

History of Twentieth-Century American Medicine

Med. Hist./Hist. Sci. 218

MSC 3265

Tues., Thurs. 11-12:15

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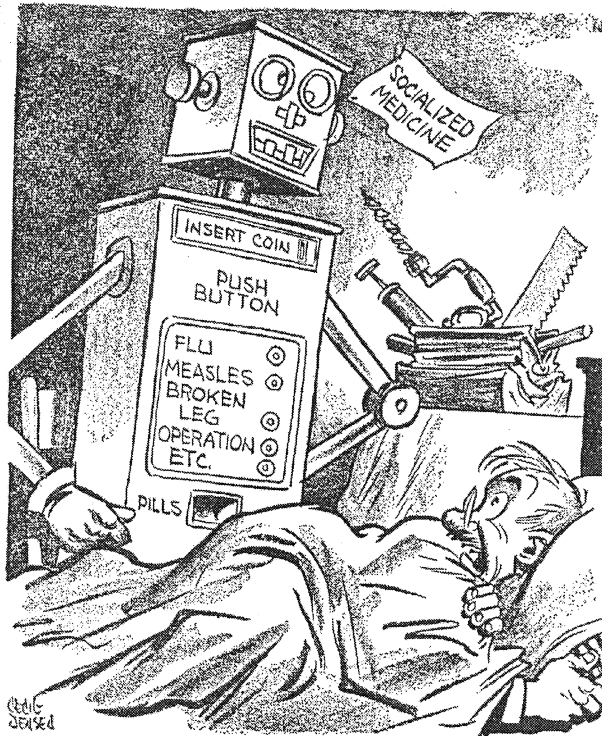
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In the Proposed New Bedside Manner



In March, 2009 President Barack Obama called for an ambitious reform of American health care. "This time," he insisted, "the call for reform is coming from the bottom up, from all across the spectrum – from doctors, nurses and patients; unions and businesses; hospitals, healthcare providers and community groups. This time, there is no debate about whether all Americans should have quality, affordable healthcare – the only question is, how?" This course addresses the question of *how* the United States developed its current health care system. In so doing, we will focus on the changes in medical care and medical science over the course of the twentieth century, as well as the changing face of the medical profession and the institutions which deliver health care. Topics include advances in medical technology and therapy, the

debate over national health insurance, the cultural authority of the medical profession, and media representations of doctors, nurses, patients and hospitals.

Course Requirements

Class meetings will include some lecture material and visual images, but discussions of the readings will form the core of the course. Your regular attendance and active, informed, and regular participation are essential. In addition, students will take an in-class midterm exam (on October 15) and write two short papers. These are described below and will be explained in greater detail in class.

Written assignments

I. Health Matters

In 1954 the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) conducted over 2500 interviews with Americans across the nation about their illness experiences, their knowledge of medical developments, and their experience of health care. These interviews were followed a script but included open ended questions about what health meant to these midcentury Americans. In this assignment you will be emailed an interview and asked to evaluate and analyze the individual's responses in the context of our readings and discussions over the semester.

Your paper for this assignment must include the following elements:

- a. a brief description of the individual, their demographic characteristics and geographic location. You should also address how and where the individual gained information about health
- b. an analysis of their experience with physicians, pharmacists, and health care costs
- c. discussion of how their responses reflected their past experiences and how the 1950s influenced their understanding of health and disease
- d. what made this individual's experience different or unique?

Your paper should be 8-10 pages in length. It is due November 12.

I. Illness Experience: Interview and Analysis

This written assignment draws on your experiences interviewing two people. It is not research driven or thesis driven. For this assignment, you should

Interview one person between the ages of 35 and 65.

Interview a second person over the age of 65.

In each case, you should interview these individuals separately about one of their major illness experiences. In advance of the interviews, you should formulate some questions and reflect on what kind of information you would want to have about their experience. You should plan to ask some questions about how their medical

insurance influenced their experience of illness and their treatment. Did it influence their choice of physician? Where they were treated? Their options for treatment? Etc.

For this assignment you can interview parents, grandparents, friends, neighbors, professors, etc. If you are having trouble locating appropriately aged individuals, please let me know and I will provide some names of people willing to talk to you.

