HIV/AIDS AND CULTURE IN LATIN AMERICA
Latin American Studies M262/ Community Health Sciences M250
Tuesdays, 9:00-11:50am, A20 Haines Hall, UCLA
Spring 2015

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course examines the cultural, social, political and economic and public health 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 Public health, Latin American Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, Medicine, Social Welfare, Public Policy, 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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| 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 | Social & Behavioral Sciences #2, #6, #10 (ASPH MPH)
Diversity and Culture #1 (ASPH MPH)
Program Planning #1 (ASPH MPH) |
| 2. An exploration of health promotion and health education interventions, including clinical, socio-political, grass roots educational, epidemiological | Social & Behavioral Sciences #7 (ASPH MPH)
Communication and Informatics #10 (ASPH MPH) |
| 3. Development of skills to critically research and assess the literature on cross-cultural health topics | Social & Behavioral Sciences #3, #4, #5, #10 (ASPH MPH)
Diversity and Culture #9, #10 (ASPH MPH)
Program Planning #2, #4, #5, #6 (ASPH MPH) |

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

Books:


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

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 3: AIDS and Accusation, Paul Farmer
   - Week 5: Central American & South America- Frasca and Smallman
   - Week 6: Lydia’s Open Door-Patty Kelly
   - 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%)

3. **Final Paper** on a topic of your choice related to HIV/AIDS in a country or region in Latin America. Paper to be 16-18 pages long, double-spaced.

   **Paper due finals week, no later than Tuesday, June 9 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.

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%).
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<th>SESSION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>Introduction to the study of HIV/AIDS and Culture in the Americas</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>Public Health Issues &amp; Epidemiology</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>Caribbean Quandries: Poverty, Tourism, Tuberculosis;</td>
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<td>Issues Facing Youth</td>
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<td>Cultural Context: Indigenous, Afro-Latin &amp; European Influences</td>
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<td>April 21</td>
<td>Brazil: Candomble, Grass Roots Efforts</td>
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<td>Case Example: <em>Odo Ya, Film</em></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Central American Concerns</td>
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<td>South America- Southern Cone, Brazil, Andes</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Sex, Sex Workers,</td>
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<td>Stigma and Families in Mexico</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>US Latinos &amp; Mexican Border Issues:</td>
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<td>Experiences and Interventions/Internet Assignment due/discuss</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>Narratives and the Arts</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>Emerging Trends</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>June 2</td>
<td>Summary/Student presentations</td>
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<td>Finals Week</td>
<td>June 9</td>
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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

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

Week 3: Caribbean, Responses and Cultural Interpretations

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

Chapter 1: Caribbean: Cuba and Haiti

Week 4: Brazil/Grass Roots/Afro-Latin Culture
Chapter: Brazil - Seductive Models-

Introduction, Two Lives
Chapter: 5 Trinidad and Tobago
Chapter 7: Brazil

Week 5: Central America
Frasca:
Chapter 3-Costa Rica
Chapter 4-Guatemala

Chapter 3-Central America and Mexico
CHS250/LAS262: HIV/AIDS and Culture in Latin America/ Dr. Bonnie Taub/2015

**Week 5: South America-Southern Cone, Andes,**
Frasca:
Chapter 1: Peru-Testing
Chapter 6: Argentina
Chapter 8: Chile

Smallman, Shawn *The AIDS Pandemic in Latin America*
Chapter 2: Brazil
Smallman: Chapter 4-Spanish South America

**Week 6: Mexico**

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

**Week 7: US Latinos and Mexico**

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

**Week 8: Narratives and Art,**
Frasca: Chapter 2 :Mexico-Fatal Advances, p. 71-102
Other Article TBA

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

Articles/Books for Papers