MEDICAL HISTORY AND BIOETHICS 919
Gender, Health, and Illness

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Office Hours: 2-4, Tuesday and by appointment

This course examines how health and illness have been gendered over the course of United States history with special attention to the twentieth century. We will be guided by several questions: How are gender roles for both men women central to the social construction of illness? How have conceptions of health and illness been used to build community, control behavior, and create health consumption? How do gendered constructions of health and illness create and reinforce racial and class divisions? How are ideas of health and illness forged by non-medical institutions and social movements?

The course has been organized into four units: 1) Gender, health, and medicine; 2) Gender and health activism; 3) Families: healthy and dysfunctional; and 4) Healthy living, damaged lives. Each of these units allow for an exploration of how gender influences the perception of heath, the experience of illness, and the politics of diagnosis.

Requirements:

Seminar Participation	30%
Book Reviews (2)	20%
Essay Review	30%
Think Pieces	20%

Seminar Participation:
Participation in the seminar is important to the teaching and learning process and to your grade. It is not that I want you to speak for the sake of speaking, but I want you to accept some responsibility for teaching others by sharing your thoughts, questions, and ideas and for the direction and energy of the seminar. Students should have read and engaged both the assigned materials and the discussion questions before class.

Book Reviews:
Students will write two book reviews of books read for this course. They should be about 5 pages long and should summarize the scope of the book, the author's approach, methodology, and findings, and provide your own analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the text. They are due within one week of the day the books were discussed by the class.

Essay Review:
Students will write an essay review of four or five books on some topic that fits within the larger themes explored in this class. This paper should provide reviews of each individual book, but more importantly, it should describe and analyze what these texts tell us about our current understanding of the topic in question. This paper should be about 15 pages in length. The first draft will be due April 22. The final draft will be due May 12.

Discussion Questions:
Every week students will write and post a "think piece" that somehow engages with the day's reading. The approach to these essays is wide-open; I only ask that they be designed to help us all think about these texts before class. You may, for example, respond to a stock question: "What do these texts tell us about the relationship between gender and illness?" or "What kind of political or cultural work did the diagnosis of [ ] serve?" Or you can ask a historical or historiographical question. Or you can explore an idea or claim you find particularly compelling. These essays may (but they needn't) connect each day's readings with other course materials. It's up to you. These are not meant to be reviews, summaries, or critiques. They are meant as explorations, either historical or historiographical, of the texts in question.

Students will post these questions to the class discussion list by 9 AM the morning of class. These questions taken together should not be longer than one single spaced page of prose. (Every student can have two skips.)

GENDER, ILLNESS, AND MEDICINE

January 28: Gendered Diseases and Diseases of Gender

Robert A. Aronowitz, "Do Not Delay: Breast Cancer and Time, 1900-1970," *The Milbank Quarterly* 79 (2001): 355-386.

Bert Hansen, "American Physicians' 'Discovery of Homosexuals, 1880-1900: A New Diagnosis in a Changing Society," in *Framing Disease: Studies in Cultural History* Charles Rosenberg and Janet Golden, eds. (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1992), 104-133.

Warwick Anderson, "The Trespass Speaks: White Masculinity and Colonial Breakdown," *American Historical Review* 102 (1997): 1343-1370.

Paula Treichler, "The Burdens of History: Gender and Representation in AIDS Discourse, 1981-1988," in *How to Have Theory in An Epidemic* (Durham: Duke University Pres, 1999), 42-98.

Laura Briggs, "The Race of Hysteria: "'Overcivilization" and the "Savage" Woman in Late Nineteenth-Century Obstetrics and Gynecology," *American Quarterly* 52 (2000): 246-273.

February 4: Gender and Medicalization

Judith Houck, *Hot and Bothered: Women, Medicine, and Menopause in Modern America* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2006)

Ilina Singh, "Bad Boys, Good Mothers, and the 'Miracle' of Ritalin," *Science in Context* 15 (2002): 577-603.

