

## Study Materials

### Questions on Hahn, 76-98, and Kirmayer

1. Give three examples of how culture profoundly affects human Anthropology and the environment.
2. Give three examples of social relationships producing sickness.
3. What is a "double blind" experiment?
4. What does the study that administered naxalone (a compound that blocks the effects of pain-killing opiates) following placebo pain-killers tell us about placebos?
5. Hahn says that 60% of physicians report giving placebos to ascertain whether the patient's pain is "real." How do the naxalone experiments challenge the assumptions behind this practice?
6. What does "epistemology" mean? Why might it be important for us in this course?
7. What is deductive reasoning? Inductive reasoning? Which one is better?
8. Baer, Singer, and Johnsen define "health" as "access to and control over the basic material and non-material resources that sustain and promote life at a high level of satisfaction" (1986: 95). What do you like about this definition? Dislike? Compare it to Hahn's definition of sickness (p. 22: sicknesses are unwanted conditions of self, or substantial threats of unwanted conditions of self. Unwanted conditions may include states of any part of a person-body, mind, experience, or relationships.)
9. What is a nocebo effect?
10. Do you agree with Kirmayer's analysis of American values with respect to the body, mind, responsibility and blame? Why or why not?
11. Kirmayer gives a brief sketch of ways Chinese and Japanese notions about the self and responsibility for one's condition differ from the West's. What are these? Do you agree?
12. Kirmayer gives two meanings for the modern use of the term "psychosomatic." What are these?
13. Kirmayer gives an example of gender difference in one area of mental illness. What is it?
14. Kirmayer says that when political power permits, the person may hold society to account for the body. Thus, bodily illness may be interpreted as a result of social inequity or political misfortune. Do you agree? Give some examples, if you do, or a critique of this idea, if you don't.
15. How are causality, responsibility, and blame for an illness distinct concepts?

16. What is Kirmayer's critique of holistic medicine?

17. Kirmayer says that we in the West view the stoic as mentally sound and morally upright. Is this true? What is a "stoic?"