

HISTORY OF SCIENCE/HISTORY OF MEDICINE 212
THE PHYSICIAN IN HISTORY
Spring, 2001

Instructors:

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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 three 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 Underground Textbook Exchange, 664 State Street:

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 5–6 page essay after each unit in the course. As part of the assignment, you will be asked to bring a draft of your essay for the first two units to discussion section the week after the assignment is handed out, where it will be read and critiqued by other students. You will

then have another week to re-write the essay. 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

Jan. 22 - Introduction: religious belief and the origins of medicine

Jan. 24 - Ancient medical beliefs and healing practices

Jan. 26 - Discussion of healing as a ritual (Mary Douglas article)

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

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

Mary Douglas, "Magic and Miracle." (packet)

WEEK 2

Jan. 29 - Natural philosophy and Hippocratic medicine

Jan. 31 - Hippocratics and other healers

Feb. 2 -

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

Feb. 5 - Later Greek medicine: Galen and the Alexandrian physicians

Feb. 7 - Christianity and healing

Feb. 9 -

Reading: Galen, *On Prognosis* (packet)

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

WEEK 4

Feb. 12 - The rise of universities

Feb. 14 - Summary of unit I and distribution of writing assignment

Feb. 16 - Discussion 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 - Medicine and experimental science

WEEK 5

Feb. 19 - Workshop on peer reviewing

Feb. 21 - Introduction to Unit II

Feb. 23 - The scientific revolution in medicine

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

WEEK 6

Feb. 26 - Physicians and the medical marketplace

Feb. 28 - Policing the public's health

Mar. 2 -

Reading: Rosen article

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

George Rosen, "Cameralism and the concept of Medical Police."

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

WEEK 7

Mar. 5 - The rise of urban hospitals

Mar. 7 - The Paris School

Mar. 9 - NO CLASS, but there are discussion sections this week!

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

NO CLASS - Spring Break

WEEK 9

Mar. 19 - Creating experimental medicine

Mar. 21 - Public health in the 19th century

Mar. 23 -

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

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

WEEK 10

Mar. 26 - The germ theory of disease

Mar. 28 - Summary of unit II: The germ theory, experimental science and public hygiene

Mar. 30 - discussion of second essay assignment

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 11

Apr. 2 - Workshop on peer reviewing

Apr. 4 - Introduction to unit III

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

Reading: Discussion of paper drafts (no reading)

WEEK 12

Apr. 9 - Medical care in 19th-century American communities

Apr. 11 - The consolidation of professional authority

Apr. 13 -

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 13

Apr. 16 - Reform of medical education

Apr. 18 - The emergence of the modern hospital

Apr. 20 -

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

Charles Rosenberg, *The Care of Strangers*, chapters 9 & 10 (packet)

WEEK 14

Apr. 23 - The introduction of high-technology medicine

Apr. 25 - The growth of medical specialization

Apr. 27 -

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

Keith Wailoo, "Genetic Markers of Segregation: Sickle Cell Anemia, Thalassemia, and Racial Ideology in American Medical Writing, 1920-1950." (packet)

WEEK 15

Apr. 30 - Struggles over health insurance

May 2 - The creation of the Medicare system

May 4 -

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

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

WEEK 16

May 7 - The 1970s health care "crisis" and the birth of the HMO

May 9 - Ongoing attempts to reform the system

May 11 -

Reading: to be handed out in class