

## **Ethnic Studies 142: Race, Medicine, and Globalization**

Prof. Natalia Molina  
Office: Social Science Building 226  
Best way to contact me: nmolina@weber.ucsd.edu  
858.822.1580  
Office hours: Monday, 12-2: Tuesday 11-12

### **Overview:**

This class examines how race as an organizing principle has been central to the construction and treatment of disease in the twentieth century in the US and throughout the world. We will discuss these processes by exploring how social forces and beliefs acted in concert with technology and science in the course of disease diagnosis and treatment. Such procedures reveal the power dynamics involved in medical treatment and point to how it is not a value-free enterprise.

Studying the intersections of disease and race illustrates how immigrants and people of color have historically been subject to nativist beliefs that attach the stigma of disease to them. The belief that they are harbingers of disease shapes immigration, migration, settlement, and assimilation processes. Moreover, large historical processes, such as colonialism and imperialism, also mediated the practice and discourse of Western medicine.

### **Goals of course:**

This class is premised on the belief that institutions can shape our ideas about race and ethnicity. Specifically, we examine how the fields of medicine and public health have informed our thinking about these categories. As such, we are challenging hegemonic ideas about science as objective and race as a static category. One person alone cannot do all that! In order for this class to be successful, you need to come to class prepared to share your ideas. What sparked your interest in the readings? Where did you put a check mark, a question mark, and a note in the readings? What will you discuss with your friends about the course when you walk out the door? What connections are you making between the lectures, readings, and discussions? You and your colleagues will learn much more from discussion than a straight lecture.

### **Required Books:**

These books can be purchased at Groundworks (858.452.9625) and are on reserve at Geisel library.

Arnold, David. *Colonizing the Body: State Medicine and Epidemic Disease in Nineteenth-Century India*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993.

Fadiman, Anne. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collusion of Two Cultures*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1997.

Farmer, Paul. *AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992.

Kraut, Alan. *Silent Travelers: Germs, Genes, and the 'Immigrant Menace'*. New York: Basic Books, 1994.

Shah, Nayan. *Contagious Divides: Epidemics and Race in San Francisco's Chinatown*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2001.

University Reader (course reader) 619.540.8789. Readers will be sold after class in the first two weeks of the quarter.

**Grading:**

1 minute papers (not graded, but logged)

Midterm I- 30%

Paper -35%

Final Exam -35%

**One-minute papers:** The minute papers are another way of trying to make this class more of a dialogue. You will have one minute to write down any questions or comments from lecture that day. Other minute papers will focus on the readings. You will turn in your responses.

**Midterm and Final:** The midterm and final are both essay-format. Please bring a blue book with nothing written on it, including your name.

**Five-page paper:** Your paper will explore the scientific dimensions of colonialism through a discussion of the Arnold book. A strong paper will have an introduction, thesis, topic sentences that support the thesis, informed examples and analysis throughout. Please refer to the writing advice handouts.

Please do not undermine your argument or your grade with poor grammar or spelling errors. Have a friend, classmate, or OASIS center writing advisor read it before you turn it in, both for argument/ideas and grammar.

The OASIS Writing Program is open Monday - Friday 8 AM to 4:30 PM. OASIS is located in Center Hall #327. Their phone number is 858.534.7707.

**Format:** All papers should be paginated, have one-inch margins and be in times or times new roman, 12 point. Underline your thesis. Since you only need to reference assigned texts, the following citation format is acceptable: (Briggs, 27).

**Extra credit:** Extra credit can be earned through written reports on the lectures given at the Center for Race and Ethnicity's weekly colloquium held on Wednesdays at 3 P.M in Social Science Building 107. The 1-2 page reports should include one paragraph (*no more*) on the speaker's thesis and supporting evidence. The rest of the paper should be your evaluation of the talk. What points did the speaker make that gave you pause?

The following readings will be discussed or referred to on the following days:

**Week 1:**

**April 1:** Framing Disease: Introduction and overview to the course

**April 3: Disease Diagnosis and Racial Projections**

Come to class having done the following readings:

James Jones, " A Moral Astigmatism, " pages 1-15 (Reader).

Keith Wailoo, "Detecting 'Negro Blood': Black and White Identities and the Reconstruction of Sickle Cell Anemia" (Reader).

**Week 2:**

**April 8: Deconstructing the Medical Gaze**

Vicente Rafael, "White Love: Surveillance and National Resistance in the US Colonization of the Philippines" (Reader).

Tagg, Burden or Representation (Reader)

**April 10: Regulating Immigration through Medical Borders**

Alexandra Stern, "Buildings, Boundaries, and Blood: Medicalization and Nation-Building on the U.S.-Mexican Border, 1910-1930." (Reader)

Alan Kraut, *Silent Travelers*, Introduction, 1-9; "‘Proper Precautions’: Searching for Illness on Ellis Island," 50-77.

