

21A.215: MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

SECOND PAPER ASSIGNMENT

Pick a currently controversial topic dealing with medicine as an institution and analyze it. Present both sides, making sure to adequately document the points you make. While not necessary, after describing both sides (or all, if there are more than two), you are encouraged to present your own position and a cogent argument in favor of it.

Handed out

5-8 typewritten pages

We will discuss your choice of topic in class

Examples (there are hundreds of possible topics):

Rehabilitation of physicians

Bioethics

Government regulations

Proper role of American Medical Association

Current performance of HMOs

Managed care in general

Canada's medical system compared to U.S.'s

Risks to patient privacy

Organ harvesting

Determining who gets transplants, dialysis

Medical marijuana

Women's Health Initiative

National Institutes of Health policy

Government regulation of drug prices

Health insurance policies (e.g., funding experimental cancer treatment)

Reducing incidence of fatal medical errors

Sexism, racism in medical school

Surgeries, medicines some authorities claim are shams

Malpractice legislation

Medical school curricula

Number of hours interns, residents must serve

WHO, other international public health bodies—their policies, etc.

Second Written Assignment