

Ethnic Studies 142: Medicine, Race, and the Global Politics of Inequality
MWF 1:00-1:50pm, Pepper Canyon Hall 120
UCSD Fall 2009

Prof. Gabriel N. Mendes

Office: Social Science Building 229

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Office hours: Monday 2:30-4:00 and Tuesday 11:00-12:30

Overview:

This course examines how race has functioned as an organizing principle in the social life of health and disease in the 19th and 20th centuries in the United States and beyond. Beginning with a critical look at scientific and medical "objectivity," we will trace the ways in which the intersections of race, disease and health have shaped and been shaped by larger social and historical processes, including immigration, settlement, assimilation, labor exploitation, colonialism, imperialism, and globalization. In so doing, we will explore how modern institutions and discourses have constructed particular populations as victims and/or carriers of disease and others as "sanitary citizens." As we cover how race, as well as the intersecting categories of gender, class, sexuality and nation, affects both the unequal distribution of diseases and unequal access to medical treatment, we will also consider the human rights and social justice consequences of these phenomena.

Creating a learning environment: Only a portion of what you learn in this course will be from the instructor and the readings. Your classmates will play an instrumental role in your learning experience. In order for this class to be successful, you need to come to class prepared to share your ideas. The more involved you become, the more you will gain. Support your opinions with what you learned in the readings, prior discussion, and lecture. Listen carefully to others before you decide where you stand in relation to their argument and consider how to respond in a respectful and productive manner. Please also refer to UCSD's Principles of Community, <http://www.vcba.ucsd.edu/principles.htm>.

Logistics and Policies

You can reach me by email, in my office hours, or by appointment at any time during the quarter. I respond to students' emails by 10am every weekday; I do not answer students' emails on weekends.

I do not accept late assignments or assignments submitted electronically. In case of a medical/personal emergency, you must produce a doctor's note or other documentation in order for an exception to be made.

Please complete the readings by Monday (Wednesday at the latest) the week they are assigned, and bring the text(s) we are covering that week to class.

This syllabus is subject to change; any changes will be announced well in advance in class or by email.

I would prefer that you do not use computers during class sessions, even to take notes. If this is a problem for you, please let me know and we can discuss accommodations.

Turn off phones and refrain from text messaging during class. If I notice you texting, I will ask you to leave the classroom and that will count as an absence.

Grading and Course Requirements:

Attendance and Active Class Participation	20%
Four Quizzes	20%
Five-Page Paper	25%
Final Examination	35%

*Attendance and participation constitute a significant portion of your grade. Arrive to each class session on time and stay for its duration. Tardiness and absences will be noted and result in the lowering of your grade.

*Active participation means thoughtful engagement in the readings/lectures, meaningful contributions to class discussions, and respectful collegiality toward your classmates and instructor. Visits to my office hours will also count toward class participation.

*During the course you will take four brief quizzes consisting of five identifications drawn from the reading and lectures. They will not be “gotcha” IDs; anyone keeping up with the reading and paying attention to lectures can expect to do fine on the quizzes.

*The final exam will consist of both short and long essays. It will focus primarily on the second half of class, but will ask students to integrate concepts and perspectives covered in the first half.

Required Books:

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

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

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

Paul Farmer. *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the War on the Poor*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.

Alan Kraut. *Silent Travelers: Germs, Genes, and the 'Immigrant Menace'*.
Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994.

Natalia Molina, *Fit To Be Citizens?: Public Health and Race in Los Angeles, 1879-1939*.
Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006.

Alexandra Stern. *Eugenic Nation: Faults and Frontiers of Better Breeding in
Modern America*. University of California Press, 2005.

Required Course Reader – available for purchase from University Readers online at
<http://www.universityreaders.com/students> or call 800 200 3908.

Several copies of the reader will also be on reserve at Geisel Library.

Course Schedule:

September 25th

Course Introduction: Race, Racism, Health, and Disease

Week 1: September 28-October 2

Racial and Medical Genealogies

Cornel West, “A Genealogy of Modern Racism,” in *Prophesy Deliverance!*
(Philadelphia: Westminster Press 1982), pp. 47-65.

Jonathan Marks, “Scientific and Folk Ideas about Heredity,” in *The Human Genome
Project and Minority Communities: Ethical, Social and Political Dilemmas*, Raymond A.
Zilinskas and Peter J. Balint, editors (Westport, CT: Greenwood), pp. 53-66.

