

History 4080:
History of Medicine in Western Society
Fall 2017

Professor Nadja Durbach
THIS COURSE IS FULLY ONLINE

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This course is an introduction to the theories and practices of medicine from our earliest ancestors to the present day. It approaches the study of sickness and health from the perspective of both those who attempted to heal the sick and those suffering from bodily ailments. Disease and illness are constants in human history and central to the lived experiences of humans across time and space. But how groups have chosen to manage sickness and health is culturally dependent, has changed over time, and reflects the inequalities inherent in differences of gender, class, sexuality, race, and ethnicity. This course will encourage students to investigate the social, political, economic, religious, and cultural factors that have shaped the emergence of medical practices and theories over time.

Learning Objectives:

This course fulfills the Intellectual Explorations-Humanities (HF) and the International (IR) General Education Requirement. At the end of History 4080, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the changes that have occurred over time and across national borders in relation to attitudes towards health and sickness (Knowledge of human cultures and civilizations from the perspective of the Humanities and from a Transnational perspective)
- Construct and articulate written arguments that situate medical theories and practices within their historical contexts (Written Communication)
- Analyze historical documents effectively (Inquiry and Analysis)
- Think critically about medicine as a set of cultural practices; as a scarce but vital resource; and to assess how gender, race, class, sexuality, etc. shape access to medicine and thus the experiences of sickness (Ethical Reasoning)

Student Learning Assessment:

The students will be evaluated based on the following:

- Three analytical papers of at least 4 pages double-spaced that undertake a “close reading” of one or more historical documents. These will include visual sources. (3 x 20%)
- Module quizzes. (10%)
- Ten posts to the Discussion forum that engage with and promote discussion about the issues raised in the modules. These posts should seek both to understand the past on its own terms and to raise questions about the relationship between past and present approaches to sickness and health. (10%)
- A final exam based on the content in the textbook, lectures, and primary sources. A Study Guide will be posted near the end of the semester. (20%)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FINAL WILL BE ONLINE BUT MUST BE TAKEN IN PERSON AT AN APPROVED TESTING CENTER. IF YOU ARE OUTSIDE OF UTAH THERE WILL STILL BE MANY TO CHOOSE FROM. EVERYONE WILL HAVE TO REGISTER AT A TESTING CENTER IN ADVANCE OF THE EXAM.

Readings:

The background readings and many of the primary source texts are available directly through the Canvas course site. In addition you are required to purchase the following collection of primary sources, which we will use extensively: David J. Rothman, Steven Marcus, and Stephanie A. Kiceluk, *Medicine and Western Civilization* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1995.) Readings on the syllabus drawn from this collection are designated [MWC]. You must also purchase Kazuo Ishiguro’s novel, *Never Let Me Go*. These two books are available in the bookstore and through Amazon and other online retailers.

MODULES:

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Medicine in the Ancient World

Background Reading:

David C. Lindberg, “Greek and Roman Medicine”

Primary Sources:

Hippocrates, “The Nature of Man” [MWC]

Hippocrates, “The Sacred Disease” [MWC]

Galen, “The Art of Medicine”

Week 3: Medieval Medicine

Background Reading:

Katharine Park, “Medicine and Society in Medieval Europe, 500-1500”

Primary Sources:

Ibn Sina (Avicenna), "On Medicine"

Jordan of Turre, "The Symptoms of Lepers" [MWC]

Pistoia, "Ordinances for Sanitation in a Time of Mortality"

Week 4: The Renaissance

Background Reading:

Andrew Wear, "Medicine in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1700" (pp. 250-325)

Primary Sources:

Paracelsus, "Volumen Medicinae Paramirum" [MWC]

Andreas Vesalius, "The Fabric of the Human Body" [MWC]

Baldasar Hesel, "Vesalius' First Public Anatomy" [MWC]

Felix Platter, "Journal" [MWC]

Assignment: Andreas Vesalius paper (DUE SEPTEMBER 22)

Week 5: The Scientific Revolution and New Models of the Body

Background Reading:

Silvia De Renzi, "Old and New Models of the Body"

Primary Sources:

William Harvey, "On the Motion of the Heart and Blood" [MWC]

Rene Descartes, "On Digestion"

George Cheyne, "New Theories, Old Cures"

Week 6: The Globalization of Medicine and Disease

Background Reading:

Timothy Walker, "Acquisition and Circulation of Medical Knowledge within the Early Modern Portuguese Colonial Empire"

Colin Calloway, "Healing and Disease"

Primary Sources:

