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The Anthropology of Critical Public Health
Winter 2019 ANTH 540 (crn17810)
Professor Sandra Teresa Hyde

Seminar: Mondays 9:05-11:55 Leacock 917

Office hours: Wednesday 2:30 to 4:30 818 Leacock.

OVERVIEW:

Critical Public Health has historically been associated with what is called health disparities or the structural determinants of health. We will begin this seminar by discussing the various discursive moves that brought about the term the structural determinants of health and then move beyond that paradigm and explore a variety of issues that are part of larger discussions in public health today. We will explore the following: Medicine, disability and aging; the anti-vaccine movement and concepts of immunity; the new drug epidemics and addicts' stories; global health, its metrics and data production; and climate change as a public health issue. This advanced seminar in medical anthropology is designed for students in their last year in anthropology, the social science and medicine minor, students interested in health and health policy, public health, nursing and pre-med students, and anyone with a background in social theory. Prerequisites are U3 status or permission of instructor, including ANTH 227 or equivalent, one 300 Anthropology course, and one 400 level medical humanities or social science theory course, or a MA level graduate student in any discipline.

The course is organized around six modules that rotate every two weeks: each module includes a variety of learning outcomes: lectures, guest lectures, and most important engaged and interactive student-lead discussions. The assigned readings correspond to the general theme of each module. Students will be held responsible for all the readings assigned (the amount of reading will vary from week to week, depending on the length of our monographs, be prepared for 80 pages/week).

The sessions are organized as follows. We will begin with a mini-lecture on the topic linking the readings and setting out the general themes for the module. We will then take a short break and start the second half of the class where we will launch into a fruitful and lively discussion. /sth