Your paper should briefly introduce the subject of your interviews (no names, but include their ages, gender, race, and some description of their illness experience.) Next, you should compare and contrast the experiences of the two individuals. How did they differ? Did the availability of Medicare make a huge difference? How does their personal experiences influence their views about the current discussions over health reform? Finally, you should reflect on the experience of interviewing someone about their illness experience: what was easy (and hard) about it? Did you take notes as the person spoke, record it, and how did this influence the discussion you had? If you knew the person, did knowing them help or hinder the kinds of questions you wanted to ask and the answers you expected to get?

Your paper should be 8-10 pages in length. It will be due **December 15**.

Evaluation (Grading)

Grades for the written assignments will be based on 1) the comprehensiveness of the analysis and how well you use the concepts, literature, and discussions of the course; 2) the accuracy, logic, and overall persuasiveness of your claims and arguments; and 3) the quality of your writing style, which includes basic grammar, punctuation, and proofreading.

The total grade will be assessed as follows:

Class participation	25%
Midterm exam	25%
Health Matter analysis	25%
Illness Experience interview	25%

Please note that class participation depends on your attending class, and attendance for the course is not optional. Please communicate to the professor if you are unable to be present and be aware that unexcused absences will lower the grade for class participation.

University Observances

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, I urge any student with a disability to inform me as soon as possible, so that I may make any necessary accommodations. All such requests are confidential.

Students are expected to adhere to UW policies regarding plagiarism and to assume full responsibility for academic integrity for all coursework. Students also may not submit assignments that they have submitted for credit in other courses.

Books and Other Readings

The following books are available at the University Bookstore and also available electronically through the Library.

Beth Haiken, *Venus Envy*
 David Oshinsky, *Polio: An American Story*
 Jill Quadagno, *One Nation, Uninsured*
 Leslie Reagan, *When Abortion Was A Crime*

Schedule

September 3 Introductions

September 8 Sickness and Health before World War II

Readings:

William Carlos Williams, "The Girl with a Pimple Face," from *The Doctor Stories*

Grover Cleveland, "The Plea of the Patient," *Albany Medical Annals* (1906), 153-60

September 10 Immigrants and Citizens

Readings:

C.P. Knight, "The Detection of the Mentally Defective Among Immigrants," *JAMA*, 60, 1913, 106-107.

E. Yew, "Medical inspection of immigrants at Ellis Island, 1891-1924," *Bull NY Acad Med.* 56, 1980, 488-510.

Walter White, "The Death of a Citizen," from *A Man Called White* (1948), pp. 134-38.

September 15 Doctors and Hospitals

Readings:

S. A. Tannenbaum, "The Decline of the Old Family Doctor," in his *The Patient's Dilemma* (1935), pp. 1-22.

Hughes Evans, "Losing Touch: The Controversy over the Introduction of Blood Pressure Instruments into Medicine," *Technology and Culture*, 34, 1993, 784-807.

September 17 "Almost Persuaded:" Health Insurance Before the 1960s

Readings:

Quadragno, *One Nation, Uninsured*, Introduction and chapter 1, pp. 1-47.

September 22 Battles over Health Insurance

Readings:

Quadragno, *One Nation, Uninsured* chapters 2 and 3, pp. 48-93.

September 24 Library Session

Presenter: Special Collections Librarian Michaela Sullivan-Fowler, * session meets at Ebling Library, Health Sciences Learning Center

September 29 Alternatives to Orthodoxy

Readings:

Annie Riley Hale, "The Voodoo and the Cancer Riddle," in her *The Medical Voodoo* (New York, 1935), chapter ix.

Louis S. Reed, *The Healing Cults* (Chicago, 1932), chapters 1 and 7.

James C. Whorton, "From Cultism to CAM: Alternative Medicine in the Twentieth Century," in *The Politics of Healing: Histories of Alternative Medicine in Twentieth Century North America*, pp. 287-305.

October 1 Epidemics and Outcomes

Readings:

Oshinsky, *Polio: An American Story*, intro, chapters 1-8

October 6 Patenting the Sun

Readings:

Oshinsky, *Polio: An American Story*, chapters 9-16

October 8 Mediating Medicine

Readings:

Marc Cohen and Audrey Shafer, "Images and Healers: A Visual History of Scientific Medicine," from *Cultural Sutures* (Duke, 2004), pp. 197-214.

S.E. Lederer and John Parascandola, "Screening Syphilis: *Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet* Meets the Public Health Service," *Journal of the History of Medicine*, 53, 1998, 345-370.

