

Health, Disease and Medicine in the History of Latin America and the Caribbean

Spring 2013

Course Number: Medical History and Bioethics/History of Science 668-001

Location: Nicholas Hall 1125

Time: Tu/Th 1:00- 2:15PM

Instructor: Prof. Pablo F. Gómez, PhD, MD

Office Hours: Tu/Th 2:30-3:30 PM, MSC 1440

pgomez@wisc.edu

This course examines the history of illness, medical practice and public health in Latin America and the Caribbean from the colonial era to the present. Using films, literature, artwork, archaeological studies, historical texts, and medical sources, students will explore the different meanings of disease, body normativity, medical practice, and public health across different historical circumstances in the region. The course begins with an exploration of historical texts related to the biological exchange that determined the fate of Native Americans and Europeans in the New World, and which directly precipitated the massive importation of African slaves to the New World. In this first unit students will study African, Native American and European concepts of disease and healing. We will then focus on the role religious and socio-cultural attitudes and beliefs about bodies and illness played in shaping early modern Latin American societies. At the same time we will examine the explosion of the transatlantic exchange of early modern goods and people and its effect on medical practices deployed in Spanish and Portuguese America. The course will then assess the impact enlightened ideas about bodies, disease, and medical practice, as well as imperial reforms, had on the creation and demarcation of new social hierarchies and cultural structures in the Iberian colonies during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The material in the next section will focus on the use of concepts of race and disease for state and nation-building projects in Latin America. The plan of study continues with the examination of how positivism and the rise of biomedicine impacted public health, urban planning and local scientific endeavors in the region. Here we will also explore how the United States and European countries implemented programs of medical research and humanitarianism in Latin American and Caribbean nations during the first half of the twentieth century. Students will critically assess literary and historical texts related to tropical medicine and medical scientific practice. The course will explore medical experimentation in Central America and the role of international politics during the Cold War in shaping specific public health models. We will finish by studying the impact of the AIDS epidemics in the region, international humanitarianism and the rise of state-sponsored systems of health care in Latin American countries.

Objectives

At the end of this course:

- Students will be able to identify and analyze within their social, cultural and economic contexts key historical issues, and their significance, in the history of healing practices and public health in Latin America from the fifteenth century to the present.
- Students will have developed an understanding of the mutually shaping interactions between perceptions of health, illness and medical practices and culture and society in different Latin American historical scenarios.
- Students will be able to analyze the role of social factors -- race, gender, ethnicity, class, and sexual orientation, among others -- in shaping cultural realities related to body normativity, health, medical practice, public health and medical education in Latin America.

-Students will be able to analyze and synthesize information, provide evidence-based interpretations about the past, and develop arguments regarding social and cultural differences related to health and body concepts in different Latin American societies.

-Students will be able to identify the role patients, healthcare providers, institutions and the state played in modeling medical practice, ideas about the body, public health policies, and medical education in Latin America.

-Students will be able to discern the impact of international politics, acting through European and American programs of medical research and humanitarianism, in the shaping of ideas about race, medical hierarchies and public health policies in Latin American and Caribbean nations.

Course Policies and Requirements

Grading:

First take home essay	25%
Second take home essay	30%
Participation	25%
Presentation	20%

Grades on assignments and exams are recorded as numerical scores out of a total of 100 points (these scores are later weighted to arrive at a final composite course grade). The table for converting your final composite (weighted) numerical grade into final letter grades is as follows:

Points	<60	60-68.9	69-74.9	75-80.9	81-86.9	87-92.9	93 and above
Grade	F	D	C	BC	B	AB	A

Your essays must be uploaded to the dropbox on the course's *learn@UW* site. I will **only** accept **electronic** submissions.

Papers should be in the course dropbox by 5 PM CST on the date the essay is due. For every hour the essay is late I will deduct a point from the final grade. Essays **will not be accepted** after 24 hours past their due date and time.

You must submit all assignments and complete all essays in order to pass this course.
You may not elect to opt out of an assignment and receive an F on it.

Any non-emergency extensions must be requested prior to the due date. Although you are encouraged to discuss your papers with friends and classmates, no group work is allowed.

Take Home Essays:

These papers will answer **two** of four study questions assigned. Each answer will be a short essay 1000 to 1200 words long, appropriately formatted and referenced (the whole essay will, thus, be 2000-2400 words). I will post the topics to be examined two weeks before the essay is due.

