

Race, American Medicine and Public Health
Medical History 523/History of Science/AfroAmerican Studies
MSC 1010
Spring 2012
Tues, Thurs 11-12:15

Susan E. Lederer, Ph.D.

Robert Turell Professor of History of Medicine and Bioethics

Office 1420 MSC

Office Hours: TBA

608.262.4195

selederer@wisc.edu



- FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.



Fig. 748.—BRIDGET McBRUISER.

The problem of the 20th century, wrote W.E.B. DuBois in *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903), “is the problem of the color-line.” This course considers the issue of the color line in American medicine and public health over the past two centuries. We will be looking at the ways in which skin color (and other elements of “racial identity”) has influenced the experiences of patients, physicians and nurses, and medical researchers, seeking to document and analyze how conceptions of race have shaped the health concerns and health outcomes of Americans in the past two hundred years. Topics include the origins of racial classification, the health and medical care of slaves, the use of blacks as research subjects, especially the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, the history of racial disparities in medicine, the black hospital movement, and the efforts to integrate the American medical profession.

Course Requirements

This course entails active learning. This requires the active and informed participation of everyone in the room. There will be new material presented in class, as well as the opportunity to engage with images and texts—both primary and secondary. This approach requires that you do the reading before class, that you attend class with the goal of raising questions, offering comments, or responding to the readings and the issues they raise. As we are well aware, race is not now nor has it ever been a neutral issue; it continues to provoke controversy and discussion. But, this discussion can be productive.

For the course, students will have the following written assignments:

- a. Short reflective essay (1000 words) due February 23 in class
- b. Research paper (12-15 pages in length) on some aspect of the history of race, medicine, and public health in America. The paper must use both primary and secondary sources as evidence.
 1-page description of paper topic, initial sources--both primary and secondary, and a paragraph of why this is a question worth asking. Due March 29
 The final paper is due April 26
- c. Final reflective Essay (1,000 words) due May 15 by noon, MSC 1420

Assessment

Class Participation	20%
Short reflective essay	20%
Research Paper	35%
Final Reflective Essay	25%

Required Books

Sharla Fett, *Working Cures: Healing, Health, and Power on Southern Slave Plantations* (2002)

Alondra Nelson, *Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight Against Medical Discrimination* (2011)

Keith Wailoo and Stephen Pemberton, *The Troubled Dream of Genetic Medicine: Ethnicity and Innovation in Tay-Sachs, Cystic Fibrosis, and Sickle Cell Disease* (2001)

Other readings available on Learn at UW course site.

TOPIC OUTLINE for 523

Jan 24	Introductions and Expectations	
Jan 26	Race and History	
Jan 31	Colonial America	
Feb 2	Yellow Fever and Scenes of Melancholy Devastation	
Feb 7	Doctors and Slaves	
Feb 9	Experiments and Slave Subjects	
Feb 14	Working Cures—Visions of Health	
Feb 16	Ebling Library Session with Micaela Sullivan	
Feb. 21	Working Cures—Arenas of Conflict	
Feb 23	Reconstructing Health	Short Essay #1 due
Feb 28	Strangers from Another Shore	
Mar 1	The Wretched Refuse of Your Teeming Shore	
Mar 6	Native Americans	
Mar 8	Medicalizing the Mexican	
Mar 13		
Mar 15	Red, White and Black	
Mar 20	Medical Education and the Negro	
Mar 22	The Tuskegee Syphilis Study	
Mar 27	Legacies of the Tuskegee Study	
Mar 29	Paper Topics Due in Class	

Mar 31-April 8

Spring Break

Apr 10	Black Panthers and Health Activism	
Apr 12	Spin Doctors and Sickle Cell Anemia	
Apr 17	Genetic Medicine— Tay Sachs Disease	
Apr 19	Genetic Medicine— Cystic Fibrosis	
Apr 24	Genetic Medicine— Sickle Cell Anemia	
Apr 26	Final Paper Due	
May 1	Affirmative Actions?	
May 3	Living with the Past/Shaping the Future	
May 8	The Michael Jackson Factor	
May 10	Conclusions	

