

Chicano/Latino Studies 212
U.S. Latinos, Culture, Medical Beliefs

Instructor: Leo Chavez

Class meeting: Every other week, over two quarters

Course Description

This course examines culture, social history and medical beliefs of U.S. Latinos. The development of issues related to identity, alternative medical practices and beliefs, sexuality, family, gender, religious beliefs as they related to contemporary Latinos will be examined.

Requirements

Readings: Required readings for the class will include a combination of books, articles and book chapters. Books will be available through the bookstore, and articles and book chapters will be available for purchase through a specially prepared reader service.

Attendance: Bi-Weekly over two quarters. Attendance is required. The format is a graduate seminar, 2 hours and 50 minutes, that requires active participation and discussion.

Class Activities: Students will come prepared to discuss readings and incorporate learning into their medical training and patient-based experiences. Students will generate learning questions from each session and then come prepared to present them at the next session, tying in their clinical experiences.

Clinical Narrative: Students will examine the readings for the class in relation to clinical experiences. Students will discuss with two immigrant Hispanic patients, one male and one female, about their backgrounds and experiences. Papers will examine patients' background and experiences in relation to the history and contemporary issues discussed in class and in the readings. This paper will be a maximum of 10 pages.

Grading: Grades will be based on a combination of class participation and the writing assignment.

Evaluation: Students will be asked to evaluate the content and contribution of the class to their role as physicians in the Latino community based on their clinical experiences. Future course content and activities will integrate student evaluations.

Required Readings

Course Reader: A collection of selected articles available for purchase.

Vilma Santiago-Irizarry, *Medicalizing Ethnicity*

Lynn Payer, *Medicine & Culture*

Week 1

Introduction: Latinos, Medical Care, and Medical Anthropology

Introduction to Course:

Lock & Scheper-Hughes, "A Critical-Interpretive Approach" in Reader

Foster: "Mexican Medical Terminology." In Reader.

Lynn Payer, *Medicine & Culture*

Week 2

Contemporary Immigration Patterns and Migrant Health

READ: Azevedo and Bogue, "Health and Occupational Risks" in Reader

Hirsch, "Anthropologists, Migrants, and Health Research" in Reader

Barbara Herr Harthorn, "Safe Exposure? Perceptions of Health Risks from
Agricultural Chemicals among California Farmworkers." In Reader.

Hayes-Bautista, "The Latino Health Research Agenda" in Reader

Farmer, "Commentary" in Reader

Castaneda, Xochitl, and Patricia Zavella, "Changing Constructions of
Sexuality and Risk: Migrant Mexican Women Farmworkers in California."
In Reader.

Required Readings

Course Reader: A collection of selected articles available for purchase.

Carmack, Robert M., Janine Gasco, and Gary Gossen
1996 *The Legacy of Mesoamerica*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall

Ortiz de Montellano, Bernard R.
1990 *Aztec Medicine, Health, and Nutrition*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

Kaja Finkler, *Women in Pain Gender and Morbidity in Mexico*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1994.

Arthur J. Rubel, Carl W. O'Neill, Rolando Collado-Ardon, *Susto: A Folk Illness*.

Week 1

I. Introduction: Historical and Cultural Dimensions to Latino/a life in the United States

Introduction to Course:

Week 2

Pre-Columbian Life and Geography

READ: Carmack, Robert M., Janine Gasco, and Gary Gossen, 1996 *The Legacy of Mesoamerica*, chapters 1, 2 Pre-Columbian Cultures and Societies.

Week 3

Pre-Columbian Medical Practices

READ: Ortiz de Montellano, Bernard R., 1990 *Aztec Medicine, Health, and Nutrition*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

Mendoza, Ruben G.

1997 Trephination. In: Helaine Selin (ed.), *Encyclopedia of the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine in Non-Western Cultures*; pp. 985-986. Dordrecht/Boston/London: Kluwer Academic Publishers

2003 *Lords of the Medicine Bag: Medical Science and Traditional Practice in Ancient Peru and South America*. In: Helaine Seline (ed.), *Medicine Across Cultures: Historical Practice of Medicine in Non-Western Cultures*; pp. 225-257. Dordrecht/Boston/London: Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Mendoza, Ruben G., and Jay R. Wolter

1997 *Medicine in Meso and South America*. In: Helaine Seline (ed.), *Encyclopedia of the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine in Non-Western Cultures*; pp. 702-706. Dordrecht/Boston/London: Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Week 4

The Spanish Conquest of the Americas, the Colonial Period, the Construction of Economic, Political, and Social Structures in Latin America; the Introduction of European Medical Beliefs and Practices.