Due Dates: First Essay: March 14
 Second Essay: May 10

Presentation:

Every student will give a 20-minute presentation during the semester. The student responsible for that meeting should introduce the main features of the topics present in the readings and identify key issues and themes to be examined during the ensuing discussion. As part of this assignment the student should meet with me during my office hours seven days or more before their assigned day for the presentation. Students should bring a draft of the questions and topics to be examined during their presentation to that meeting.

Students will send the instructor a final draft of the questions before 5pm CST the Thursday before the week of their presentation (at the latest).

Participation:

This component of your grade will be determined based on attendance and active and **MEANINGFUL** participation in class. We will devote an important portion of each meeting to discussion. Your input to the conversation has to demonstrate a learned engagement with the readings for that day. The class provides an opportunity for a communal exploration of events, themes and concepts. The main idea behind the course structure is to help each other enhance our understanding of the subjects we will study and create a rich, engaging, and friendly forum for the expression of ideas. The class will benefit from the unique perspectives, ideas and informed opinions of *all* students.

I expect you to complete the readings by the beginning of the week. I will document your participation on a daily basis, noting whether you demonstrated exceptional (2 points), model (1 points), satisfactory participation (0 point), or unsatisfactory participation (-2 points).

You start the semester with 80 points.

You should come prepared to discuss the material indicated in the study guide, including the primary sources that will form the basis of the discussion.

Attendance

You are entitled to miss two (2) classes without penalty. Each additional absence will reduce your final course grade by 3 points.

There will be a sign-in sheet circulated at the beginning of each class.

Surfing the internet and/or text messaging during class will be considered distractions to the instructor/class and will also result in a -3 for the participation grade each week.

Class Policies Regarding Written Work

In addition to the University's policies governing Academic Honesty and Misconduct (see below), this course requires you to observe a set of specific class policies regarding your written work. This means that grade penalties can be imposed for failing to comply with these policies, even if the matter is not reported to the Dean as an official case of academic dishonesty or misconduct. In that regard, these specific class policies regarding written work function like this course's attendance policy: If you fail to comply with the policy, your grade can and will be lowered by the instructor.

The class policies regarding written work that you must follow are contained in the document from the University's Writing Center linked to at the end of this section. The purpose of these policies is to ensure that students receive credit solely where credit is due to them. Any words, phrases, or ideas that are borrowed from another source must be properly acknowledged and cited. Specific class assignments may contain additional rules and guidelines for citation, but at the very least the rules and guidelines set out in the Writing Center's document must be followed. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these rules and

guidelines. Ignorance of their content is not an acceptable excuse. You can find the Writing Center's document here: <http://students.wisc.edu/saja/pdf/Plagiarism.pdf>

Stated Course Policies are Non-Exhaustive

The course policies stated in this syllabus are not necessarily exhaustive. I reserve the right to impose additional or amended policies as circumstances warrant. Any change will be announced both in class and on the course Learn@UW website.

Academic Honesty and Misconduct

I will fail any papers not in compliance with the UW rules governing academic honesty and plagiarism, which you can find at <http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html>. Ignorance of what counts as academic misconduct or plagiarism is not an acceptable defense. All cases of Academic Dishonesty and Misconduct are reported to the Dean of Students.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

This course abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible so that I can make every reasonable effort to provide adequate accommodation.

Class and Reading Schedule

*All readings will be available on the course Learn@UW website.

**Supplementary readings and page numbers are in italics.*

*In addition, there is a section in the course Learn@UW website containing links to more secondary and primary literature and a host of websites and databases related to the history of medicine in Latin America. Be sure to consult it to start your research for your papers and your presentation, or if you are hungry for more knowledge on a particular (or all) topic(s).

Week 1-Jan 22-24 Introduction to the Course
 A Land of "Plagues and Pestilences"

Readings:

- Suzanne Austin Alchon, *A Pest in the Land: New World Epidemics in a Global Perspective*. Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2003. 32-60.

Week 2-Jan 29-31: Pre-Columbian Medicine
 New World Biological Encounters

Readings:

- Bernard Ortiz de Montellano, *Aztec Medicine, Health, and Nutrition*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1990. 129-161.
- Suzanne Austin Alchon, *A Pest in the Land: New World Epidemics in a Global Perspective*. Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2003. 60-82.
- Joseph W. Bastien, "Differences between Kallawayaya-Andean and Greek European Humoral Medicine," *Social Science and Medicine* 28 (1989): 45-51.
- Wodrow Borah, "Introduction," in Noble David Cook and W. George Lovell, *Secret Judgments of God: Old World Disease in Colonial Spanish America*, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991. 1-17

- Hanss J. Prem, "Disease Outbreaks in Central Mexico During the Sixteenth Century," in Noble David Cook and W. George Lovell, *Secret Judgments of God: Old World Disease in Colonial Spanish America*, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991.p. 20-48.