May 15 **Final Reflections essay due by Noon, MSC 1420**

Course Outline

January 24 Introductions and Expectations

January 26 Race and History

Readings:

Thomas Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia* (excerpt)

Howard Jones, "Cinqué of the Amistad a Slave Trader? Perpetuating a Myth" with Comments by Paul Finkelman, "Cinqué and the Historians," Bertram Wyatt Brown, "Mea Culpa," William S. McFeely, "Cinqué, Tall and Strong," *Journal of American History*

January 31 Colonial America

Readings:

Margot Minardi, "The Boston Inoculation Controversy of 1721-1722: An Incident in the History of Race," *William and Mary Quarterly* 2004

Benjamin Rush, "Observations Intended to Favour a Supposition That the Black Color (As It Is Called) of the Negroes is The Leprosy," *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, 1799, 289-297

February 2 Yellow Fever and Scenes of Melancholy Devastation

Readings:

Matthew Carey, *A Short Account of the Malignant Fever. . .* (1793)

Absalom Jones and Richard Allen, *A Narrative of the Proceedings of the Colored People During the Awful Calamity in Philadelphia in the Year 1793; and a Refutation of Some Censures Thrown upon Them in Some Publications.* (pp 48-65)

Margaret Humphreys, "Biology and Destiny," in *Intensely Human: The Health of Black Soldiers in the American Civil War*, pp. 38-56.

February 7 Doctors and Slaves

Readings:

‘Gamma,’ “Effects of Mercury on the Constitution of Negroes,” *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* 1824

J. Marion Sims, “Osteo-Sarcoma of the Lower Jaw,” *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal* 1846.

Samuel A. Cartwright, “Report on the Diseases and Physical Peculiarities of the Negro Race,” *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*, May 1851.

February 9 Experiments and Slave Subjects

Readings:

J. Marion Sims, “Treatment of Vesico-Vaginal Fistula,” *American Journal of the Medical Sciences* 1852.

J. Marion Sims, *The Story of My Life*. (1884) excerpt.

F. Lee Buxton, “Foreword,” *The Story of My Life* (1968)

February 14 Working Cures—Visions of Health

Reading:

Sharla Fett, *Working Cures*, Intro and chapters 1-4

February 16 Ebling Library Research Session

This is a required session conducted by Librarian Micaela Sullivan Fowler. It will be held in Ebling Library (at the Health Sciences Learning Center, 750 Highland Ave.)

February 21 Working Cures—Arenas of Conflict

Readings:

Sharla Fett, *Working Cures*, chapters 5-7 and conclusion

February 23 Reconstructing Health

Readings:

Thomas J. Mays, “Human Slavery as a Prevention of Pulmonary Consumption,” *Trans. American Clim. Assn.* 1904

H. Folkes, “The Negro as a Health Problem,” *JAMA*, 1910

Leslie A. Schwalm, “Surviving Wartime Emancipation: African Americans and the Cost of Civil

War,” *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, 2011, 21-28.

February 28 Strangers from Another Shore

Readings:

I.E. Cohn, “The Chinese and their Peculiar Medical Ideas,” *Medical Record* 1892

Susan Craddock, “Embodying Place: Pathologizing Chinese and Chinatown in Nineteenth-Century San Francisco,” *Antipode*, 31, 2000, 351-71.

March 1 “the Wretched Refuse of your Teeming Shore”

Readings:

C. P. Knight, “The Detection of the Mentally Defective Among Immigrants,” *JAMA* 1913

Anne-Emanuelle Birn, “*Six Seconds Per Eyelid*: The Medical Inspection of Immigrants at Ellis Island, 1892-1914.” *Dynamis*, 17, 1997, 281-316.

March 6 Native Americans

Readings:

L.Webster Fox, “Trachoma among the North American Indians,” *Hygeia*, 1926.