Francisco Hernandez, "Mexican Treasury"

Andrew Blackbird, "Oral Tradition About the Decimation of his People by Smallpox"

Ulrich von Hutten, "Of the beginnings of the French Pox" [MWC]

Week 7: The 18thc Medical Marketplace

Background Reading:

Dorothy Porter and Roy Porter, "Consultations"

Roy Porter, "Before the Fringe: 'Quackery' and the 18thc Medical Market"

Primary Sources:

"The Harangue or Quack Speech of T. Jones at York"

George Spangenberg, "Letter to Collegium Medicum of Braunschweig"

Giovanni Battista Morgagni, from *The Seats and Causes of Disease*

Week 8: The Clinic and the Hospital

Background Reading:

Roy Porter, "The Hospital"

Roy Porter, "Scientific Medicine in the 19thc" (pp. 304-14)

Dora B. Weiner and Michael J. Sauter, "The City of Paris and the Rise of Clinical Medicine"

Primary Sources:

Philippe Pinel, "The Clinical Training of Doctors" [MWC]

Rene Laennec, "A Treatise on Diseases of the Chest" [MWC]

John Aiken, "Thoughts on Hospitals"

Massachusetts General Hospital, "By-Laws, Rules and Regulations" [MWC]

Week 9: Anatomy, Experimental Medicine, and the Laboratory

Background Reading:

Michael Sappol, "A Traffic of Dead Bodies"

Roy Porter, "Scientific Medicine in the 19thc" (pp. 314-47).

Primary Sources:

"A Timely Hint to Anatomical Practitioners"

Claude Bernard, "An Introduction to the Study of Experimental Medicine" [MWC]

Assignment: Edward Jenner paper (DUE OCTOBER 27)

Week 10: The Professionalization of Medicine and the Rise of Alternative Medicine

Background Reading:

Deborah Brunton, "The Emergence of a Modern Profession?"

Primary Sources:

The Lancet, "An Operation by Bransby Cooper"

Samuel Thomson, "On the Medical Profession as Murderous Monopoly"

Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, "Medical Legislation"

Elizabeth Blackwell, "The Influence of Women in the Profession of Medicine" [MWC]

Week 11: Dirt, Germs, and Public Health

Background Reading:

Nancy Tomes, "Apostles of the Germ"

Dorothy Porter, "Public Health"

Primary Sources:

Edwin Chadwick, "Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Population of Great Britain" [MWC]

Ignaz Semmelweis, "The Etiology, Concept, and Prophylaxis of Childbed Fever" [MWC]

Florence Nightingale, "Notes on Hospitals" [MWC]

Louis Pasteur, "On the Extension of the Germ Theory to the Etiology of Certain Common Diseases" [MWC]

Robert Koch, "The Aetiology of Tuberculosis" [MWC]

Week 12: Surgery: Antisepsis, Asepsis, and Anesthesia

Background Reading:

Jacalyn Duffin, "Work of the Hand: History of Surgery"

Primary Sources:

Joseph Lister, "On the Antiseptic Principle in the Practice of Surgery" [MWC]

C.W. Long, "An account of the first use of Sulphuric Ether by Inhalation as an Anaesthetic in Surgical Operations"

Frances Burney, "A Mastectomy" [MWC]

Assignment: photo analysis of operating rooms (DUE DECEMBER 1)

Week 13: Heredity, Genes, and Race

Background Reading:

Allan Brandt, "Racism and Research: The Case of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study"

Robert Proctor, "The Origins of Racial Hygiene"

Primary Sources:

Jean Heller, "Syphilis Victims In U.S. Study Went Untreated for 40 Years"

"Interview with Four Survivors, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Study, 1973"

"Buck vs. Bell Supreme Court Decision"

Zora Neale Hurston, "My Most Humiliating Jim Crow Experience" [MWC]

Week 14: Replacement Parts: Prosthetics, Transfusions, Transplants

Background Reading:

No background reading this week

Primary Sources:

Kazuo Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go*

"Hearings Before the Senate Subcommittee on Health: Quality of Healthcare—Human Experimentation, 1973"

Assignment: Kazuo Ishiguro paper

NOTE: There are no study questions for this week

Week 15: Modern Plagues: Cancer and AIDS

Background Reading:

David Cantor, "Cancer"

Steven Epstein, "The Nature of a New Threat"

Primary Sources:

Paul Monette, from *Borrowed Time: An AIDS Memoir* [MWC]

Philip Larkin, "Aubade" [MWC]

FINAL EXAM IS ONLINE DURING LAST WEEK OF FINALS