

Race, American Medicine and Public Health
Medical History 523/History of Science/AfroAmerican Studies
Bardeen 341
Spring 2013
Tues, Thurs 11-12:15

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— FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.



Fig. 748.—BRIDGET McBRUSKER.

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, race and reproduction, and the efforts to integrate the American medical profession.

Ethnic Studies Course

This is an Ethnic Studies Course. As with other Ethnic Studies Courses, it shares four important goals. It seeks 1) to highlight the ways in which history influences the present; 2) to promote appreciation of critical thinking skills and to encourage a healthy skepticism toward a variety of knowledge claims; 3) to provide students with the opportunity to consider the role of identity issues of one's self and of others; and 4) to enhance student's ability to participate in a multicultural society more effectively, more meaningfully, and respectfully.

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 complete the following assignments:

- a. Midterm in class exam March 12
- 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 April 11. The final paper is due May 2.

- c. Final exam May 17

Assessment

Class Participation	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Research Paper	30%
Final Exam	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 22	Introductions and Expectations
Jan 24	Race and Racial Difference
Jan 29	Encountering European Science
Jan 31	Colonial Bodies
Feb 5	Scenes of Melancholy Devastation
Feb 7	Working Cures – Visions of Health
Feb 12	Working Cures – Arenas of Conflict
Feb 14	Ebling Library Session
Feb 19	Doctors and Racial Diseases
Feb 21	Experiments and Slave Subjects
Feb 26	Legacies of Slavery
Feb 28	Reconstructing Health
March 5	Strangers from Another Shore
March 7	“the Wretched Refuse of your Teeming Shore”
March 12	In-Class Midterm Examination
March 14	Medicalizing the Mexican
March 19	Native Americans
March 21	Race and Reproduction

March 25-March 31

Spring Break

April 2	Integrating American Medicine
April 4	Red, White and Black
April 9	The Tuskegee Syphilis Study
April 11	Black Panthers and Health Activism
April 16	Spin Doctors and Sickle Cell Anemia
April 18	Genetic Medicine – Tay Sachs Disease
April 23	Genetic Medicine – Cystic Fibrosis
April 25	Genetic Medicine – Sickle Cell Anemia
April 30	Race and Medicine?
May 2	Affirmative Actions
May 7	Living with the Past and Future
May 9	Conclusions
May 17	Final Exam

Course Assignments

January 22 **Introductions and Expectations**

January 24 **Race, Racial Difference, 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 29 **Encountering European Science**

Readings:

Anne Fausto-Sterling, "Gender, Race and Nation: The Comparative Anatomy of 'Hottentot Women' in Europe, 1815-1817," *Deviant Bodies*

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

February 5 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.*

February 7 Working Cures – Visions of Health

Readings:

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

February 12 Working Cures – Arenas of Conflict

Readings:

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

February 14 Ebling Library 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 19 Doctors and Racial Diseases

Readings:

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

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

February 21 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 26 Legacies of Slavery

Readings:

Osagie K. Obasogie, "Oprah's Unhealthy Mistake," *The Los Angeles Times*, May 17, 2007.

George J. Armelagos, Kenneth Maes, "Revisiting the Slavery Hypertension Hypothesis," *Transforming Anthropology* 2006

February 28 Reconstructing Health

Readings:

Edward Mayfield Boyle, "A Comparative Physical Study of the Negro," *Journal of the National Medical Association* 1912, 4: 124-130.

Francis G. Benedict, "Race: a Factor in Human Metabolism," *Proc American Philos. Society*, 1937, 78: 101-110.

Leslie A. Schwalm, "Surviving Wartime Emancipation: African Americans and the Cost of Civil War," *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, 2011, 21-28.

March 5 Strangers from Another Shore

Readings:

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

Charles McClain, "Medicine, Race and American Law: the Bubonic Plague Outbreak of 1900," *Law and Social Inquiry*

March 7 "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 12 IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAMINATION

March 14 Medicalizing the Mexicans

Readings:

J. Colbert, "Hookworm Disease among Mexican track laborers," *California State Journal of Medicine*, 1911 and discussion

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

March 19 Native Americans

Readings:

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

Doug Brugge and Rob Goble, "The History of Uranium Mining and the Navaho People," *American Journal of Public Health*, 2002.

March 21 Race and Reproduction

Readings:

Montague Cobb, "The Negro as a Biological Element in the American Population," *Journal of Negro Education*, 1939

Alexandra M. Stern, "Sterilized in the Name of Public Health: Race, Immigration, and Reproductive Control in Modern California," *American Journal of Public Health*, 2005,

SPRING BREAK MARCH 25-31

April 2 Integrating American Medicine

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.

April 4 Red, White and Black

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,

S. Lederer, "Tucker's Heart: Racial Politics and Heart Transplantation in America." In *A Death Retold: Jessica Santillan, the Bungled Transplant, and Paradoxes of Medical Citizenship* 2006

April 9 The Tuskegee Syphilis Study

Readings:

Eunice Rivers, S. H. 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

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

April 11 Black Panthers and Health Activism in the 1960s

Readings:

Alondra Nelson, *Body and Soul*, pp. 23-114.

April 16 Spin Doctors and Sickle Cell Anemia

Readings:

Alondra Nelson, *Body and Soul*, pp. 115-180.

April 18 Genetic Medicine – Tay Sachs Disease

Readings:

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

April 23 Genetic Medicine – Cystic Fibrosis

Readings:

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

April 25 Genetic Medicine – Sickle Cell Anemia

Readings:

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

April 30 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 2 Affirmative Actions?

Readings:

Hal Strelnick, Elizabeth Lee-Rey, Marc Nivet, and Maria L. Soto-Greene, "Diversity in academic medicine no. 2 history of battles lost and won," *Mount Sinai Journal of Medicine*, 2008

May 7 Living with the Past/Shaping the Future

Readings:

Robert B. Baker, Harriet A. Washington, Ololade Olakanmi, Todd L. Savitt, Elizabeth A. Jacobs, Eddie Hoover, Matthew K. Wynia, "African American Physicians and Organized Medicine, 1846-1968. Origins of a Racial Divide," *JAMA*, 2008

Felicia Schanche Hodge, "No Meaningful Apology for American Indian Unethical Research Abuses," *Ethics and Behavior*, Dec. 2012

May 9 Conclusions

**MAY 17 Final Examination
2:45PM - 4:45PM**

