Anthropology 98/198
An Anthropological Perspective on Addiction
2 units

University of California Berkeley,
Department of Anthropology
Spring 2012

Student Facilitators:
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Office hours: TBA
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Meeting Times and Location:
TBA

Prerequisites to the course:
There is no prerequisite, but the facilitators highly recommend completion of Anthropology 3, or Sociology 1. Cultural and social theory will provide the intellectual framework for engaging with the ideas, concepts, and situations we’ll encounter through this course. Although you may add this course without either, the particular social theories and metaphors approached in this course are used purposefully to disembed you from certain cultural norms and academic habitus cultivated through such large, lower-div survey courses.

Description of Course:
This course is an exploitative motion towards the term “addiction.” What does it mean to place anthropos, rather than the substance or object, at the center of such a dialogue? If people are in part functions of the environment, then what historical events and policies effect the “perception”, “illness”, and “treatment” of what can be categorized as an addictive personality and/or habits? Is addiction a problem? What is a problem? Who is subject of these categories, are they ethical, and how is “addiction” simultaneously a product and producer of what we call culture? These questions and more will be confronted by examining the problematization of “addiction” through constructed textual investigation into the ways “addiction” is framed in psychoanalytical, bio-chemical, and certainly anthropological
terms. The course is structured to emphasize the condition of “addict” in our society and what causations such confrontations enact. By the end of the course, we expect our students to move above and beyond the simple, one dimensional dictionary interpretation of “addiction.” This will be achieved by complementing students’ own comprehension of the term with other examples brought forth in class, especially through discussion. Fabrication of original theoretical models or systems are not the goals of this class, although they certainly have their place. Rather, students should expect to familiarize themselves with the larger concepts of the ethnographic ideas and the smaller rhetorical moves in the way such examples are presented. As you focus your academic capabilities to this rubric, you will both expand and develop your analytic, critical reading, and writing skills.

Course Structure:
Class will begin at normal Berkeley time. For the first ten minutes, students will join in small groups to discuss the previously assigned reading or homework. Facilitators will participate actively. From here, a group discussion will continue with participating from the class at large as we think about and internalize the ideas presented in the text. The idea here is not to divide students into competing automatons, rather to stimulate conversation about the text. Our experience, as students, tells us that often the best way to understand the material is to explain it yourself – our methodological approach in facilitating this course is centered around this cooperative and reciprocal model.

Course Timeline:
We will stick to the following timeline as closely as possible, adjusting the pace as needed. That is, if the class gets a lot of charge from a certain topic, we may re-engage with it. We might also need to restructure the schedule with respect to guest lecturer's busy schedule. All amendments will be announced in class and electronically.

Week One: Intro, what is addiction/abuse? Who/where/why

Week Two: Current events, before terms etc, lets talk about modernity! (HW: readings)

Week Three: History! Cross cultural background! (HW 1 assigned + PDF article)

Week Four: Case Studies! (HW1 due) (HW2 assigned: prep questions for next weeks lecture)

Week Five: Guest Lecturers!

Week Six: Case Studies! (HW 2 due) (HW3: article from lecturer next week, prep questions)

Week Seven: Guest Lecturers! (HW3 due) (HW 4 assigned: readings)

Week Eight: Documentary Film (The medicated child?). (HW 4 due) (No HW assigned)

Week Nine: SPRING BREAK
Week Ten: Assigned Case Studies - short list of selected articles or ask for permission! (HW5 assigned: prep questions for next weeks lecture + PDF article)

Week Eleven: Guest Lecturers!

Week Twelve: Revisiting of topics and terms – a.k.a. Final preparation.

Week Thirteen: Final

Required Texts:
There are only five homework assignments due in this course, but there are eleven reading assignments. This means that there will be more assigned readings than homework - you are still responsible for reading them at home and discussion them in class. Additional readings may be assigned with respect to guest lecturer’s request. All texts and assignments will be posted electronically.

- Angela Garcia - The Pastoral Clinic
  - Chapter 2: The Egelian Addict: History Chronicity, and the Melancholic Subject 69-110
  - Chapter 5: Experiments with Care 183-204

- Timoteo Rodriguez - “Bio-pistis”: Conversion of Heroin Addicts in Prisons, on Medicine, and with God

- Philippe Bourgeois and Jeff Schonberg. Righteous Dopefiend
  - Chapter 1: Intimate Apartheid 25-46
  - Chapter 3: A Community of Addicted Bodies 79-116
  - Chapter 9: Treatment 271-296
  - Conclusion: Critically Applied Public Anthropology 297-320

- Natasha Schull - Digital Gambling

- Natasha Schull - Machines, Medications, and Modulation

- Yasmin Anwar - Findings Offer New Clues Into the Addicted Brain

- DSM IV definitional expert on Addiction
Assignments:
There will be five homework assignments and one Final paper.