October 13 Television and the World Wide Web

Readings:

Gregg VandeKieft, "From City Hospital to ER: the Evolution of the Television Physician," from *Cultural Sutures* (Duke, 2004), pp. 215-33.

Fox, S., & Rainie, L. "Vital decisions: How internet users decide what information to trust when they or their loved ones are sick." Pew Internet & American Life Project. (2002)

October 15 **In class Midterm Examination**

October 20 Health Matters

Readings:

Questionnaires from the Health Matters survey (1954). These will be distributed via email.

October 22 Private Practices

Reading:

Reagan, *When Abortion was a Crime*, intro, chapters 1-4.

October 29 Raids and Reforms

Reading:

Reagan, *When Abortion was a Crime*, chapters 6-8, epilogue.

November 5 Mal-practicing Medicine?

Readings:

Ken De Ville, "Medical malpractice in twentieth century United States: The interaction of technology, law and culture," *Int J Technol Assess Health Care*, 14, 1998, 197-211.

James C. Mohr, "American Medical Malpractice Litigation in Historical Perspective," *JAMA* 283, 2000, 1731-1737.

Michael Cohen and David M. Eisenberg, "Potential Physician Malpractice Liability Associated with Complementary and Integrative Medical Therapies," *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 136, 2002, 596-603.

November 10

Government Doctors and Segregated Hospitals

Readings:

E. Rivers et al, "Twenty Years of Followup Experience in a Long-Range Medical Study," *Public Health Reports*, 68, 1953, 391-5.

S. E. Lederer, "The Tuskegee Syphilis Study in the Context of American Medical Research," in Reverby, *Tuskegee's Truths*, pp. 266-75.

E. H. Beardsley, "Goodbye to Jim Crow: The Desegregation of Southern Hospitals," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 60, 1986, 367-86.

November 12

Interviews and Issues

November 17

Birthing Bioethics

Readings:

R. Duff and A.G.M. Campbell, "Moral and Ethical Dilemmas in the Special-Care Nursery," *New England Journal of Medicine*, 289, 1973, 890-894.

Sally Satel and Christine Stolba, "Who Needs Medical Ethics?" *Commentary*, 2001, 37-40.

Film: "Who Shall Survive?"

November 19

From Malnutrition to Childhood Obesity

Special Guest Lecturer/Discussant: Andrew Ruis

Readings:

S. Josephine Baker and J. L. Blumenthal. "Methods of Determining Malnutrition: Comparison of Pelidisi, Wood Height and Weight, and Dunfermline Methods." *The Nation's Health* 5, 1923, 47-53.

Louis I. Dublin and John C. Gebhart. "Do Height and Weight Tables Identify Undernourished Children?" *American Journal of Public Health* 13, 1923, 920-927.

Frank A. Manny, "A Comparison of Three Methods of Determining Defective Nutrition," *Archives of Pediatrics* 35, 1918, 88-94.

Jeffrey P. Brosco, "Weight Charts and Well Child Care: When the Pediatrician Became the Expert in Child Health." In *Formative Years: Children's Health in the United States, 1880-2000*, eds Alexandra Minna Stern and Howard Markel, pp. 91-120.

November 24 No class meeting

November 26 Thanksgiving !



December 1 "Insuring American Children." Visiting Professor Cynthia Connolly, University of Pennsylvania

Readings:

Cindy Mann, Diane Rowland and Rachel Garfield, "Historical Overview of Children's Health Care Coverage," *The Future of Children*, 13, 2003, 31-53

December 3 Paying for Health Care

Readings:

Quadrano, *One Nation, Uninsured* chapters 4-8.

December 8 Dead On Arrival: Bill and Hillary, Harry and Louise

Readings:

B. Hoffmann, "Health Care Reform and Social Movements in the United States," *American Journal of Public Health*, 2003, 93, 75-85.

George Annas, "Reframing the Debate on Health Care Reform by Replacing Our Metaphors," *NEJM*, 1995, 332, 745-748.

Raymond L. Goldstein, Karen Goldstein, James H. Swan, and Wendy Clemenña, "Harry and Louise and Health Care Reform: Romancing Public Opinion," *Journal of Health Politics Policy and Law*, 26, 2001, 1325 - 1352.

December 10 "Lifting the Middle Class"

Readings:

Haiken, *Venus Envy*, chapters 1, 4-7

December 15 the Difference a Century Makes

Illness Experience Paper due