

Folklore/Anthropology 162

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE: Skepticism, Alterity, and Epistemology

Katharine Young, Spring 2009

Lectures M/F 11:30-1:00, ARF Seminar Room 101, 2251 College Building

Office Hours: Mondays 2:30-3:30, Thursdays 1:30-2:30, or by appointment, 273 Evans.

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Alternative medical practices have altered the American medical landscape. The epistemologies of the body underlying alternative medicine fall outside the orthodox biomedical paradigm. For that reason, alternative medical practices incur skepticism from orthodox practitioners as well as uninitiated participants. In consequence, the rhetoric of such practices is both pedagogical and persuasive, designed at once to teach the practice to its participants and to deflect skepticism about it. Unorthodox medicine is orthodox medicine's counter discourse. Practitioners and participants find themselves obliged to inhabit spaces of alterity. This course will examine alternative medical epistemologies both in their own terms and as critiques of orthodox medicine.

COURSEWORK

Reading Commentaries

Beginning on January 31st and ending on May 2nd, post to bSpace Forum questions, evaluations, points of clarification, counter arguments, or emotional responses to 10 readings by midnight Saturday for Monday's class or by midnight Tuesday for Friday's class. You can originate your own posts or respond to posts already on bSpace.

10% of grade. Due weekly.

Study of an Alternative Medical Practice

Select an alternative medical practice on which you can do a field study. Produce the following accounts of your research on the practice:

1. Map

Make a verbal and/or visual map of the practice. The map can be a verbal description or visual representation of the proximate and/or remote contexts in which the practice you are observing is located. Contexts can include spatial, temporal, and/or conceptual realms to which the practice belongs or against which it is configured.

20% of grade. Due Friday, February 20th

2. Narrative

Collect a story of illness and/or healing from a participant in or practitioner of your alternative medical practice. Describe it in terms of Frank's narrative typology.

6 to 8 pages. 30% of grade. Due Friday, March 20th

3. Epistemology

Analyze the epistemology of the body your practice supports. Consider with respect to Csordas's theories. Must refer to at least 3 readings from the course.

6 to 8 pages. 30% of grade. Due Monday, April 20th

4. Final Portfolio

Assemble all three works, with an introduction and conclusion, into a final portfolio for the course. Present your portfolio in the Alternative Medicine Fair.

15-25 pages. 10% of grade. Due Monday, May 11th

BOOKS (Buy locally or order online, new or used):

- Thomas Csordas. 2002. *Body/Meaning/Healing*.
Basingstoke, Hampshire, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.
1994. *The Sacred Self: A Cultural Phenomenology of Charismatic Healing*.
Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Arthur Frank. 1995. *The Wounded Storyteller: Body, Illness, and Ethics*.
Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press.
- Andrew Weil. 1983. *Health and Healing*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
1995. *Spontaneous Healing*. New York: Fawcett Columbine.
- Deepak Chopra, M.D. 1989. *Quantum Healing:
Exploring the Frontiers of Mind/Body Medicine*. New York: Bantam.

ARTICLES (Available on bSpace):

- David Hufford. 1990. "Contemporary Folk Medicine." *Other Healers:
Unorthodox Medicine in America*. ed. Norman Gevitz.
Baltimore : Johns Hopkins University Press, 228-265.
- David Hufford. 1982. "The Phenomenology of the Old Hag."
*The Terror that Comes in the Night:
An Experience-centered Study of Supernatural Assault Traditions*.
Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 47-114, 245-256..
- Nancy Scheper-Hughes and Margaret Lock. 1987. "The Mindful Body:
A Prolegomenon to Future Work in Medical Anthropology."
Medical Anthropology Quarterly 1:1, 6-41.
- Maurice Merleau-Ponty. 1962. "The Experience of the Body and Classical Psychology" &
"The Body as Object and Mechanistic Physiology."
The Phenomenology of Perception. London: Routledge, 73-89.
- Katharine Young. 2002. "The Memory of the Flesh:
The Family Body in Somatic Psychology." *Body and Society* 8:3, 25-48.
- 2002b. "The Dream Body in Somatic Psychology: The Kinaesthetics of Gesture."
Gestures 2:1, 45-70.
- Jean Jackson. 1994. "Chronic Pain and the Tension between the Body as Subject and
Object." *Embodiment and Experience: The Existential Ground of Culture and Self*,
ed. Thomas Csordas. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 201-228.
- John Kabat-Zinn. 1990. "Working with Physical Pain: Your Pain is not You."
*Full Catastrophe Living: Using the Wisdom of Your Body and Mind to Face
Stress, Pain, and Illness*. New York: Delta, 283-299.
- Karen Olness and Daniel P. Kohen. 1996. "Biofeedback and Child Hypnotherapy."
Hypnosis and Hypnotherapy with Children.
New York: Guilford Press, 319-328.
- Maxine Sheets-Johnstone. 1992. "The Materialization of the Body:
A History of Western Medicine, A History in Process."
Giving the Body its Due, ed. Maxine Sheets-Johnstone.
Albany: State University of New York Press, 132-158.