Homework:
Five times out of the semester we will assign a one page written paper, three of which will be graded against a pass/no-pass rubric. It is to be completed by the next class session and demonstrate the internalization of topics covered in the text. That is, not a summary, but more of an augmented reflection. Homework will be collected in the beginning of class of which two will be selected and read anonymously. Notes will be used to reinforce a close interaction with the text and in no way will criticism be applied. Needless to say, it will be apparent if you do not take good notes.

Final:
A Final paper is required for the completion of this course. Using at least three of the different authors engaged with over this course, the Final will be a written examination demonstrating your interaction with the ideas, themes, theories, and/or applications presented. Paper topics will be shared about half way into the course and not before. If you would like to make your own topic, approach us with an idea and we will guide you accordingly.

Grading:
Grading for this course is non-negotiable unless under extreme circumstances or those conflicting with established UCB policy. If ANY of the following four components are ignored (ie. You don't participate ever) you will Fail the course. Questions? Please ask us. Please note that we will assign extra-credit credit if we feel it is relevant and/or enriching.

Attendance: 25% of overall grade
This is not a demanding course and we acknowledge that Life happens. Up to three unexcused absences are tolerated – the fourth requires a “No-Pass” grade be dealt.

Participation: 25% of overall grade
This is straight forward. We will begin each class in small groups before returning to confront the text together. You are expected to contribute in any way you feel comfortable as long as it is above a complete non-participatory attendance.

Homework: 25% of overall grade
See “Assignments” above.

Final: 25% of overall grade
See “Assignments” above.
Course Policies:
- Technology (including computers) should be off and away during class. The focus of this class is to engage with new ideas and your fellow classmates. We find that phones and laptops present far too much of a distraction.
- Academic dishonesty, as always, is a serious offense. Cheating and/or plagiarism are immediate grounds for course failure. No exceptions.

Special Needs:
If you are a student with special needs, contact either student lecturer so that we may accommodate any type of physical or learning disability. We will schedule time to meet with you to discuss what modifications are necessary.

Important Dates:
Instruction Begins
Administrative Holiday
Spring Recess
Administrative Holiday
Cal Day
Classes End
Reading/Review/Recitation Week
Last Day of Instruction
Final Examinations

Tuesday, January 17, 2012
Monday, February 20, 2012
Monday, March 26, 2012 -- Friday, March 30, 2012
Friday, March 30, 2012
Saturday, April 21, 2012
Friday, April 27, 2012
Monday, April 30, 2012 -- Friday, May 04, 2012
Friday, May 04, 2012
Monday, May 07, 2012 -- Friday, May 11, 2012

Supplemental Readings:
If you find “addiction” necessarily interesting, you may consider a higher level of reading difficulty in the following texts.

Saris, A. Jaime - *The Addicted Self*

Brandes, Stanley - *Staying Sober in Mexico*

Jeannie Little, Perri Franskowski - *Harm Reduction Therapy in Community Settings*

Mate, Gabor - *In The Realm Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters with Addiction*

Carr, E. Summerson - *Scripting Addiction: The Politics of Therapeutic Talk and American Sobriety*

Gilbert Quintero, Sally Davis - *Why Do Teens Smoke? American Indian and Hispanic Adolescents’ Perspectives on Functional Values and Addiction.*

Eggers C., Emrich - *Addiction as a life style: on the social anthropology of addiction.*
John G. Kennedy, James Teague and Lynn Fairbanks - *Qat use in North Yemen and the problem of addiction: A study in medical anthropology.*

Jeffrey B Freeland, C Ronald Rosenstiel. *Hustling, addiction and the ghetto community.*

Taussig, Michael - *My Cocaine Museum.*

**Get to Know Your Class Mates:**
One of the most productive ways to learn new material is to access it again through conversations. We encourage you to meet with your classmates not only to clarify, discuss, study, and raise questions around the course material, but also to have a contact if you miss a session. We will of course happily guide any themes you wish to bring to our attention in or out of the classroom.

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Major: __________________________________________
Favorite Vice: ____________________________________

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