Week 3-Feb 5-7: *Mestizo Colonial Medicine*
Regulatory Attempts: the *Protomedicato* and the Iberian Medical Establishment

Readings:

- Adam Warren, *Medicine and Politics in Colonial Peru: Population Growth and the Bourbon Reforms*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010. 15-48.
- Martha Few, "Medical Mestizaje and the Politics of Pregnancy in Colonial Guatemala, 1660-1730" in Daniela. Bleichmar et al., *Science in the Spanish and Portuguese Empires, 1500-1800*. Stanford, Calif: Stanford University Press, 2009. 132-147.
- Paula De Vos, "The Apothecary in Seventeenth-and Eighteenth-Century New Spain: Historiography and Case Studies in Medical Regulation, Charity, and Science," *Colonial Latin American Historical Review* 13, no. 3 (2004): 249– 285.
- Jhon Tate Laning, *The Royal protomedicato : the regulation of the medical professions in the Spanish empire*, Durham: Duke University Press, 1985. 58-91. * ACLS internet book. Link in the Internet Resources tab of the Learn@UW course site.

Week 4-Feb 12-14: *The Circulation of Medical Knowledge in the Iberian Atlantic*
Slavery and Medicine in Colonial Latin America

Readings:

- Timothy Walker, "Acquisition and Circulation of Medical Knowledge within the Early Modern Portuguese Colonial Empire," in Daniela. Bleichmar et al., *Science in the Spanish and Portuguese Empires, 1500-1800*. Stanford, Calif: Stanford University Press, 2009. 247-270.
- James Sweet, *Domingos Álvares, African Healing, and the Intellectual History of the Atlantic World*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011. 53-102.
- Júnia Furtado Ferreira, "Tropical Empiricism: Making Medical Knowledge in Colonial Brazil," in *Science and Empire in the Atlantic World*, ed. James Delbourgo and Nicholas Dew. New York: Routledge, 2008. 127-152.

Week 5 Feb 19-21: *Medical Enlightenment and the Pomboline and Bourbon Reforms*
Creole Science and Independence

Readings:

- Adam Warren, *Medicine and Politics in Colonial Peru: Population Growth and the Bourbon Reforms*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010. 49-77.
- Thomas F. Glick, "Science and Independence in Latin America," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 71 (1991): 307-334.
- Catherine Mark, and José G. Rigau-Pérez, "The World's First Immunization Campaign: The Spanish Smallpox Vaccine Expedition, 1803–1813". *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*. 83, 2009. no. 1: 63-94
- Angela T. Thompson, "To Save the Children: Smallpox Inoculation, Vaccination, and Public Health in Guanajuato, Mexico, 1797-1840," *The Americas* 49 (1993): 431-455.

Week 6-Feb 26-28: *New Nations and New Bodies*
Race, Class, the State and Public Health at the Turn of the Century

Readings:

- David Sowell, "Contending Medical Ideologies and State Formation: The Nineteenth-Century Origins of Medical Pluralism in Contemporary Colombia," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 77, no. 4 (2003): 900-926.
- Sidney Chalhoub, "The Politics of Disease Control: Yellow Fever and Race in Nineteenth Century Rio de Janeiro," *Journal of Latin American Studies* (1993): 441-463
- Vera Blinn Reber, "Blood, Coughs and Fever: Tuberculosis and the Working Class of Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1885-1915," *Social History of Medicine* 12, no. 1 (1999): 73-100.

- Stanley Blake, "The Medicalization of Nordestinos: Public Health and Regional Identity in Northeastern Brazil, 1889 – 1930," *The Americas* 60, no. 2 (2003): 217 – 48.
- Diana Obregón, *Building National Medicine: Leprosy and Power in Colombia, 1870 – 1910*, *Social History of Medicine* 15 (2002): 89 – 108.