David S. Jones, “The Persistence of American Indian Health Disparities,” *American Journal of Public Health*, 2006, 2122-2134.

Doug Brugge and Rob Goble, “The History of Uranium Mining and the Navaho People,” *American Journal of Public Health*, 2002, 1410-1419.

March 8 Medicalizing the Mexicans

Readings:

Emily Abel, “Only the Best Class of Immigration: Public Health Policy toward Mexicans and Filipinos in Los Angeles, 1910-1940,” *AJPH* 2004

William Deverell, “Plague in Los Angeles, 1924: Ethnicity and Typicality,” in *Over the Edge: Remapping the American West*. Eds. Valerie J. Matsumoto and Blake Allmendinger. Berkeley: U of California P, 1999. 172-200.

March 13

March 15

Lost Boundaries

March 20

Medical Education and the Negro

*****with Professor Dayle DeLancey**

Readings:

W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Health and Physique of the Negro American*, excerpt 1906,

Abraham Flexner, "The Medical Education of the Negro," *Report on Medical Education* 1910, excerpt

Isabella Vandervall, "Some Problems of the Colored Woman Physician," *Woman's Medical Journal*, 1917.

March 22

The Tuskegee Syphilis Study

Readings:

Eunice Rivers, SH Schuman, L Simpson, Sidney Olansky, "Twenty years of followup experience in a long-range medical study," *Public Health Reports*, 1953, 391-395.

W. M Cobb, "The Tuskegee Syphilis Study," *Journal of the National Medical Association*, 1973

March 27

Guatemala and the Tuskegee Syphilis Study

Readings:

Susan Reverby, "Normal Exposure:" *Journal of Policy History*, 2011.

Thomas Frieden and Francis Collins, "Intentional Infection of Vulnerable Populations in 1946-1948: Another Tragic History Lesson," *JAMA*, 304, 2010, 2441-2448.

Mar 29

Lost Boundaries

Paper Topics Due in Class

Readings:

Walter White, "Death of a Citizen," from *A Man Called White*

Spencie Love, "Noted Physician Fatally Injured: Charles Drew and the Legend that Will Not Die," *Washington History*, 1992-93, 4-19.

SPRING BREAK

April 10 Black Panthers and Health Activism in the 1960s

Readings:

Alondra Nelson, *Body and Soul*,

April 12 Spin Doctors and Sickle Cell Anemia

Readings:

Alondra Nelson, *Body and Soul*,

April 17 Genetic Medicine—Tay Sachs Disease

Readings:

Wailoo and Pemberton, *Troubled Dream of Genetic Medicine*, intro, chapter 1.

April 24 Genetic Medicine—Cystic Fibrosis

Readings:

Wailoo and Pemberton, *Troubled Dream of Genetic Medicine*, chapter 2.

April 24 Genetic Medicine—Sickle Cell Anemia

Readings:

Wailoo and Pemberton, *Troubled Dream of Genetic Medicine*, chapter 3 and conclusion.

April 26 The Michael Jackson Factor

Readings:

Elizabeth Haiken, "The Michael Jackson Factor: Race, Ethnicity, and Cosmetic Surgery," from *Venus Envy* 1997

May 1 Affirmative Actions?

Readings:

Ken DeVille and Loretta Kopelman, "Diversity, trust, and patient care: Affirmative action in medical education 25 years after Bakke," *The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*, 2003, 489-516

May 3 Living with the Past/Shaping the Future

Readings:

Baker et al, "African Americans Physicians and Organized Medicine, 1846-1968," *JAMA*, 2008,

May 8 **Race and Medicine?**

Readings:

Sally Satel, "Race and Medicine," in *PC, M.D.: How Political Correctness is Corrupting Medicine* 2000

Naomi Murakawa, "Toothless: The Methamphetamine 'Epidemic,' 'Meth Mouth,' and the Racial Construction of Drug Scares," *DuBois Review* (2011).

May 10 **Conclusions**

May 15 Final Reflective Essay due MSC 1420 by noon.