

HISTORY OF MEDICINE 507

HEALTH, DISEASE AND HEALING I

Fall, 2003

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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 1700. 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 three books that will be used in this course, which are available for purchase at the Underground Textbook Exchange on State Street:

Carlo M. Cipolla, *Faith, reason and the Plague in Seventeenth-Century Tuscany*
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.

Students taking the course for 4 credits will do an 8 to 10–page research paper on a topic worked out in consultation with me. Students taking the course for 3 credits may, at that choice, do a research paper too, as a substitute for one of the three required take-home essays, which will be distributed 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 3 – Course Introduction: On Ancient Medicine

Readings for September 8

Hippocrates, *On Ancient Medicine* (reading #1)

Kuriyama, “Interpreting the History of Bloodletting.” (reading #2)

WEEK 2 – Basic Concepts of Hippocratic Medicine

Readings for September 15

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 22

Jouanna, “The Physician and the Public,” and “The Physician and the Patient.”

von Staden, “In a Pure and Holy Way.” (reading #11)

Temkin, “The Cult of Asclepius.” (reading #15)

Edelstein and Edelstein, “God and Good Fortune: Cures of Apollo and Asclepius.”

WEEK 4 – Medicine in the Roman World

Readings for September 29

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)

Celsus, *De Medicina* (reading #12)

Questions for first essay distributed Wednesday, October 1.

First essay due in class, Wednesday, October 8.

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

Readings for October 6

Leiser, "Medical Education in Islamic Lands."

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

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

Savage Smith, "Islamic Culture and the Medical Arts." See this online exhibition at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/islamic_medical/islamic_00.html#toc.

WEEK 6 – The Establishment of Medicine as a Scholarly Discipline

Readings for October 13

Johannitus, *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 20

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 27

McNeill, "Confluence of the Civilized Disease Pools of Eurasia: 500 B.C. to A.D. 1200."

Cohn, "The Black Death: End of a Paradigm."

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

Questions for second essay distributed Wednesday, October 30.

Second essay due in class, Wednesday, November 5.

WEEK 9 – Plague and Public Health

Readings for November 3

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

Cipolla, *Faith, Reason and the Plague in Seventeenth-Century Tuscany*, pp. 1–85.

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

WEEK 10 – Medical Humanism and the Paracelsian Movement

Readings for November 10

Pereira, "*Mater Medicinarum*." (reading #29)

Trevor-Roper, "The Paracelsian Movement."

Paracelsus, *Selected Writings*

Debus, "Paracelsianism and the Diffusion of the Chemical Philosophy."

WEEK 11 – Anatomy and the Medical Renaissance

Readings for November 17

Park, "The Criminal and Saintly Body."

French, "Bologna and Padua." (reading #32)

WEEK 12 – Anatomy and Gender

Reading for November 24

Laqueur, "Destiny is Anatomy" and "New Science, One Flesh."

Stolberg, "A Woman Down to Her Bones," Laqueur, "Sex in the Flesh," and Schiebinger, "Skelettedstreit."

WEEK 13 – Medical Care and Poor Relief in Early Modern Europe

Readings for December 1

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 14 – Medicine and the Scientific Revolution

Readings for December 8

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)