Week 7-Mar 5-7: Positivism and Public Health
 A Particular Brand of Eugenics

Readings:

- Diego Armus, *The Ailing City: Health, Tuberculosis, and Culture in Buenos Aires, 1870-1950*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2011. p.84-140.
- Nancy Stepan, *The Hour of Eugenics: Race, Gender, and Nation in Latin America*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1991. p.35-101.
- Yolanda Eraso, "Biotypology, Endocrinology and Sterilization: The Practice of Eugenics in the Treatment of Argentinian Women during the 1930s," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 81, no. 4 (2008): 793 – 82.
- Andrés Reggiani, "Depopulation, Fascism, and Eugenics in 1930s Argentina," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 90, no. 2 (2010): 283 – 318.

Week 8-Mar 12-14: Tropical Medicine in the Americas
 Medicine and Imperialism

Readings:

- Julian Peard, *Race, Place and Medicine: The Idea of the Tropics in Nineteenth-century Brazilian Medicine*. Durham: Duke Univ. Press, 1999. 1-48; 81-108.
- Mariola Espinosa, *Epidemic Invasions Yellow Fever and the Limits of Cuban Independence, 1878-1930*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009. 1-10; 97-124.
- Laura Briggs, *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science, and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002. 1-20; 21-45.
- Simone Kropf and Magali Romero Sá, "The Discovery of *Trypanosoma cruzi* and Chagas Disease (1908 – 1909): Tropical Medicine in Brazil," *História, Ciências, Saúde – Manguinhos* 16 (2009 suppl. 1): 13 – 34
- Paul Ross, "Mexico's Superior Health Council and the American Public Health Association: The Transnational Archive of Porfirian Public Health, 1887 – 1910," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 89, no. 4 (2009), 573-602.

***FIRST PAPER DUE MARCH 14, 5PM CST.** Electronic submission at learn@UW site.

Week 9-Mar 19-21 The Rockefeller Foundation
 Medicine and Science in the early XX century in Latin America

Readings:

- Marcos Cueto. "The Rockefeller Foundation's Medical Policy and Scientific Research in Latin America: the Case of Physiology". *Social Studies of Science*. 20 (1990): 229-54.
- Gabriela Soto Laveaga, *Jungle Laboratories: Mexican Peasants, National Projects, and the Making of the Pill*. Durham : Duke University Press, 2009. 1-24; 197-236.
- Julia Rodríguez, "South Atlantic Crossings: Fingerprints, Science, and the State in Turn-of- the- Century Argentina," *American Historical Review* 109, no. 2 (2004): 387 – 416.
- Emilio Quevedo et al., "Knowledge and Power: The Asymmetry of Interests of Colombian and Rockefeller Doctors in the Construction of the Concept of 'Jungle Yellow Fever', 1907 – 1938," *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History* 25, no. 1 (2008): 71 – 109.

Week 10 SPRING BREAK

Week 11-Apr 2-4 Degeneration, Sex and Public Health
Race and Medical Populism

Readings:

- Ann Zulawski, *Unequal Cures: Public Health and Political Change in Bolivia, 1900-1950*, Durham: Duke University Press, 2007. 1-20; 21-51.
- Dain Borges, "Healing and Mischief: Witchcraft in Brazilian Law and Literature, 1890-1922." In *Crime and Punishment in Latin America: Law and Society since Late Colonial Times*. Ricardo Salvatore et al., eds. Durham: Duke University Press, 2001. 181-210.
- Gabriela Nouzeilles, "An Imaginary Plague in Turn-of-the-Century Buenos Aires," in Diego Armus, *Disease in the history of modern Latin America: from malaria to AIDS*. Durham: Duke Univ. Press, 2003. 51-75.
- Marcos Cueto, "Social Medicine and 'Leprosy' in the Peruvian Amazon," *The Americas* 61, no. 1 (2004): 55 – 80.
- Pablo Piccato, "Cuidado con los Rateros: The Making of Criminals in Modern Mexico City." in, Ricardo D., Salvatore, Carlos Aguirre, and G. M. Joseph. *Crime and Punishment in Latin America: Law and Society Since Late Colonial Times*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2001. 233-274

Week 12-Apr 9-11: Cold War and the Politics of International Health in Latin America
The Guatemala Experiment

Readings:

- Marcos Cueto, *Cold War, Deadly Fevers: Malaria Eradication in Mexico, 1955 – 1975*. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center/Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 2007. 15-69.
- Susan M. Reverby. "Normal Exposure" and Inoculation Syphilis: A PHS "Tuskegee" Doctor in Guatemala, 1946-1948," *The Journal of Policy History* 23, no. 1 (2011): 6-28.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *CDC Report on Findings from the U.S. Public Health Service Sexually Transmitted Disease Inoculation Study of 1946–1948, Based on Review of Archived Papers of John Cutler, MD, at the University of Pittsburgh*. Washington, DC: Dept. of Health and Human Services, 2010. 1-25.
- Gilberto Hochman, "Priority, Invisibility and Eradication: The History of Smallpox and the Brazilian Public Health Agenda," *Medical History* 53 (2009): 229-52.
- Gilberto Hochman, "From Autonomy to Partial Alignment: National Malaria Programs in the Time of Global Eradication, Brazil, 1941 – 1961," *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History* 25, no. 1 (2008): 161-92.

Week 13-April 16-18: Redefining Gender
Nuns, Priests and Health Care in Mid-century Latin America

Readings:

- Victoria Langland, "Birth Control Pills and Molotov Cocktails: Reading Sex Revolution in 1968 Brazil," in *In From the Cold: Latin America's New Encounter with the Cold War*. Gilbert M. Joseph and Daniela Spenser. (Durham: Duke University Press, 2008), p. 308-349.
- Raúl Necochea, "Priests and Pills: Catholic Family Planning in Peru, 1967-1976," *Latin American Research Review* 43, no. 2 (2008): 34-56.
- Susan Fitzpatrick Behrens, "Maryknoll Sisters, Faith, Healing and the Maya Construction of Catholic Communities in Guatemala," *Latin American Research Review* 44, no. 3 (2009): 27-49.
- Natalia Milanesio, "Redefining Men's Sexuality, Resignifying Male Bodies: The Argentine Law of Anti-Venereal Prophylaxis, 1936," *Gender and History* 17, no. 2 (2005): 463 – 91.
- Katherine Elaine Bliss, *Compromised Positions: Prostitution, Public Health, and Gender Politics in Revolutionary Mexico City* (University Park: Pennsylvania State Univ. Press, 2001). 127-151.

Week 14-April 23-25: Health and Culture in Cuba
Violence and Public Health: Colombia and Peru

Readings:

- Candace Johnson, "Health as Culture and Nationalism in Cuba," *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies* 31:61 (2006): 91-113.

- James McGuire and Laura Frankel, “Mortality Decline in Cuba, 1900 – 1959: Patterns, Comparisons, and Causes,” *Latin American Research Review* 40 (2005): 83-116.
- Tom Leatherman and R. Brooke Thomas, “Structural Violence, Political Violence, and the Health Costs of Civil Conflict: A Case Study from Peru,” in *Anthropology and Public Health: Bridging Differences in Culture and Society*. Ed. Robert A. Hahn, and Marcia Claire Inhorn. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009. 196-218.
- Richard Garfield and Claudia Patricia Llanten Morales, *The Public Health Context of Violence in Colombia*. *Revista Panamericana De Salud Pública*. 16 (2004): 266-271.

Week 15-Apr 30-May 2: HIV/AIDS in Latin America
International Medical Humanitarianism

Readings:

- Shawn Smallman, *The AIDS Pandemic in Latin America*. Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Press, 2007. 18-66.
- Patrick Larvie, “Nation, Science, and Sex: AIDS and the New Brazilian Sexuality,” in *Disease in the History of Modern Latin America: From Malaria to AIDS*, ed. Diego Armus (Durham: Duke University Press, 2003), 290-313.
- Paul Farmer, *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005. 137-159.
- Mark Padilla, “The Limits of “Heterosexual AIDS”: Ethnographic Research on Tourism and Male Sexual Labor in the Dominican Republic,” in *Anthropology and Public Health: Bridging Differences in Culture and Society*. Ed. Robert A. Hahn, and Marcia Claire Inhorn. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009. 142-174.

Week 16-May 7-9: Opportunities and Challenges
Conclusion

Readings:

- Débora Tajer, “Latin American Social Medicine: Roots, Development During the 1990s, and Current Challenges,” *American Journal of Public Health* 93 (Dec 2003): 2023-2027.
- Howard Waitzkin, Cecilia Iriart, Alfredo Estrada, and Silvia LaMadrid, “Social Medicine Then and Now: Lessons from Latin America,” *American Journal of Public Health* 91, no. 10 (2001): 1592-601.
- Paul Farmer, *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005. 212-256.

***SECOND PAPER DUE MAY 10, 5PM CST.** Electronic submission at *learn@UW* site.