READ: Carmack, Robert M., Janine Gasco, and Gary Gossen, *The Legacy of Mesoamerica*, chapters 3, 4, 5, 6

Week 5

The Modern Period: Race, Gender, Sexuality; Social and Religious Syncretism

READ: Carmack, Robert M., Janine Gasco, and Gary Gossen, *The Legacy of Mesoamerica*, chapters 7, 8, 10

Week 6

Gender and Medical Narratives

READ: Finkler, *Women in Pain*

Week 7

Ethnomedicine, Folk Illnesses, Folk Healers

READ: Rubel, Arthur J., and Michael R. Hass, 1996 Ethnomedicine. In: Carolyn F. Sargent and Thomas M. Johnson (ed.), *Medical Anthropology: Contemporary Theory and Method.*; pp. 113-130. Westport, Connecticut: Praeger.

Finkler, Kaja, 1985 *Spiritual Healers in Mexico*. South Hadley, MA: Bergin & Garvey Publishers, Inc. Selected chapters.

Kiev, Ari, 1968 *Curanderismo: Mexican-American Folk Psychiatry*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc. Selected chapters.

Viesca Treviño, Carlos, 2001 *Curanderismo in Mexico and Guatemala: Its Historical Evolution from the Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Century*. In: Brad R. Huber and Alan R. Sandstrom (ed.), *Mesoamerican Healers*; pp. 47-65. Austin: University of Texas Press

Film: Curanderismo

Week 8

Mind/Body Connections and the Power of Folk Illnesses

Read: Rubel, et al. *Susto*

Week 9

Alternative Healers and Spiritual Healing

Read: Nuñez Molina, Mario A., 2001 *Community Healing Among Puerto Ricans: Espiritismo as a Therapy for the Soul*. In: Margarite Fernández Olmos and Lizbeth Paravisnini-Gebert (eds.), *Healing Cultures: Art and Religion as Curative Practices in the Caribbean and Its Diaspora*; pp. 115-129. New York: Palgrave

Owen Jones, Michael and Patrick A. Polk with Ysamur Flores-Peña and Roberta J. Evanchuk. 2001. *Invisible Hospitals: Botánicas in Ethnic Health Care IN Healing Logics: Culture and Medicine in Modern Health Belief Systems*. Edited by Erika Brady. Logan: Utah State University Press. Pp. 39-87.

Finkler, Kaja. 1994. *Sacred Healing and Biomedicine Compared IN Medical Anthropological Quarterly*, 8(2):178-197.

Napolitano, Valentina. 2002. Ch. 4 Medical Pluralism: Medicina Popular and Medicina Alternative IN Migration, Mujercitas, and Medicine Men. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 96-127.

Week 10

The Perseverance of Medical Beliefs Across Geographic Regions

READ: Baer, Roberta D., Susan C. Weller, Javier Garcia de Alba Garcia, Mark Glazer, Robert Trotter, Lee Pachter, and Robert E. Klein, 2003 A Cross-Cultural Approach to the Study of the Folk Illness *Nervios*. *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* 27 (3): 315-337.

Setha M. Low, "Medical Practice in Response to a Folk Illness: The Treatment of Nervios in Costa Rica." In Reader.

Weller, Susan C., Roberta D. Baer, Javier Garcia de Alba Garcia, Mark Glazer, Robert Trotter, Lee Pachter, and Robert. E. Klein, 2002 Regional Variation in Latino Descriptions of Susto. *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* 26: 449-472.

Weller, Susan C., Lee M. Pachter, Robert T. Trotter II, and Roberta D. Baer, 1993 Empacho in Four Latino Groups: A Study of Intra- and Inter-Cultural Variation in Beliefs. *Medical Anthropology* 15: 109-136.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE