Resource Materials
We will be using *Medical Anthropology: A Biocultural Approach*. You are welcome to purchase the book; however, book purchasing is at your discretion since PDFs of individual selections will be provided via Blackboard. All assignments will be submitted via Blackboard.

Course Description and Prerequisites
This course is intended for students with no former experience with medical anthropology. By completing the course, students will gain a familiarity with the field of medical anthropology and the broad range of topics that have been researched by medical anthropologists over the last thirty years. The course addresses some of the following questions: How can we think about ethnography as a form of intervention? What is the role of political economy in personal suffering? How do we think and write about embodiment and phenomenological experiences? What is the relationship between how people are governed, citizenship-based rights, and health? What is the meaning of violence, and alternatively, what work is done through humanitarianism, care, and love? What is “moral clarity” in the context of epidemics?

Learning Objectives
The course provides a foundation in medical anthropology, beginning with an outline of the discipline. This course furthermore addresses pressing issues such as biosecurity, pharmaceuticals and issues of “compliance” in the context of development and contemporary events. By taking this course, students will hone their critical thinking skills, as well as exercise communication skills through both ongoing writing assignments and participation in class discussion.

Grading Policies
Students’ grades are based on their performance in four areas:

Reading Responses 25%
Written Questions 25%
Participation in Discussion 25%
“Conference-Format” Papers and Presentations 25%

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Students are required to turn in ten weekly responses to study questions and ten written questions (out of eleven total opportunities).

Students are responsible for turning in written assignments by the due date indicated in the outline for each type of assignment (see below). Tardy assignments will receive a maximum of 8/10 points if turned in within 24 hours of the deadline. Thereafter, one point will be deducted for each additional 24 hour increment the assignment is late.

All written assignments must be submitted via Blackboard. When turning in weekly written assignments, please save them in .doc format, and label them using this format: “SurnameInitial assignment_type _.doc”

For example:
GarzaF response 3.doc
MaldonadoL synthesis 2.pdf

Reading Responses
Students are expected to respond to the “Study Questions” located at the end of each chapter. These responses demonstrate students’ close reading of the text. Reading Responses are 500-1,000 words in length. (Please do not include the questions in your submission—only your responses to the questions are necessary.) Unless otherwise indicated, reading responses are due by 9pm Wednesday night (before Thursday class).

Written Questions
Written questions demonstrate students’ active engagement with texts and are intended to stimulate discussion. Questions should be 50-150 words and, unless otherwise indicated, they are due by Wednesday at noon (before Thursday class). Students are encouraged to make direct references to the text, providing direct quotations and page numbers. However, direct quotations may account for no more than half of the entire question. The professor will select questions to present to the class for discussion.

Participation in Discussion
Students are required to participate during class discussion throughout the entire semester. Participating during a minimum of ten sessions is expected.

“Conference-Format” Papers and Presentations
Each individual student will pick a book from “Suggested Ethnographies to Read with This Chapter” (located at the end of each chapter in the text). Book selections will be coordinated during class so that each student is responsible for a different book. Students are expected to:
1) Select and scan 50+ pages of the book (including the Introduction and at least one key chapter)
2) Write a 1,500 to 1,750-word synthesis of book, clearly outlining primary arguments.
3) Submit both written synthesis and scanned pages in one collated PDF via Blackboard by April 15 at 9pm.
4) Give a 10 minute “conference presentation” posing as the author of the book. (We will organize “conference panels” based upon students’ book selections.) Be prepared for questions!
Calendar of Activities
The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at https://my.utrgv.edu/home at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Some important dates for Spring 2018 include:

Jan 16 (Tues)  Spring classes begin
Jan 19 (Fri)    Last day to add a class or register for Spring classes
Mar 12-Mar 17 (Mon-Sat) Spring break. No classes.
Mar 30-Mar 31 (Fri-Sat) Easter Holiday. No classes.
April 12 (Thurs) Last day to drop a class or withdraw
May 3 (Thurs)   Study Day. No classes.

**WEEK 1**
Thursday, Jan 18
Course Overview

**WEEK 2**
Thursday, Jan 25
Preface and Chapter 1

**WEEK 3**
Thursday, Feb 1
Chapter 2

**WEEK 4**
Thursday, Feb 8
Chapter 3

**WEEK 5**
Thursday, Feb 15
Chapter 4

**WEEK 6**
Thursday, Feb 22
Chapter 5

**WEEK 7**
Thursday, March 1
Chapter 6

**WEEK 8**
Thursday, March 8
Chapter 7

**SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS!!!**
**WEEK 9**
Thursday, March 22
Chapter 8

**WEEK 10**
Thursday, March 29
Chapter 9

**WEEK 11**
Thursday, April 5
Chapter 10

**WEEK 12**
Thursday, April 12
Chapter 11 and Epilogue

***Conference Presentations due on April 15 at 9pm***

**WEEK 13**
Thursday, April 19
Conference panels

**WEEK 14**
Thursday, April 26
Conference Panels

**WEEK 15**
Thursday, May 3
*No class!*

**UTRGV Policy Statements**

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.
MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available:
Spring 2018 Module 1 February 14 – February 20
Spring 2018 Module 2 April 11 – April 17
Spring 2018 (full semester) April 11 – May 2

ATTENDANCE:
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

COURSE DROPS:
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other
Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

**STUDENT SERVICES:**
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- **Learning center:** BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- **Writing center:** BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- **Advising center:** BMAIN **1.400 (Brownsville)** or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- **Career center:** BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)