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2024 - JDEI Curriculum Development Report  
Medical Anthropology (ANTH 162)

Medical anthropology 162 JDEI curriculum development focused on building a foundation of low cost, quality materials that are authored by a diverse group of scholars who are experts in their respective fields. For this initial development, I focused on two areas that are found within the ANTH 162 curriculum: Ebola (infectious disease) and mental health (Schizophrenia).

I examined materials from the [American Anthropological Association's Ebola task force](#) that focus on socio-cultural and political dimensions of the 2014 Ebola outbreak. All reports were collected by anthropologists and community health workers who are either indigenous to the area, and/or have worked in West Africa to combat diseases for decades and who partner with global and local NGOs. I selected and incorporated materials from anthropologist [Julienne K. Anoko](#), who, with the assistance of the World Health Organization, implemented interventions in Guinea to combat the spread of Ebola in 2014. Dr. Anoko's focus in this report is on "rebellious communities" and improving health communication in order to implement health protocols to identify and diagnose Ebola cases, manage the dead, and care for the sick.

To support the curriculum for mental health, I examined Karen Nakamura's book, [A Disability of the Soul: An Ethnography of Disability and Mental Illness in Contemporary Japan](#). Dr. Nakamura highlights a unique community approach to psychosocial recovery in Japan that highlights the general Japanese worldview on mental illness. The focus on individuals who live within this community offers in-depth understanding of circumstance and how community support systems can help individuals live a fulfilling, autonomous life. The ethnography also investigates how these communities may be able to change public attitudes toward people who live with mental illness. This book has a companion visual dvd that I was not able to obtain, but would be an excellent resource for students.