

HISTORY OF MEDICINE 507 HEALTH, DISEASE AND HEALING I

Fall, 2002

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History of Medicine 507 offers a comprehensive survey of the social, intellectual and institutional developments in health care between 400 b.c. and 1800. In any course covering this much ground, one cannot hope to give equal attention to all aspects of the subject, so I have concentrated on those topics where there seems to be the most abundant and accessible historical literature. As an experiment this year, I decided to organize the course in what is called by the Timetable people “lecture-lab format,” which means that we meet for one hour lecture each week and then two hours or the “lab” portion of the course. Each Wednesday-Monday “pair” works as a unit. The lecture on Wednesday will serve as something of an oral reading guide for the following Monday’s seminar meeting.

There are four books that will be used in this course, which are available for purchase at the Underground Textbook Exchange on State Street:

Carlo M. Cipolla, *Fighting the Plague in 17th-Century Italy*
David Herlihy, *The Black Death and the Transformation of the West*
Mary Lindemann, *Medicine and Society in Early Modern Europe*
Nancy G. Siraisi, *Medieval and Early Renaissance Medicine*

There is also a required course reader, which costs \$27.00, available in the History of Science office, 7143 Social Science.

Course requirements & grading

Let there be no mistake: This is primarily a seminar-type course. The reading load is heavy – sometimes over 100 pages per week, although I have tried to make it taper off toward the end of the semester – and you will be expected to come to class on Mondays having done the reading and prepared to talk about it. As you will see below, attendance and participation carry a considerable weight in your final grade, and absences for *any* reason other than illness or family emergency will count against your participation grade. Your participation grade begins at a “B” and will go up or down from there.

Apart from reading and participation in Monday discussions, undergraduates have two options, depending on whether they choose to do a 8 to 10–page research paper. Students who elect *not* to do a research paper will write three 5–6 page essays, one due after each third of the course. These essays will be responses to questions handed out the previous week in class, and will be based on assigned readings and lectures. Students who elect to do the research paper will write two of those three essays (it will be the student’s choice about which one not to do), and the balance in grading will be shifted somewhat toward greater weighting of the research paper.

At the very latest, all students who want to do a research paper must have informed me of their choice by the time the first essay questions are distributed on Wednesday, October 2. After this date, no one may choose to do the research paper option.

Grading for the option *without* a research paper will be:
25% attendance and participation
25% for each of the three essays

Grading for the option *with* a research paper will be:
25% for attendance and participation
20% for each of the two essays
35% for the research paper

Graduate students will be expected to write a substantial research paper (approx. 15–18 pages), which will be due the week of Thanksgiving, when the undergrad research papers are due.

Schedule of topics and readings:

Wednesday, September 4 – Course Introduction: On Ancient Medicine Readings for September 9

Hippocrates, *On Ancient Medicine* (reading #1)
Kuriyama, “Interpreting the History of Bloodletting.” (reading #2)

WEEK 2 – Basic Concepts of Hippocratic Medicine Readings for September 16

Hippocrates, *Epidemics*, Book 1 (reading #5)
Airs, Waters, Places (reading #6)
Prognosis (reading #7)
Regimen in Acute Diseases (reading #8)

WEEK 3 – The Social and Cultural Nexus of Greek Medicine Readings for September 23

Hippocrates, *Decorum* (reading #9)
Law (reading #10)
von Staden, “In a Pure and Holy Way.” (reading #11)
Nutton, “Healers in the Medical Marketplace.” (reading #14)
Temkin, “The Cult of Asclepius.” (reading #15)

WEEK 4 – Medicine in the Roman World Readings for September 30

von Staden, “Anatomy as Rhetoric.” (reading #3)
Mattern, “Physicians and the Roman Imperial Aristocracy.” (reading #20)
Galen, *On Examinations By Which the Best Physicians Are Recognized* (reading #13)

Questions for first essay distributed Wednesday, October 2.

First essay due in class, Wednesday, October 9.

WEEK 5 – Medicine in Late Antiquity: Christian and Muslim Responses

Readings for October 7

Conrad, “The Arab-Islamic Medical Tradition.” (reading #21)

Savage-Smith, “Attitudes Toward Dissection in Medieval Islam.” (reading #4)

Ferngren, “Early Christianity As a Religion of Healing.” (reading #22)

Temkin, “The Almighty God,” “Jesus,” “To the Turn of the Third Century,” and “The Adoption of Hippocratic Medicine.” (readings #16–19)

WEEK 6 – The Establishment of Medicine as a Scholarly Discipline

Readings for October 14

Johannitius, *The Galenic System* (reading #23)

Siraisi, *Medieval and Renaissance Medicine*, chapters 1, 3 & 4.

McVaugh, “The Nature and Limits of Medical Certitude at Early Fourteenth-Century Montpellier.” (reading #24)

WEEK 7 – Medical Practice in Medieval Europe

Readings for October 21

Siraisi, *Medieval and Renaissance Medicine*, chapter 2.

Sweet, “Hildegard of Bingen and the Greening of Medicine.” (reading #25)

Getz, “The Variety of Medical Practitioners in Medieval England.” (reading #26)

Wallis, “Signs and Senses.” (reading #27)

WEEK 8 – The Black Death: Perceptions and Consequences

Readings for October 28

Herlihy, *The Black Death and the Transformation of the West*, pp. 17–81.

Horrox, selections from *The Black Death* (reading #28)

Questions for second essay distributed Wednesday, October 30.

Second essay due in class, Wednesday, November 6.

WEEK 9 – Plague and Public Health

Readings for November 4

Lindemann, *Medicine and Society in Early Modern Europe*, chapter 2

Cipolla, *Fighting the Plague in 17th-Century Italy*, pp. 3–85.

Carmichael, “Epidemics and State Medicine in Milan.” (reading #30)

WEEK 10 – Anatomy and the Medical Renaissance

Readings for November 11

Pereira, “*Mater Medicinarum*.” (reading #29)

Palmer, “Pharmacy in the Republic of Venice.” (reading #31)

French, “Bologna and Padua.” (reading #32)

WEEK 11 – Medical Care and Poor Relief in Early Modern Europe

Readings for November 18

Lindemann, *Medicine and Society in Early Modern Europe*, chapter 5

Gentilcore, “Cradles of Saints and Useful Institutions.” (reading #33)

Pelling, “Healing the Sick Poor.” (reading #34)

WEEK 12 – Research Papers due November 27

No readings for week of November 25 but there will be a meeting.

No class November 27

WEEK 13 – Public Health and the State

Readings for December 2

Lindemann, *Medicine and Society in Early Modern Europe*, chapter 6.

Rusnock, “Biopolitics.” (reading #35)

Brockliss and Jones, “Medicine and the Enlightenment State.” (reading #36)

WEEK 14 – Medicine and the Scientific Revolution

Readings for December 9

Lindemann, *Medicine and Society in Early Modern Europe*, chapter 3

Roos, “Luminaries of Medicine.” (reading #37)

Cook, “The New Philosophy and Medicine in Seventeenth-Century England.” (reading #38)