LECTURES

- Fri. 23 Jan. **Lecture 1. Multiple Epistemologies**
- Mon. 26 Jan. **Lecture 2. Skepticism**
Read: David Hufford. 1990. "Contemporary Folk Medicine" (38 pages)
- Fri. 30 Jan. **Lecture 3. Alterity**
Read: David Hufford. 1982. "The Phenomenology of the Old Hag" (68)
 "Conclusion" (12)
- Mon. 2 Feb. **Lecture 4. The Mind/Body Problem**
Read: Nancy Scheper-Hughes and Margaret Lock. 1987. "The Mindful Body: A Prolegomenon to Future Work in Medical Anthropology" (36)
Due: Select an alternative medical practice
- Fri. 6 Feb. **Lecture 5. The Phenomenological Body**
Read: Maurice Merleau-Ponty. 1962.
 "The Experience of the Body and Classical Psychology" (8)
 "The Body as Object and Mechanistic Physiology" (17)
- Mon. 9 Feb. **Lecture 6. Anthropology and Embodiment**
Read: Thomas Csordas. 2002. *Body/Meaning/Healing*, 58-87.
 Ch. 2. "Embodiment as a Paradigm for Anthropology" (30)
- Fri. 13 Feb. **Lecture 7. The Somatic Self**
Read: Katharine Young. 2002. "The Memory of the Flesh: The Family Body in Somatic Psychology" (24)
- Mon. 16 Feb. **Lecture 8. The Spirit Body**
Read: Thomas Csordas. 1994. *The Sacred Self*, 1-24.
 Ch. 1. "Introduction"(24)
 Andrew Weil. 1983. *Health and Healing*, 143-155, 174-180,
 Ch. 13. "Shamanism, Mind Cures, and Faith Healing" (13)
 Ch. 14. "Psychic Healing" (7)
 Andrew Weil. 1995. *Spontaneous Healing*, 11-24.
 Ch. 1. "Prologue in the Rain Forest: *The Faces of Healing: Kristin*" (14)
- Fri. 20 Feb. **Lecture 9. Bodily Dispositions**
Read: Thomas Csordas. 1994. *The Sacred Self*, 57-73.
 Ch. 3. "Therapeutic Process and Experience" (17)
Due: Map of Alternative Medical Practice
- Mon. 23 Feb. **Lecture 10. Imagine This**
Read: Thomas Csordas. 1994. *The Sacred Self*, 74-108.
 Ch. 4. "Embodied Imagery and Divine Revelation" (35)
- Fri. 27 Feb. **Lecture 11. Memory and Imagination**
Read: Thomas Csordas. 1994. *The Sacred Self*, 141-164.
 Ch. 6. "Image, Memory, and Efficacy" (24)
- Mon. 2 March **Lecture 12. Death and Narrative**
Read: Arthur Frank. 1995. *The Wounded Storyteller*, 53-73.
 Ch. 3. "Illness as a Call for Stories" (21)
- Fri. 6 March **Lecture 13. Morphology of Illness Narratives**

