COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is intended to lay a solid theoretical and methodological foundation for the doctoral program in medical anthropology. Different theoretical approaches to medical anthropology will be explored in detail, and case studies deriving from each theoretical perspective will be studied in an attempt to determine how theory combines with method to produce the outcomes: explanation of phenomena within medical anthropology. The theoretical approaches discussed will include biocultural theory, psychoanalytic theory, adaptation theory, stress theory, and a variety of additional theoretical approaches such as critical theory, political-economic theory, ecological theory and others. The objective is to give the student sufficient theoretical and methodological background to enable successful proposal writing and research in medical anthropology.

GRADING POLICY: Grades will be based on class participation and a series of five papers, one focusing on each of the theoretical orientations. The paper is due the week after the last case study within each approach. The paper on the last theoretical orientation is due in the finals period. The papers will be equally weighted and will comprise 80% of the course grade with class participation accounting for 20% of the grade.

Week 1, Aug. 31 – Introduction (Led by Dressler)

Good, Byron, Ch. 2: Illness Representations in Medical Anthropology: A Reading of the Field. In Medicine, Rationality, and Experience, Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Week 2, Sept. 7 - Biocultural Theory in Medical Anthropology (Led by Oths)


**ANT610 – Theory and Method in Biocultural Medical Anthropology**
**Fall 2005 – Page 2**

**Week 3, Sept. 14 - Biocultural Case Studies: Reproduction (Led by Oths)**


**Week 4, Sept. 21 - Biocultural Case Studies: Embodiment (Led by Oths)**


**Week 5, Sept. 28 – Psychoanalytic Basis of Psychiatric Anthropology (Led by Murphy)**


**Week 6, Oct. 5 – Shamanism I (Led by Murphy)**


Week 7, Oct. 12 – Shamanism II (Led by Murphy)


Week 8, Oct. 19 - The Concept of Adaptation (Led by Bindon)


Week 9, Oct. 26 - Adaptation Case Studies: Sickle Cell, Cow Love, Evolutionary Medicine (Led by Bindon)


**Week 10, Nov. 2 - Adaptation Case Studies: Kuru (Led by Bindon)**


**Week 11, Nov. 9 - Stress Theory in Medical Anthropology (Led by Dressler)**


**Week 12, Nov. 16 - Stress Case Studies (Led by Dressler)**


**Week 13, Nov. 23 - Stress Case Studies (Led by Dressler)**


**Week 14, Nov. 30 – No class, AAA meetings**

**Week 15, Dec. 7 - Theory and Method in Biocultural Research (led by Dressler)**


STATEMENT ON DISABILITY: If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary. If you have a disability but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call 354-5175 or visit Osband Hall to register for services.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: All acts of dishonesty in any work constitute academic misconduct. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of information, misrepresentations, and abetting of any of the above. The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy will be followed in the event that academic misconduct occurs. Students should refer to the Student Affairs Handbook, which can be obtained in the Office of Student Life and Services in the Ferguson Center.