February 11: Prescribing Gender

Jonathan Michel Metzl, *Prozac on the Couch: Prescribing Gender in the Era of Wonder Drugs* Durham: Duke University Press, 2003)

Meika Loe, "The Viagra Blues: Embracing or Resisting the Viagra Body," in *Medicalized Masculinities* Ed. Dana Rosenfeld and Christopher A Faircloth (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2006): 21-44.

GENDER AND HEALTH ACTIVISM

February 18: Community Activism

Susan Smith, *Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired: Black Women's Health Activism in America, 1890-1950* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1995).

Jennifer Nelson, " 'Hold Your Head Up and Stick out Your Chin': Community Health and Women's Health in Mound Bayou, Mississippi," *NWSA Journal* 17 (2005): 99-118.

February 25: Fighting for Reproductive Rights

Jennifer Nelson, *Women of Color and the Reproductive Rights Movement* (New York: New York University Press, 2003)

Mark Largent, "Buck v. Bell and the First Organized Resistance to Coerced Sterilization," in *Breeding Contempt: History for Coerced Sterilization in the United States* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2008), 96-115+.

March 3: Fight for Healthy Workplaces

Michelle Murphy, *Sick Building Syndrome and the Problem of Uncertainty: Environmental Politics, Technoscience, and Women Workers* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006)

Allison Hepler, "'And We Want Steel Toes Like The Men': Gender And Occupational Health During World War II," *Bulletin Of The History Of Medicine* 72 (1998): 689 -713

FAMILIES: HEALTHY AND DYSFUNCTIONAL

March 10: Healthy Reproduction

Wendy Kline, *Building a Better Race: Gender, Sexuality, and Eugenics from the Turn of the Century to the Baby Boom* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001)

Cynthia R. Daniels, "Between Fathers and Fetuses: The Social Construction of Male Reproduction and the Politics of Fetal Harm," *Signs* 22 (1997): 579-616.

March 24: Sick Children, Maternal Blame

Kathleen Jones, *Taming the Troublesome Child: American Families, Child Guidance, and the Limits of Psychiatric Authority* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999)

Ruth Feldstein, "Antiracism and Maternal Failure in the 1940s and 1950s, " in *Bad Mothers: The Politics of Blame in Twentieth-Century America,* ed. Molly Ladd-Taylor and Lauri Umansky (New York: New York University Press, 1998), 145-168.

March 31: Families and Addiction

Lori Rotskoff, *Love on the Rocks: Men, Women, and Alcohol in Post-World War II America* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003)

Caroline Jean Acker, "Portrait of an Addicted Family: Dynamics of Opiate Addiction in the Early Twentieth Century," in *Altering American Consciousness: The History of Alcohol and Drug Use in the United States, 1800-2000,* ed. Sarah W. Tracy and Caroline Jean Acker (Amherst: University of Amherst Press, 2004), 165-180.

April 7: Family Decline

Natasha Zaretsky, *No Direction Home: The American Family and the Fear of National Decline, 1968-1980* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007)

HEALTHY LIVING, DAMAGED LIVES

April 14: Damaged Race

Daryl Michael Scott, *Social Policy and the Image of the Damaged Black Psyche, 1880-1996* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997)

April 21: **Healthy, Pathological, and Dangerous Sexuality**

Janice Irvine, *Disorders of Desire: Sex and Gender in Modern American Sexology,* revised and expanded ed. (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2005)

Ronald Bayer, "Sex and the Bathhouses: The Politics of Privacy," in *Private Acts, Social Consequences: AIDS and the Politics of Public Health* (New York: The Free Press, 1989), 20-71.

April 28: **Seeking Healthy Places**

Emily K. Abel, *Suffering in the Land of Sunshine: A Los Angeles Illness Narrative* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2006)

Conevery Bolton Valencius, "Gender and the Economy of Health on the Santa Fe Trail" *Osiris* 19 (2004): 79-92.

May 5: **Devotion, Sin, and Sickness**

Robert A. Orsi, *Thank You, St. Jude: Women's Devotion to the Patron Saint of Hopeless Causes* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996)

Heather D. Curtis, "Houses of Healing: Sacred Space, Spiritual Practice, and the Transformation of Female Suffering in the Faith Cure Movement, 1870-1890," *Church History* 75 (2006): 598-611.