GLOBAL PHARMACEUTICALS
Science, Political Economy, Ethics

ANT 405
Department of Anthropology
Princeton University

Tuesday 7:30-10:20 PM
216 Aaron Burr Hall
Spring 2007

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Office hours: M 12:30-2:00 pm or by appointment

Course Description

Global pharmaceutical sales reached $602 billion in 2005—a growth of 7 percent from the previous year. According to IMS Health, one of the world’s leading market intelligence company, “As growth in mature markets moderates, industry attention is shifting to smaller, developing markets that are performing exceptionally well.” This course explores the scientific and regulatory strategies of drug development in the United States and the political and social implications of new global pharmaceutical markets. We will discuss the ethics of clinical trials and the politics of access to new drugs, and inquire into how the production of pharmaceuticals is reshaping models of public health and ideas of well-being and citizenship in rich and poor contexts (United States, Japan, Brazil, India, Argentina, Haiti, and Uganda, for example). As we explore new articulations between commercial science, governments and civic groups, we will also discuss the cultural dimensions of drug marketing, prescription patterns, and variations in the experience of disease and health (with a focus on mental illness and AIDS). The course draws from medico-scientific literature, media and policy debates, and ethnographic and social scientific work, and familiarizes students with critical debates on globalization and with local responses to globalizing processes. It contributes to ethical and political debates on the development and access to new medical technologies.
Requirements

The course assumes a basic familiarity with social scientific concerns and concepts. The success of the course depends on your commitment to complete all required readings for each class meeting, to critically reflect on the readings, to participate actively in the class discussions, and to creatively integrate these insights in your final research paper. Grading will be based on:

- Participation and an oral presentation (15 percent).
- Reading reports (no more than 500 words) (20 percent).
- Midterm take-home exam (no more than 1,000 words) (25 percent).
- A final research paper (8-10 double-spaced pages). Papers are due at May 15th at 5:00 pm (40 percent).

Required Books

The following required books will be available for purchase at the U-Store and will also be on reserve at Firestone Library.


Additional articles and book chapters can be downloaded from Blackboard’s electronic reserve.
February 6

Introduction

• Film: Frontline—Dangerous Prescription

February 13

Pharmaceuticals and New World of Global Health

• Film: The Corporation by Mark Achbar, Jennifer Abbot, and Joel Bakan
• Reading response is due

February 20

Cultures of Drug Development and Regulation

• Guest Speaker: Prof. Adel A. Mahmoud (Princeton University)

**Reading response is due**

**February 27**

**Antidepressants, Profits, and Risks**

• Film: *Selling Sickness: An Ill For Every Pill* by Catherine Scott
• **Project: Clippings on Pharmaceutical Advertisement**

**March 6**

**Globalizing Clinical Trials**

• Guest Speaker: Adriana Petryna (University of Pennsylvania)

**Reading response is due**
March 13

Market Intelligence and Drug Advertising

- Film: Money Talks: Profits before Patient Safety by Kathleen Slattery-Moschkau

* * * SPRING BREAK * * *

March 27

Pharmaceutical Personhood and Local Ecologies of Care

- Film: Frontline—The Meth Epidemic
- Reading response is due
April 3

**Treatment Rollouts, Pharmaceuticalization, and the Politics of Survival**

- Guest Speaker: Susan Reynolds Whyte (University of Copenhagen)
- **Reading response is due**

April 10

**Neglected Diseases and Pharmaceutical Humanitarianism**

• Film: A Different Type of Drug Company by Carl Byker and The Economics of Health/Poor Peoples Diseases (BBC) http://www.oneworldhealth.org/media/audio_video.php
• Film: Rx for Survival: The Heroes (PBS).
• Guest Speaker: Ari Samsky (Princeton University)

April 17
The Invisible Cure

• Guest Speaker: Helen Epstein (Princeton University)
• Film: Global Health: Today's Challenge and America's Response
• Guest Speaker: Helen Epstein (Princeton University)

April 24
The World in Pieces and the Future of Medicines


May 1
Review of Course Themes and Discussions