Seminar Description

Syllabus is accessible online by students who are enrolled in course

ANTHROPOLOGY 19, SECTION 7

COMBINING ANTHROPOLOGY AND MEDICINE:
PAUL FARMER AND (SOME OF) HIS MENTORS

Professor: Linda Garro

Time: Wednesday 1:00-1:50 pm

Place: 310 Haines Hall

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Phone: 310-206-6249

Seminar Description:

For over thirty years, Paul Farmer, trained as both an anthropologist and a physician, has worked determinedly to realize his vision of improved health and health care for the world’s poor. Staying close to the intersection of anthropology and biomedicine, this seminar examines Farmer’s position vis-à-vis health, equity and political economy and his efforts to redress global inequities in health. We will examine some key influences on his development as a scholar and pioneer of novel, community-based treatment strategies geared toward the delivery of high-quality health care in resource-poor settings. Attention is given to Farmer’s understanding of diseases as biocultural problems that require not just biomedical interventions but also consideration of the broader sociocultural context. We also explore Farmer’s views on structural violence and his critiques of approaches, both within and outside anthropology, that conflate cultural difference with structural violence.

Useful website to learn more about Paul Farmer and his work

A profile, biography, and interview with Paul Farmer can be found on the website of the Academy Achievement:

http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/far1bio-1