

**Maymester 2014
Anthropology 147
Comparative Healing Systems**

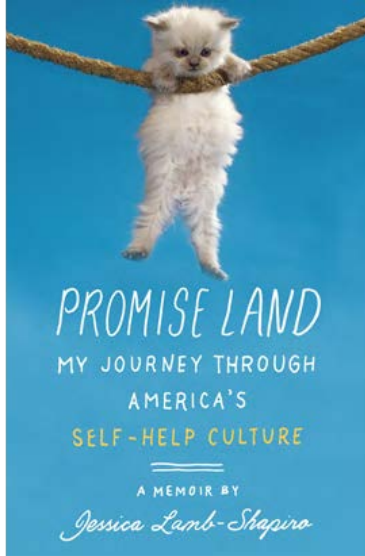
Professor Michele Rivkin-Fish
Tuesday, May 13-Friday, May 30
11:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m

Course Description:

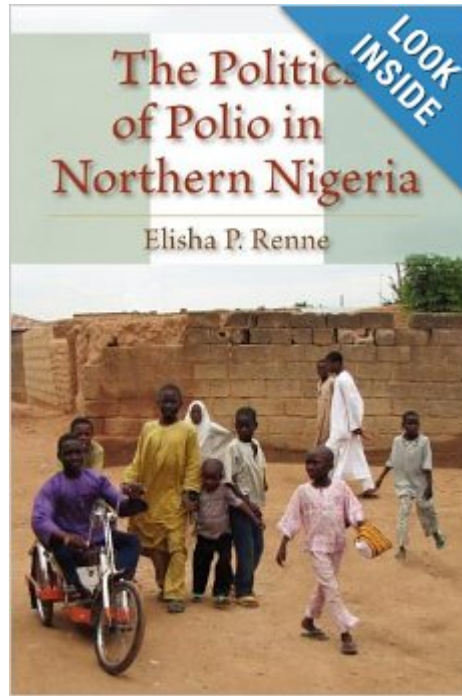
People all over the world experience illness, but their understandings of the causes of affliction and approaches for restoring wellness differ enormously. This fact shapes the outcomes of global health projects, and it makes an understanding of the cultural dimensions of healing absolutely necessary for realizing humanitarian health goals. Through diverse case studies, we will learn about the variety of cultural logics, philosophical concerns, and moral obligations that get attached to the body, illness, suffering, and healing. Western medicine, also called “biomedicine,” will also be an object of our analysis. We will investigate the ways “biological facts” are shaped by the cultural and social organization of Western society, and explore the ways that the delivery of biomedical health care services involves particular understandings of the body and appropriate social relationships. The course aims to teach students to think about health, disease, and medicine in cross-cultural and global terms.

Readings include:

Renne, E. *The Politics of Polio in Northern Nigeria*
Lindquist, G. *Conjuring Hope: Magic and Healing in Contemporary Russia*
Lamb-Shapiro, J. *Promise Land: My Journey through America's Self Help Culture*



Epidemiologies of Healing - Volume 3



CONJURING HOPE
Healing and Magic in
Contemporary Russia



Galina
LINDQUIST