

Healers and Doctors in the Andes



SYLLABUS

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This two weeks experiential seminar will explore the commonalities and differences of the Quichua medicine and Western biomedical system, as well as, their interaction in the Ecuadorian context. It will cover the following areas: (1) Quichua theories of illness; (2) Quichua health status and major culture-bound syndromes; (3) the common roots and equivalent efficacy of Quichua healing interventions and Western psychotherapy; (4) underlying neurobiological mechanism of Quichua and Western healing methods; (5) elements of Quichua phytotherapy; and (6) healers-physicians collaboration. This course includes visits to local hospitals, physicians, healers. In addition, students will receive Quichua culture and language classes.

Supplementary Activities

Guest speakers, videos, and fieldtrips to healers and doctors practices will supplement the lectures, readings, and class discussions.

Course Requirements

Students are required to do all assigned readings by class time and to participate in class discussions. Students will keep a journal of their work with local practitioners and field trips. There is one research paper (12 pages) and one poster presentation at R-MWC required to complete the course.

Readings

1. Frank JD, Frank JB. Persuasion and Healing - A Comparative Study of Psychotherapy. Third ed. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991.
2. Rubel AJ, O'Neill CW, Collado Ardón R. Susto, A Folk Illness. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984.

We recommend buying these two books at least one month before departure. Additional readings will be available on this website as PDF files.

WEEK 1

Saturday	Arrival to Quito
Sunday	12:00 Arrival to Otavalo, welcoming lunch and orientation
Mon	
10:30-noon	Introduction & Reading assignments Lecture: Quichua theories of illness
2:00-3:30	Group Study and brainstorming about the lecture
Tue	
9:00-11:30	Visit to Hospital San Luis de Otavalo
2:00-3:30	Group discussion and brainstorming about the visit
Wed	
9:00-10:30	Lecture: Quichua health status and major culture-bound syndromes
10:30-noon	Group Study and brainstorming about the lecture
2:00-5:00	Visit to Centro de salud de Illumán (Health center)
Thu	
9:00-1:00	Visit to a yachactaita (Quichua healer), Ilumán
2:30-4:00	Group discussion and brainstorming about the visit
Fri	
9:00-10:30	Lecture: The common roots and efficacy of Quichua healing interventions and Western psychotherapy
10:30-noon	Group Study and brainstorming about the lecture
2:00-3:30	Quichua class
Sat	
9:00-12:00	Visit to the medicinal plants market in Ibarra
2:00-4:00	Visit to the handicraft market of Otavalo
Sun	Hiking and Picnic at Cascada de Peguche (waterfalls)

WEEK 2

Mon	
9:00-10:30	Lecture: underlying neurobiological mechanism of Quichua and Western healing methods
10:30-noon	Group Study and brainstorming about the lecture
2:00-3:30	Quichua class
Tue	
9:00-10:30	Lecture: elements of Quichua phytotherapy
10:30-noon	Group Study and brainstorming about the lecture
2:00-3:30	Quichua class
Wed	
9:00-10:30	Lecture: Healers-physicians collaboration
10:30-noon	Group Study and brainstorming about the lecture
2:00-3:30	Quichua class
3:45-4:45	Visit to <i>Obraje</i> Museum of Textiles, Otavalo
6:00-8:00	Farewell
Thu	
9:00-11:00	Visit to National Museum of Medicine, Quito
1:00-3:00	Visit to Archeological Museum of <i>Banco Central</i> , Quito
3:15PM	Departure to Santo Domingo de los Colorados
Friday	
	Visit to Tsachila Healers, Santo Domingo de Los Colorados and the tropical forest
Sat	
Morning	
1:00PM	Visiting Santo Domingo town Return to Quito
Sunday	
	Departure to USA
	TERM PAPER DUE ONE WEEK AFTER RETURN TO USA. SUBMIT YOUR PAPER BY E-MAIL.
	Students poster presentations at R-MWC

N.B. This plan is tentative and we reserve the right to change it. Changes will be announced in class.