

21A 215 MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY THIRD WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT

Pick a medically related topic in which sex and gender differences are important. Analyze these differences. Include some discussion of the history of thinking about this topic—how have ideas changed over time, and why? Be sure to pick a topic that especially interests you. You may write about a non-western medical system. You may do cross-cultural comparison.

You *must* document any assertions with properly cited references.

We will discuss the topics in class.

If a previous paper for this class fits into this assignment, you may continue research on this topic; hand in both papers..

Possible topics are listed below. You may choose a topic not on this list. Most papers will necessarily contain some analysis of the relationship between sex differences currently seen as “real” (biological) and gender differences (cultural constructions of sex differences). Any discussions of “real” sex differences must be anthropologically framed—that is, not naïve.

Possible Topics:

Prenatal genetic testing

Differences between the genders with respect to disease epidemiologies—the list of possible diseases is long

Sexually transmitted diseases

Menopause

Menstruation (e.g., PMS)

Pregnancy and Childbirth

Lactation

Male birth control

Female birth control

Sex abnormalities (hermaphroditism, etc.)

Sexual orientation

Transgendered people (i.e., surgeries, hormone treatments, etc.)

Sexual function—healthy and unhealthy

Adolescent development

Infant and child development

Aging and gender

Appropriate health maintenance / preventive medicine

The healthy/beautiful body (the unhealthy-but-beautiful body might be part of this analysis)

Masculinity—being a “real man” and its health/disease consequences

Femininity—being “all woman” and its health/disease consequences

Third paper assignment

Medical insurance policies—actuarial tables, etc.
Federal, state, municipal public health policy
HIV transmission via sexual contact
The bioethical issues of AIDS research in Africa
Pharmaceutical research

5-8 pages