Ginsburg Ingerman Overseas Students Program
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Medical Anthropology of the Middle East
Fall / Spring Semester
13-5-330

Prof. Aref Abu-Rabia
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Course Description:
The course will encompass theoretical aspects of traditional medical systems, cultural influences on lay attitudes and beliefs & customs regarding illness causation as well as the description and analysis of cultural practices of behavior and their relation to ecology and religion in the Middle East. The course will focuses on the following issues: Social determinants of child health, breastfeeding and [animal] colostrums, health care and sedentarization in Jordan, health care among the Sinai Bedouin, nutrition-related health patterns in the Middle East, congenital anomalies in the Arab countries, traditional and folk medicine, ethno-botanic medicine, amulets, midwives, rituals and the worship of saints.

Field of Education and Discipline: Anthropology, Global Health, Sociology

Course Structure and Teaching Method
Total # of credits: 4
ECTS (European Credit Transfer System): 6

Teaching method:
The course will be conducted through a combination of formal lectures and class discussion. The lectures will be based on weekly reading assignments. Case examples will be an integral part of the course through the semester, (e.g., visiting lecturers; films and PowerPoint).

Course Requirements
Compulsory attendance: Yes.
Reading articles and participating in the discussion.
Midterm exam and final paper.
Structure of final course grades

Participation 20%
Midterm Exam 40%
Final Paper 40%
100%

Note:
Work handed in late, will not be graded!
Students will have their final grade lowered an entire grade level if they miss more than 2 class meeting unexcused.
Language of instruction is English.

Course Schedule Layout:

First Week:

Second Week:

Third Week:

Fourth Week:

Fifth Week:
2- Holy saints: PowerPoint.

Six Week:
2- Midterm Exam.
Seventh Week:
2-Traditional medicine: PowerPoint

Eighth Week:
2- Visiting lecturer.

Ninth Week:

Tenth Week:
2- Evil Eye: PowerPoint.

Eleventh Week:

Twelfth Week:
2- Ordeal by Fire: Film.

Thirteenth Week:
2- Nabi Musa: Power point.

Additional recommended bibliography:


