* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003), 1-47, 199-255. (READER)

Week 10 (1-5 June): Disease and Cultural Competence II, and Wrap-Up

- 1) Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*

****FINAL EXAMINATION, FRIDAY, 12 JUNE, 11:30-2:30, ROOM TBD**