This seminar will provide the opportunity to read some of the most innovative recent works in medical and psychological anthropology. Topics to be discussed include personhood and the brain; the social and cultural consequences of new medical technologies (including physician assisted suicide, organ transplantation); madness, trauma and recovery; the cultural shaping of self, emotion and gender; the anthropology of care; and the significance of data in global health policy. The course will be structured around seminar discussion.

For weeks when an ethnography is assigned, each student is responsible for reading the entire book and for handing in a five page (double-spaced 12 point font) discussion paper summarizing and critically evaluating the ethnography. The discussion paper should highlight the main points of the author’s argument and formulate questions to be raised during seminar discussion. Secondary sources may be used, but the assigned course reading for the week should be the primary focus of the discussion paper. These papers are due in class each week that a book is assigned (Jan. 16, Jan. 30, Feb. 27, Mar. 12, Mar. 26).

For weeks when there are four journal articles assigned, each student will be responsible for thoroughly reading one of the journal articles and handing in a short two page paper due in class highlighting the main points of the article and critically evaluating its argument. The articles will be divided evenly among the class so that all articles are covered. The two students who read an article will jointly prepare a 20 minute presentation on the article for the rest of the seminar and lead discussion. Powerpoint may be used. Although it is only necessary to read thoroughly, write about and present one article, students are encouraged to skim the others (read the abstract, introduction and conclusion) to enable discussion.

In fairness to all seminar participants, late papers will NOT be accepted, because students who hand in their paper after the seminar can use content from the seminar discussion to write their paper, “free-riding” on the work of other seminar participants. Exceptions will be made for students with SAS accommodations; in those cases, the student will be asked to submit a detailed outline of their paper in class, and the final paper handed in later should not incorporate any material that was not mentioned on the outline. Example discussion papers will be posted on the Avenue site for the course.
Evaluation:

Discussion papers on ethnographies (5) 50%
Short papers on articles and presentations (6) 30%
Weekly discussion participation 20%

Texts
All books are available from the Campus Store. Journal articles are available on Avenue to Learn.


Syllabus and Bibliographic Details for Weekly Readings

Jan. 9: Course Introduction (presentation by instructor on her research)

Jan. 16: Biruk: Cooking Data


Jan. 30:  
Dumit: **Drugs for Life**

Feb. 6:  


Feb. 13:  

Olga Solomon et al.: “‘You Can Turn off the Light If You’d Like’: Pediatric Health Care Visits for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder as an Interactional Achievement.” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 29:531-555, 2015.


Feb. 27:  
Jain: **Malignant**

Mar. 5:  


Mar. 12: Luhrmann and Marrow: Our Most Troubling Madness


Mar. 26: Hamdy: Our Bodies Belong to God


