

## Readings in Anthropology II

Sociology and Anthropology 872

Section: E100

Term: 2004 Fall

Instructor: Professor Dara Culhane

Email: culhane@sfu.ca

Office: AQ 5072

Discussion Topics: THE POLITICS OF ABORIGINAL HEALTH AND HEALING

This course is organized around two central questions: (1) Why\230by all generally recognized indicators-- do Aboriginal peoples in British Columbia and Canada suffer poorer health than the non-Indigenous populations they live among and/or beside?

(2) What strategies do diverse Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal governments, institutions, professionals and groups propose to alleviate this social suffering?

The course will be taught as a seminar, and content will be presented in the form of an analytic narrative: a history of the present in which we seek to understand contemporary political and cultural relations between Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal people in British Columbia through the prism of illness, health and healing. Beginning by considering the waves of epidemics of infectious diseases that followed the arrival of Europeans in the 18th century, we will go on to trace the interrelationships between diverse colonial/neo-colonial/post(?) colonial regimes and the health of Aboriginal peoples into the present. Through lectures, discussions, readings and films we will engage in debates about connections between socio-economic conditions, gender and race relations, disease, and well being focusing on processes of definition, measurement, evaluation, representation and treatment. We will follow the development of theories of disease causation, public health policies, and social/political movements organized to pursue improved health, inquiring about linkages between these and other struggles: including recognition of land title, political autonomy, gender equity, and economic justice.

Students will be asked to choose a focus for a term project and to organize into study groups based on shared interests early in the course. Study groups will be encouraged to report regularly on the development of their projects, and to offer feedback to other students.

Grading: (1) Bibliographic Review Essay 30%

(2) Participation in peer review 10%

(3) Term Project 60%

All the assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade to be assigned.

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\211The Department of Sociology and Anthropology follows SFU policy in relation to grading practices, grade appeals (Policy T 20.01) and academic dishonesty and misconduct procedures (Policy T 10.03). It is the responsibility of students to inform themselves of the content of these policies (available on the SFU website under Administration, SFU Policies & Procedures).\211

Required Texts: (1) Kelm, Mary-ellen (1998) COLONIZING BODIES: Aboriginal Health and Healing in British Columbia 1900-50. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press.

(2) Waldram, James B. (2004) REVENGE OF THE WINDIGO: Construction of

Recommended Texts: Will be available in library reserves.

Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: None

Notes: The course instructor reserves the right to check for plagiarism using software provided by the SFU administration for this purpose.

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