- Read:* Arthur Frank. 1995. *The Wounded Storyteller*, 75-136.
 Ch. 4. "The Restitution Narrative" (22)
 Ch. 5. "The Chaos Narrative" (18)
 Ch. 6. "The Quest Narrative" (22)
- Mon. 9 March **Lecture 14. Narrative Embodiments**
Read: Katharine Young. 2002. "The Dream Body in Somatic Psychology: The Kinaesthetics of Gesture" (26)
- Fri. 13 March **Lecture 15. Positions and Dispositions**
Read: Andrew Weil. 1983. *Health and Healing*, 123-142.
 Ch. 11. "Some Medical Heresies: Osteopathy, Chiropractic, Naturopathy" (20)
 Andrew Weil. 1995. *Spontaneous Healing*, 25-44, 107-125.
 Ch. 2. "Right in My Own Back Yard: *The Faces of Healing: Harvey and Phyllis*"(20)
 Ch. 7. "The Tao of Healing" (19)
- Mon. 16 March **Lecture 16. Reluctant Alterities**
Read: Thomas Csordas. 2002. *Body/Meaning/Healing*, 141-164.
 Ch. 5. "Ritual Healing and the Politics of Identity in Contemporary Navajo Society" (24)
- Fri. 20 March **Lecture 17. Subaltern Inversions**
Read: Thomas Csordas. 2002. *Body/Meaning/Healing*, 219-238.
 Ch. 8. "Words from the Holy People" (20)
Due: Illness Narrative
- Spring Break**
- Mon. 30 March **Lecture 18. Somatic Modes of Attention**
Read: Thomas Csordas. 2002. *Body/Meaning/Healing*, 241-259.
 Ch. 9. "Somatic Modes of Attention" (19)
- Fri. 3 April **Lecture 19. Pain**
Read: Jean Jackson. 1994. "Chronic Pain and the Tension between the Body as Subject and Object" (28)
 Andrew Weil. 1983. *Health and Healing*,
 Ch. 12. "Chinese Medicine"
 Ch. 15. "Holistic Medicine"
- Mon. 6 April **Lecture 20. Biofeedback, Cyberphysiology, and the Consciousness Disciplines I**
Read: John Kabat-Zinn. 1990. "Working with Physical Pain: Your Pain is not You" (17)
 Andrew Weil. 1995. *Health and Healing*.
 Ch. 21. "Powers of the Mind and the Problem of Harnessing Them"
- Fri. 10 April **Lecture 21. Biofeedback, Cyberphysiology, and the Consciousness Disciplines II**
Read: Karen Olness & Daniel P. Kohen. 1996.
 "Hypnotic Induction for Children: Techniques, Strategies, Approaches" (32)
 Andrew Weil. 1983. *Health and Healing*,
 Ch. 18. "Why Warts Fall Off"
 Andrew Weil. 1995. *Spontaneous Healing*,
 Ch. 6. "The Role of the Mind in Healing: *The Faces of Healing: Mari Jean*"

- Mon. 13 April **Lecture 22. The Medieval Humoral Body**
Read: The Temperament Test
- Fri. 17 April **Lecture 23. The Modern Medical Body**
Read: Maxine Sheets-Johnstone. 1992. "The Materialization of the Body: A History of Western Medicine, A History in Process" (26)
- Mon. 20 April **Lecture 24. Essences and Substances**
Read: Andrew Weil. 1983. *Health and Healing*, 3-40.
 Ch. 1 "A Homeopathic Cure" (10)
 Ch. 2. "Like Cures Like, Less is More" (14)
 Ch. 3. "Why Does Homeopathy Work?" (13)
 Andrew Weil. 1995. *Spontaneous Healing*, 45-58, 107-122.
 Ch. 3. "Testimonials: The Faces of Healing: AI" (14)
 Ch. 7. "The Tao of Healing" (16)
Due: Epistemology of the Body in Alternative Medical Practice
- Fri 24 April **Lecture 25. Quintessences and Quanta**
Read: Deepak Chopra. 1989. *Quantum Healing*, 9-34, 53-90.
 Ch. 1. "After the Miracle" (10)
 Ch. 2. "The Body Has a Mind of Its Own" (16)
 Ch. 4. "Messengers from Inner Space" (20)
 Ch. 5. "Ghosts of Memory" (18)
- Mon. 27 April **Lecture 26. Quirks and Gaps**
Read: Deepak Chopra. 1989. *Quantum Healing*, 91-110, 183-200, 221-240.
 Ch. 6. "The Quantum Mechanical Body" (20)
 Ch. 11. "Birth of a Disease" (18)
 Ch. 13. "Body of Bliss" (36)
- Fri. 1 May **Lecture 27. Pedagogy and Persuasion**
Read: Thomas Csordas. *Body/Meaning/Healing*, 11-57.
 Ch. 1. "The Rhetoric of Transformation in a Ritual Healing" (47)
- Mon. 4 May **Lecture 28. Rhetoric and Charisma I**
Read: Thomas Csordas. *Body/Meaning/Healing*, 100-136.
 Ch. 4. "The Affliction of Martin" (37)
- Fri. 8 May **Lecture 29. Rhetoric and Charisma II**
- Mon. 11 May **Lecture 30. Reflecting Bodies**
Due: Final Portfolio on Alternative Medicine