**Week 3: Shifting Borders to the Interior: Regulating Immigrants through Medical Borders**

**April 15:** Alan Kraut, *Silent Travelers*, Chapters 5 & 6, 78-135.

**April 17:** William Deverell, "Plague in Los Angeles, 1924: Ethnicity and Typicality," 172-200 (Reader).

Introduction to Nayan Shah, *Contagious Divides*. Make sure to ask if you have any questions for next week.

**Week 4: From Medical Menaces to Model Citizens: Public Health's Role in Making Citizens**

**April 22:** Nayan Shah, *Contagious Divides*, Chapters 1, 2,4

**April 24:** Nayan Shah, *Contagious Divides*, Chapter 5, 7, 8 and conclusion.

Come prepared with specific questions for the midterm next week.

Think of these questions when reading: How did concepts of health and disease shape notions of who made a good citizen? What is a citizen subject? What changes did public health as an institution undergo during the time period Shah examines?
---

**Week 5:**

**April 29: Midterm**

**Part II: Medicine as an instrument of empire**

**May 1:**

Bring articles to class. Shula Marks, "What is Colonial about Colonial Medicine? And What has happened to Imperialism and Health?" (Reader)  
Warwick Anderson, "Immunities of Empire: Race, Disease, and the New Tropical Medicine, 1900-1920."

**Week 6: Disease in India was not Disease in England**

**May 6 and 8:** David Arnold, *Colonizing the Body*, chapter two is optional.

**Weekend homework:** Spend some time this weekend looking over the paper assignment. What themes interest you? Try different writing exercises to commit your ideas to paper, like clustering. Check out the library webpage for resources on writing. Ideas take time to take form. Write early and often.

If writing does not come easily to you, welcome to the club! This does not mean you should procrastinate until May 14<sup>th</sup> to begin writing. Begin now. If you don't have a book on writing, get one. Check out the *Craft of Research* by Wayne Booth, et al. or *Craftways* by Aaron Wildavsky. Writing is like exercise. It hurts when you first start, but it will bet better as you keep at it.

Your paper is due next week. Make an appointment with OASIS, a roommate, or a colleague to read your paper. Ask them, "What do you think I'm saying in this paper?"

**Part III : Week 7:**

**May 13 and 15**

**May 13: The Politics of Sterilization**

Laura Briggs, *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science, and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico* (Reader)

\* Bring in a COMPLETE rough draft of your paper to class and receive extra credit.

**May 15: Paper on Arnold book due in class by 9:30 am. Any papers turned in after 9:45 are counted as a day late.**

Film "La Operacion"

**Week 8: Inscribing Disease onto the Geographical Landscape**

**May 20 and 22:** Paul Farmer, *AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame*, chapter 1, 7, 8, 10-12.

**Week 9:**

**May 27: AIDS in the U.S.**

**Paul Farmer, *AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame*, chapters 18-22.**

**May 29: Cultural Relativism**

*The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, Chapters to be assigned.

**Week 10:**

**June 3:** *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, Chapters to be assigned.

**June 5:** final lecture

**Final:** Thursday, June 12, 8-11. Bring two bluebooks but do not write anything on them. **You will be tested in the final on whichever book you did not write your paper on.**

**Reader:**

Jones, James. "A Moral Astigmatism" in Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment. New York: London: Free Press; Collier Macmillan Publishers, 1981, pages 1-15.

Wailoo, Keith. "Detecting 'Negro Blood': Black and White Identities and the Reconstruction of Sickle Cell Anemia" in Drawing Blood: Technology and Disease Identity in Twentieth-Century America. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997, 135-161.

Rafael, Vicente. "White Love: Surveillance and National Resistance in the US Colonization of the Philippines" in Cultures of United States Imperialism, editors Amy Kaplan and Donald Pease. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 1993, 185-218.

Tagg, John. The Burden of Representation: Essays on Photographies and Histories. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1988, 117-152.

Deverell, William. "Plague in Los Angeles, 1924: Ethnicity and Typicality" in Over the Edge: Remapping the American West, Valerie Matsumoto and Blake Allmendinger, eds. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999, 172-200.

Stern, Alexandra. "Buildings, Boundaries, and Blood: Medicalization and Nation-Building on the U.S.-Mexican Border, 1910-1930." Hispanic American Historical Review 79, No. 1 1999: 41-81.

Briggs, Laura. Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science, and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002, 109-161.

Warwick Anderson, "Immunities of Empire: Race, Disease, and the New Tropical Medicine, 1900-1920." Bulletin of the History of Medicine 70.1 (1996) 94-118.

Shula Marks, "What is Colonial about Colonial Medicine? And What has Happened to Imperialism and Health?" Social History of Medicine, Volume 10, 1997 August, 205-219.