Sandra Harding, “Science, Race, Culture, Empire,” in *A Companion to Racial and Ethnic
Studies* (2002), pp. 217-228.

Mary Ellen Kelm, “Diagnosing the Discursive Indian: Medicine, Gender, and the “Dying
Race,” *Ethnohistory* 52:2 (Spring 2005), pp.371-398.

Recommended:

Michael Omi and Howard Winant, “Racial Formation,” in *Racial Formation in the
United States* (1994 [1986]), pp. 53-76.

Week 2: October 5th—9th

Medicine and Culture—Difference and the Politics of Cultural Competence

Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her
American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures* (1997)

QUIZ #1 FRIDAY

Week 3: October 12th—16th Deconstructing the Medical Gaze

Sander Gilman, “Black Bodies, White Bodies; Towards an Iconography of Female Sexuality,” in “*Race, Writing, and Difference*,” Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Editor, (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1987), pp. 221-261.

Vicente Rafael, “White Love: Surveillance and National Resistance in the US Colonization of the Philippines,” in *Cultures of U.S. Imperialism* (1993), pp. 185-218.

Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (New York: Vintage Press, 1952), chapter 11.

Optional:

Michel Foucault, “The Politics of Health in the Eighteenth Century,” in Gordon ed. *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews & Other Writings, 1972-1977* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1980), pp. 166-82.

Week 4: October 19th—23rd Immigration, Hygienic Discipline, and Public Health in the U.S.

Alan Kraut, *Silent Travelers: Germs, Genes, and the 'Immigrant Menace'*. New York: Basic Books, 1994: INTRODUCTION, CHAPTERS 3, 5, 7, 9, 10.

Week 5: October 26th—30th Eugenics and “Race Betterment”

Alexandra Stern, *Eugenic Nation: Faults & Frontiers of Better Breeding in Modern America* (UC Press, 2005), INTRODUCTION; CHAPTERS 1-3, EPILOGUE.

QUIZ #2 FRIDAY

Week 6: November 2nd—6th Race, Medicine, and the City

Natalia Molina, *Fit To Be Citizens?: Public Health and Race in Los Angeles, 1879-1939* (UC Press, 2006)

Gabriel N. Mendes, “‘Psychiatry Comes to Harlem’: The Emergence of the Lafargue Mental Hygiene Clinic,” in *A Deeper Science: Richard Wright, Dr. Fredric Wertham, and the Fight for Mental Healthcare in Harlem, NY, 1940-1960* (Forthcoming)

Recommended:

Nayan Shah, *Contagious Divides: Epidemics and Race in San Francisco's Chinatown* (UC Press, 2001): Ch. 2 and 5.

QUIZ #3 FRIDAY

Week 7: November 9th—13th (No class Wednesday)

Medicine, Empire, and Colonialisms I

Meghan Vaughan, *Curing Their Ills: Colonial Power and African Illness* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1991), Introduction and Chapter 5.

Lynnette Jackson, "Psychiatric Modernity in Black and White," in *Surfacing Up: Psychiatry and Social Order in Colonial Zimbabwe, 1908-1968* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005), 153-178.

Frantz Fanon, "Medicine and Colonialism" in Ehrenreich, ed., *The Cultural Crisis of Modern Medicine* (New York: Grove Press, 1965), pp. 229-251.

Anderson, "The Trespass Speaks: White Masculinity and Colonial Breakdown," *American Historical Review* 102 (5): 1343-70.

Recommended:

Frantz Fanon, "Colonial War and Mental Disorders" in *Wretched of the Earth* (New York: Grove Press, 1963), pp.249-310.

David Arnold, *Colonizing the Body: State Medicine and Epidemic Disease in Nineteenth-Century India* (Berkeley: UC Press, 1993).

Michel Foucault, "The Politics of Health in the Eighteenth Century," in Gordon ed. *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews & Other Writings, 1972-1977* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1980), pp. 166-82.

Week 8: November 16th—20th

Medicine, Empire, and Colonialisms II

Laura Briggs, *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science, and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico*, pages 1-161.

QUIZ #4

Week 9: November 23rd (Thanksgiving--No Class on Friday)

Film Screening

"La Operacion"

Week 10: November 30th—December 4th

Infectious Inequalities: Is Access to Health Care a Human Right?

Paul Farmer, *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor* (2003): INTRODUCTION, CHAPTERS 1-2, 4-6, 8-9.