Spring 2011
ANTH 606: Anthropology of Infectious Disease

Meets: Monday and Wednesday from 1:30-2:45 in Saunders 242
Instructor: Dr. Eirik Sæthre
Email: saethre@hawaii.edu
Office: Saunders 306
Office Phone: 956-3995
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 12:30-1:30

Course Description
Infectious diseases remain the major cause of death worldwide. We live in a time of emerging infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS and Ebola Fever as well as resurgent old ones such as tuberculosis, malaria, and polio. The problem is compounded by infectious disease “traffic”—introducing infections to new species and previously not affected populations. This growing disease burden not only affects physical health, it also impacts and is impacted by social, cultural, and economic factors. The anthropological study of infectious disease explores the ways in which behaviors, notions, and health intervention strategies intersect. Furthermore, we will examine the unique insights and resources that anthropologists possess to improve the understanding and treatment of infectious diseases.

Course Objectives
- Students will gain an understanding of the social and cultural dimensions of infectious disease.
- This course will explore local responses to, and interpretations of, biomedical ideas, technologies, and treatments.
- Through an examination of infectious disease, this course will illustrate the way in which medical ideas and discourse are employed to construct and reflect their social environment.

Student Learning Outcomes
At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:
- Use appropriate research tools to formulate a scholarly argument within the context of medical anthropology.
- Understand the ways in which health sciences approach infectious disease through socially and culturally constructed categories.
- Recognize the value of anthropological understandings in public health, applied, and clinical care settings.

Required Texts:
Course Readings:
All other readings for this course are posted as pdf documents on Laulima.

Grading and Student Evaluation

Group Presentations (25%)
Students will be divided into groups for the duration of the semester. For each class, one group will be responsible for evaluating the article or chapter, and moderating discussion. Each group should submit at least one page of notes and talking points to be covered in class.

Research Paper (50%)
Throughout the semester, students will work to prepare a manuscript to submit to an anthropological or related journal for peer review. The paper must focus on infectious disease and conform to the formatting standards of your chosen journal. Students must submit a one paragraph abstract as well as a bibliography of at least fifteen sources on 9 February. First drafts will be electronically distributed to the class on 6 April. Week 13 will be devoted to a peer review. Final drafts are due 4 May.

Elective Topics (25%)
During the last three weeks of class, each group will choose a topic relevant to the course, assign readings to the class, and then facilitate class discussion. Topics and readings (in electronic format) are due on 30 March.

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>300-290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>289-280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>279-270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>269-260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>269-260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>269-260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>259-250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>259-250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>259-250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Late Papers
Unless otherwise stated, papers are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments (including first drafts) will loose ten percent for every day that elapses and will not receive comments from the instructor. On the sixth day, the student will receive a zero.

Classroom Policies
- Be on time for class.
- Cell phones must be turned off. No computers are allowed in class.
- All course handouts, readings, and assignments can be found on Laulima.
- Students are responsible for all course content, whether or not they are in class.
- You are responsible for knowing about, and avoiding, academic dishonesty.
- For more information about writing resources on campus and online, go to http://www.mwp.hawaii.edu/writer_help.htm.
Class Schedule

Week 1: Getting Started
1/10 Introduction to the class
1/12 *Introduction* – Marcia Inhorn and Peter Brown
  *The Anthropology of Infectious Disease* – Marcia Inhorn and Peter Brown

Week 2: Biocultural Approaches: Histories
1/17 No class: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
1/19 from *Anthropology of Infectious Disease* (Group 1)
  *Dangerous Dirt* – William Harrison
  *A New Look at an Old Disease* – Carol McClain
  *Culture and the Global Resurgence of Malaria* – Peter Brown

Week 3: Influenza: Special Journal Issues
1/24 from Anthropology & Medicine (Group 2)
  *Asian Flus in Ethnographic and Political Context* – Arthur Kleinman et al.
  *Surviving the Crisis* – Letian Zhang and Tianshu Pan
  *Community Response to Avian Flu in Central Java* – Siwi Padmawati and Mark Nichter
  *Ethnography of Epidemiologic Transition* – Komatra Chuengsatiansup

1/26 from Medical Anthropology (Group 3)
  *Biocommunicability and the Biopolitics of Pandemic Threats* – Charles Briggs and Mark Nichter
  *Pathogens Gone Wild? Medical Anthropology and the “Swine Flu” Pandemic* – Merrill Singer
  *Influenza, Anthropology, and Global Uncertainties* – Laetitia Atlani-Duault and Carl Kendall

Week 4: HIV/AIDS: AIDS and Accusation
1/31 Chapters 1-10 (Group 1)
2/2 Chapters 11-22 (Group 2)

Week 5: HIV/AIDS: How to Have Theory in an Epidemic
2/7 Chapters 1 & 3 (Group 3)
2/9 Chapters 5 & 8 (Group 1)
ABSTRACT AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

Week 6: Movie: And the Band Played On
2/14 Part 1
2/16 Part 2
Week 7:  *Stories in the Time of Cholera*
2/21  No class: President’s Day
2/23  Introduction – Chapter 4 (Group 2)

Week 8:  *Stories in the Time of Cholera*
2/28  Chapters 5-9 (Group 3)
3/2  Chapters 10-13 (Group 1)

Week 9:  *Tuberculosis*
3/7  *White Plague, Black Labor* – Randall Packard (Chapters 7 & 9) (Group 2)
3/9  *Pathologies of Power* – Paul Farmer (Chapters 4 & 7) (Group 3)

Week 10:  *Leprosy: Peculiar People*
3/14  Chapters 1, 3 & 4 (Group 1)
3/16  Chapters 5 & 7 (Group 2)

Spring Break

Week 11:  *Anthropology and Public Health*
3/28  Public Health Debates (Group 3)
   *Global Health Diplomacy* – Vincanne Adams, Thomas E. Novotny and Hannah Leslie
   *A Tale of Two Cultures* – Eirik Saethre and Jonathan Stadler
3/30  Anthropological Design of Initiatives (Group 1)
   *Indigenization of Illness Support Groups for Lymphatic Filariasis in Haiti* – Jeannine Coreil and Gladys Maynard
   *Sexual Risk Reduction among Married Women and Men in Urban India* – Jean Schensul et al.
ELECTIVE TOPICS AND READING LISTS DUE

Week 12:  *Anthropology and Public Health*
4/4  Anthropological Evaluations of Initiatives (Group 2)
   *Counting on Mother’s Love* – Karen Moland and Astrid Blystad
   *The Brazilian Response to AIDS and the Pharmaceuticalization of Public Health* – Joao Biehl
   *Anthropological and Public Health Perspectives on the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in Northern Nigeria* – Elisha Renne
4/6  Anthropological Critiques of Policy (Group 3)
   *Global Panic, Local Repercussions* – Stacy Lockerbie and D. Ann Herring
   *Neoliberal Infections and the Politics of Health* – Sandy Smith-Nonini
FIRST DRAFTS DUE

Week 13:  Peer Review
4/11  Peer Review
4/13  Peer Review
Week 14: Elective Topic – Group One
4/18  TBA
4/20  TBA

Week 15: Elective Topic – Group Two
4/25  TBA
4/27  TBA

Week 16: Elective Topic – Group Three
5/2  TBA
5/4  TBA
FINAL DRAFTS DUE