

HISTORY OF SCIENCE/HISTORY OF MEDICINE 212
THE PHYSICIAN IN HISTORY
Fall, 1996

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course presents an introductory survey of the history of medicine during the past 2500 years. Given the scope of the topic, it is necessary to restrict our coverage somewhat and therefore--as the course title suggests -- we shall be considering two facets of the physician's place in medicine. First, we shall discuss the major doctrines of health and illness and how they have evolved through time. At the same time, we shall also consider the physician's changing place in society. It will be the task of the lectures to move back and forth between these two points of view and show how they connect to each other.

The basic format for our meetings will be two lectures and one small group discussion per week. The discussion sections are NOT optional, and as you can see from the grade distribution (below), they will carry a considerable weight in your final grade. So it will be worth your while to prepare for them by doing the reading.

There is one required text, which may be purchased at the University Book Store:
W. F. Bynum, *Science and the Practice of Medicine in the Nineteenth Century*

There is also a packet of required readings, available at the History of Science office, 7143 Social Sciences. Copies of the required texts and packet readings will also be kept on reserve at College Library in Helen White Hall.

Finally, you may also want to know about two other useful texts that are in the College Library Reserve collection:

Nancy G. Siraisi, *Medieval and Early Renaissance Medicine*

Paul Starr, *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*

Both of these books offer broad surveys of their topics, and should be consulted for additional information as needed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

This course has no in-class hourly exams and no final exam. Instead you will be asked to write a 5 page essay after each of the first two units in the course. As part of the assignment, you will be asked to bring a draft of your essay to discussion section the week after the assignment is handed out, where it will be read and critiqued by other students. The criticism of drafts is extremely important, and anyone who does not produce a draft for discussion will lose 1.5 points off the final grade for that exam. Therefore a 4.0 essay will be graded a 2.5, and so on. Outlines will not be acceptable as substitutes for drafts.

Grades will be weighted as follows:

25% for each essay (total for 3 essays, 75%)

25% discussion

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

UNIT I: The Creation of a Medical Establishment

WEEK 1

Sept. 2 - NO CLASS

Sept. 4 - Introduction: religious belief and the origins of medicine

Reading: E. E. Evans-Pritchard, "Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic Among the Azande."
(packet)

Claude Levi-Strauss, Structural Anthropology vol. 1, pp. 175-178. (packet)

WEEK 2

Sept. 9 - Natural philosophy and Hippocratic medicine

Sept. 11 - Hippocratics and other healers

Reading: Hippocrates, "The Science of Medicine," "Airs, Waters, Places," and "Prognosis"
from G. E. R. Lloyd (ed), Hippocratic Writings (packet)

Vivian Nutton, "Murders and Miracles: Lay Attitudes towards Medicine in
Classical Antiquity." (packet)

WEEK 3

Sept. 16 - Later Greek medicine: Galen and the Alexandrian physicians

Sept. 18 - Christianity and healing

Reading: Galen, On Prognosis (packet)

Timothy Miller, "The Knights of St. John and the Hospitals of the Latin West."
(packet)

WEEK 4

Sept. 23 - The rise of universities

Sept. 25 - Summary and distribution of writing assignment

Reading: Pearl Kibre, "The Faculty of Medicine at Paris, Charlatanism, & Unlicensed
Medical Practices in the Later Middle Ages." (packet)

Carole Rawcliffe, "The Profits of Practice: the Wealth and Status of Medical Men
in Later Medieval England." (packet)

UNIT II - Making medicine a science

WEEK 5

Sept. 30 - Introduction to Unit II

Oct. 2 - The scientific revolution in medicine

Reading: Discussion of drafts of first essays (no reading)

WEEK 6

Oct. 7 - Physicians and the medical marketplace

Oct. 9 - Policing the public's health

Reading: L. J. Jordanova, "Policing Public Health in France 1780-1815." (packet)

J. P. Frank, A System of Complete Medical Police (packet)

Bynum, Science and the Practice of Medicine, chapter 1.

WEEK 7

Oct. 14 - The rise of urban hospitals

Oct. 16 - The Paris School

Reading: Ivan Waddington, "The Role of Hospitals in the Development of Modern Medicine: A Sociological Analysis." (packet)

Bynum, Science and the Practice of Medicine, chapter 2.

WEEK 8

Oct. 21 - Creating experimental medicine

Oct. 23 - Public health in the 19th century

Reading: Bynum, Science and the Practice of Medicine, chapter 3.

Ann La Berge, "Investigation and Practical Reform: Public Health in Paris." (packet)

WEEK 9

Oct. 28 - The germ theory of disease

Oct. 30 - Summary: the germ theory, experimental science and public hygiene

Reading: Nancy Tomes, "The Private Side of Public Health: Sanitary Science, Domestic Hygiene, and the Germ Theory, 1870-1900." (packet)

Bynum, Science and the Practice of Medicine, chap. 4 & pp. 123-137.

Judith Leavitt, "Health in Urban Wisconsin: From Bad to Better." (packet)

UNIT III - Creating a medical profession in America

WEEK 10

Nov. 4 - Introduction to unit III

Nov. 6 - The American medical profession in the 19th century.

Reading: Discussion of paper drafts (no reading)

WEEK 11

Nov. 11 - Medical care in 19th-century American communities

Nov. 13 - The consolidation of professional authority

Reading: Judith Leavitt, "A Worrying Profession: The Domestic Environment of Medical Practice in Mid-Nineteenth Century America." (packet)

Samuel Thomson, selections from his autobiography (packet)

WEEK 12

Nov. 18 - Reform of medical education

Nov. 20 - The emergence of the modern hospital

Reading: Edward Atwater, "Women, Surgeons, and a Worthy Enterprise." (packet)

Charles Rosenberg, "The Rise of the Modern Hospital." (packet)

Gerda Lerner (ed), Black Women in White America pp. 384-395, "The Life and Death of Juliette Derricotte." (packet)

WEEK 13

Nov. 25 - The growth of medical specialization

Nov. 27 - NO CLASS

Reading: No sections this week, but read

Paul Starr, "Transformation in Defeat: The Changing Objectives of National Health Insurance, 1915-1980." (packet)

Committee on the Costs of Medical Care, Medical Care for the American People (1932), pp. 37-71. (packet)

WEEK 14

Dec. 2 - Struggles over health insurance

Dec. 4 - The creation of the Medicare system

Reading: discussion of readings from previous week and

Rashi Fein, "Medical Care, Medical Costs: The Search for a Health Insurance Policy." (packet)

WEEK 15

Dec. 9 - The 1970s health care "crisis" and the birth of the HMO

Dec. 11 - Ongoing attempts to reform the system

Reading: recent newspaper articles on health care in America (to be handed out in class)