CU297 CULTURE, HEALTH AND MEDICAL PRACTICES IN CONTEMPORARY CHINA
IES Abroad Shanghai

DESCRIPTION:
Drawing upon insights from medical anthropology, public health, bioethics and related fields, this course offers an interdisciplinary look at health practices in the context of China’s unprecedented socioeconomic transformations. Students are invited to examine the unfamiliar and “exotic” domains of Chinese Traditional Medicine and the familiar and the taken-for-granted areas such as biomedicine and its clinical practices from comparative perspectives. The overall purpose of the course is to strengthen students’ scholarly knowledge in preparation for empirical research based in China’s current health trends, transitions, and policies.

With a focus on the socio-cultural dimensions of health, ill health, and medicine, we will first introduce the key concepts threading through this course such as culture, medicalization, biopower, medical subject and object as well as the body. Then we will explore the knowledge and practices of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and the underlying “local biologies.” In the second section, we will investigate how global health issues like mental health and bioethics are practiced in the Chinese context. In the last section, we will focus on such biomedical technologies as IVF, prenatal genetic testing, and organ transplant, which remakes life and death. We are hoping that students will gain a deeper understanding of biomedicine and medical practices in general from a more social and cultural point of view. We need to understand how illness and suffering are shaped by political economy; how the medical and healing systems (including biomedical ones) are considered as social institutions and sources of epistemological authority. Through this course, students will grasp the meaning of medical pluralism and globalization. In addition to the lectures, we also encourage the students to take advantage of being in China and explore how local people experience and respond to illness and how they take care of their individual health.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
- Participation - 10%
- Two Response Papers - 20%
- Illness Narratives - 40%
- Take home final exam - 30%
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<th>Week</th>
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<td><strong>Week 4</strong></td>
<td>Recommended Readings:</td>
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<td>Health Care System in China</td>
<td>• Mason, Katherine. 2016. Infectious Change: Reinventing Chinese Public Health After an Epidemic</td>
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<td>Featuring a guest speaker</td>
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<td><strong>Session 5</strong></td>
<td>Required readings:</td>
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<td>Local biologies and Embodied Meanings</td>
<td>• Nancy Scheper-Hughes and Margaret Lock 1987. &quot;The Mindful Body: A Prolegomenon to Future Work in Medical Anthropology&quot; pp. 6-41</td>
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<td>• Emily Martin. 1991. &quot;The Egg and the Sperm: How Science has Created a Romance Based on Traditional Gender Stereotypes&quot; pp. 485-501</td>
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<td>• Lock, Margaret and P. Kaufert. 2001. “Menopause, Local Biologies, and Cultures of Aging” pp 494-504</td>
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<td>Recommended Readings:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Lock, Margaret. 1995. Encounters with Aging: Mythologies of Menopause in Japan and North America</td>
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<td><strong>Week 6</strong></td>
<td>Required Readings:</td>
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<td>• Zhang, Everett Yuehong. 2007. Switching between Traditional Chinese Medicine and Viagra: Cosmopolitanism and Medical Pluralism Today, pp.53-96</td>
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<td>** First response paper due</td>
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<td>Recommended Readings:</td>
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<td>• Mukharji, Projit Bihari. 2009. Nationalizing the Body: The Medical Market, Print and Daktari Medicine</td>
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| 7      | Political economy approach to health and care | Required readings:  
• Hyde, Sandra Teresa. 2011. Migrations in Humanistic Therapy: Turning Drug Users into Patients and Patients into Healthy Citizens in Southwest China, pp. 183-204  
• Shao, Jing and Mary Scoggin. 2009. Solidarity and Distinction in Blood: Contamination, Morality and Variability, pp 29-49  
• Zhu, Jianfeng, Tianhu Pan, Hai Yu and Dong Dong. 2018 “Guan (Care/Control): An Ethnographic Understanding of Care for People with Severe Mental Illness from Shang’s Urban Communities.”  
• Ma, Zhiying. “When Love Meets Drugs: Pharmaceuticalizing Ambivalence in Post-Socialist China” pp. 51-77  

**Recommended Reading**  
• Matza, Tomas. 2018. Shock Therapy: Psychology, Precarity and Well-Being in Post-socialist Russia |
| 8      | Clinical Practices of Prenatal Genetic Testing in China  
• Guest Speaker Invited | Second Response paper due  

| 9      | NO CLASS | No class this week |
| 10     | Film Review and In-class discussion | Illness Narrative Assignment Due |
| 11     | Childbirth and Reproduction in China | Required readings:  
• Wahlberg, Ayo 2018. Good Quality: The Routinization of Sperm Banking in China  

**Recommended Readings:**  
| Week 12 | Birth, Death, Regeneration and Biomedical Technologies | Required readings:  
- Song, Priscilla. 2017. Biomedical Odysseys: Fetal Cell Experiments from Cyberspace to China  
Recommended Readings:  
- Lock, Margaret. 2002. Twice Dead: Organ Transplants and the Reinvention of Death |
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| Week 13 | What is Gene? Life and Embodied Risk  
Guest Speaker presentation | Recommended Readings:  
- Squier, Susan. 2017. Epigenetic Landscapes: Drawing as Metaphor |
| Week 14 | Take Home Exam Due | Take Home Exam Due |

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

• Taussig, Michael. “Reification and the Consciousness of the Patient.” Social Science and Medicine, 14B: 3-13, 1980.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:
• Mukherjee, Siddhartha. 2015. The Law of Medicine: Field Notes from an uncertain Science.
• Reich, Jennifer. 2016. Calling the Shots: Why Parents Reject Vaccines. NYU Press.