NEW COURSE!

ANTH-4953 Psychiatry Anthropology
Spring, 2010

Professor: Lori L. Jervis

Time: T-TH 3:00-4:15 p.m.

Prerequisites: ANTH 1113 (General Anthropology), Junior standing, or permission of the instructor. This class fulfills the upper division sociocultural anthropology requirement for Anthropology majors.

Course Description: Anthropology and psychiatry have a long and complicated history of mutual engagement. This class explores historical and contemporary thinking about culture and mental illness. It features ethnographic studies of those labeled “mentally ill” and the institutions designed to serve them. The class examines the so-called “culture-bound syndromes” and contemporary cultural critiques of psychiatry. The class includes a series of case studies of some of the major disorders recognized by western psychiatry, such as depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and bipolar disorder. Discussions throughout the course will focus both on the experience of distress and systems of treatment.