HIV/AIDS AND CULTURE IN LATIN AMERICA

Latin American Studies M262/ Community Health Sciences M250
Tuesdays, 10:00am-12:50pm, A78 Haines Hall, UCLA
Spring 2014

Dr. Bonnie Taub
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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course examines the cultural, social, political and economic context of people living with and at risk for HIV/AIDS in Latin America. The importance of cultural traditions and family focused societies, as well as globalization, to the experience of the epidemic among women, men, indigenous, mestizo and Afro-Latin groups, is of particular interest and will be explored. The prevalence, severity and groups at risk vary throughout the region and provide a unique opportunity for exploring cross-border and migration issues as well. The course will explore four aspects of the disease in the regions and countries of Latin America.

1. Public Health and Medical Aspects: Epidemiology, secondary infections, mental health, community health, risk groups and vulnerable populations, interventions at the family, community, policy and international levels aimed at addressing the problem in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and at the United States border.

2. Cultural Context: Specific examples of regional variation with regards to beliefs and attitudes about the disease, its prevention and treatment, and the experience of living with AIDS, including traditional medicine and healing/psychic rituals as well as medical responses.

3. Political and economic context: Stigma, poverty, migration, barriers and enhancers to prevention, treatment, education interventions and ongoing care.

4. Grass Roots Responses and Activism

COURSE FORMAT

The format of the course will be an interactive graduate seminar and will include lectures, films, discussion and presentations.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

The course will be open to interested graduate and professional students in Latin American Studies, Public Health, Anthropology, Sociology, Medicine, Social Welfare, Psychology and other disciplines.
CHS M250: Learning Objectives linked to ASPH competencies

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<tr>
<th>Learning Objectives</th>
<th>Competencies (Source in Parentheses)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Provide an understanding of psychological, political, social, economic, cultural and educational influences on health at the individual, and community levels in a regional global context</td>
<td>Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences # 2 , #6, #10 (ASPH MPH)</td>
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<td>Diversity and Culture #1 (ASPH MPH)</td>
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<td>Program Planning #1 (ASPH MPH)</td>
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<td>2. An exploration of health promotion and health education interventions, including clinical, socio-political, grass roots educational, epidemiological</td>
<td>Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences # 7 (ASPH MPH)</td>
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<td>Communication and Informatics # 10 (ASPH MPH)</td>
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<td>3. Development of skills to critically research and assess the literature on cross-cultural health topics</td>
<td>Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences # 3, #4, #5, #10 (ASPH MPH)</td>
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<td>Diversity and Culture #9, #10 (ASPH MPH)</td>
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<td>Program Planning #2, #4, #5, #6 (ASPH MPH)</td>
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READINGS

Weekly reading assignments of books will be required (see later). Books will be available for purchase at the Ackerman Bookstore.

Books:


Frasca, Tim, HIV/AIDS in Latin America, Palgrave Macmillan, NY & England, 2005

Gutmann, Matthew, Fixing Men: Sex, Birth Control, and AIDS in Mexico, University of California Press, LA, 2007

Kelly, Patty, Lydia’s Open Door, Inside Mexico’s Most Modern Brothel, University of California Press, 2008

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Recommended


Sontag, Susan Illness as Metaphor and AIDS and its Metaphors, Picador, NY 1989

Green,James Beyond Carnival- Male Homosexuality in Twentieth Century Brazil
U of Chicago Press, 2000


Kidder,Tracy Mountains Beyond Mountains, Random House, 2004

Farmer,Paul Pathologies of Power, Health, Human Rights and the War on the Poor, UCPRESS, 2005

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. Class participation and weekly attendance (10%)
   Readings Discussion Leader- students to prepare discussion questions and a 2-3 page summary about books/readings and lead a discussion with others, during one of the following sessions:
   Week 4: AIDS and Accusation, Paul Farmer
   Week 5: Lydia’s Open Door-Patty Kelly
   Week 6: Central American & South America chapters-Frasca and Smallman
   Week 7: Fixing Men: Sex, Birth Control and AIDS- Matthew Guttman

2. Internet Research Assignment- research at least three websites/organizations focusing on HIV/AIDS in a particular region/country of Latin America, and write a three to four page review of them focusing on strong and weak aspects with regards to identifying risk groups and proposing or implementing interventions. Be prepared to turn in and discuss in class, week 8. (20%)

   Paper due finals week, no later than Tuesday, June 10 to Taub mailbox on the A level, Center for Health Sciences or emailed (60%). Your internet and paper topics may coincide.

   A one paragraph description of your paper topic with list of two references is due Week 6, May 6th.

4. Oral Presentation to the class about your final paper topic, lasting 15 minutes, including a one page handout summary. Student presentations to be given during class, weeks 9 and 10 (10%).
## SCHEDULE – Spring 2014

**HIV/AIDS and Culture in Latin America**  
Latin American Studies 262/ CHS 250  
Dr. Bonnie Taub

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SESSION</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Introduction to the study of HIV/AIDS in the Americas</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Public Health Issues &amp; Epidemiology</td>
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| 3       | April 15| Cultural Context: Indigenous, Afro-Latin & European Influences  
Traditional Healers, Candomble, Grass Roots & Modern Infections;  
Case Example: Brazil, *Odo Ya* |
| 4       | April 22| Caribbean Quandries: Poverty, Tourism, Tuberculosis;  
Issues Facing Youth                                                                                                                   |
| 5       | April 29| Sex, Sex Workers, Stigma and Families in Mexico                                                                                       |
| 6       | May 6   | Central American Concerns  
South America- Southern Cone, Andes                                                                                                   |
| 7       | May 13  | Narratives and the Arts                                                                                                                |
| 8       | May 20  | US Latinos & Mexican Border Issues:  
Experiences and Interventions/Internet Assignment due/discuss                                                                         |
| 9       | May 27  | Emerging Trends and Summary  
Student Presentations                                                                                                                   |
| 10      | June 3  | Student presentations                                                                                                                  |
LAS 262/CHS250: HIV/AIDS and Culture in Latin America/ Dr. Bonnie Taub/2014

READINGS
Weeks 1 & 2: Introduction, Public Health & Epidemiology

Chapter 1: Epidemiological Overview and Economic Impact
Chapter 2: Epidemiological Surveillance: Resources, Testing
Chapter 3: National Responses to the Epidemic
Chapter 4: Key Areas for Interventions

Week 3: Cultural Context-Brazil, Caribbean, Responses

Frasca, Tim, HIV/AIDS in Latin America, Palgrave Macmillan, England, 2005
Introduction, Two Lives
Chapter: 5 Trinidad and Tobago
Chapter: 7 Brazil

Smallman, Shawn The AIDS Pandemic in Latin America
Chapter 2: Brazil

Farmer, Paul, AIDS and Accusation, Haiti and the Geography of Blame
Part I: Ch 1-2

Week 4: Caribbean

Farmer, Paul, AIDS and Accusation, Haiti and the Geography of Blame
Chapters 3-end

Frasca, Tim, HIV/AIDS in Latin America, Palgrave Macmillan, England, 2005
Chapter 1-Caribbean: Cuba and Haiti

Week 5: Mexico

Kelly, Patty Lydia’s Open Door, Inside Mexico’s Most Modern Brothel, University of California Press, 2008
READINGS CONTINUED: HIV/AIDS and Culture in Latin America/Taub

**Week 6: Central America**
*Frasca:*
Chapter 3-Costa Rica  
Chapter 4-Guatemala

Chapter 3-Central America and Mexico

**South America-Southern Cone, Andes,**  
*Frasca:*
Chapter 1: Peru-Testing  
Chapter 6: Argentina  
Chapter 8: Chile

**Week 7: Narratives and Art, Mexico & Brazil**  
*Frasca: Chapter 2: Mexico-Fatal Advances, p. 71-102*

Chapter 7: Brazil-Seductive Models

**Week 8: US Latinos and Mexico**

Gutmann, Matthew, *Fixing Men: Sex, Birth Control, and AIDS in Mexico*, University of California Press, LA, 2007

**Weeks 9 and 10: Emerging Trends Summary/Student Presentations**

Smallman: Chapter 4-Spanish South America