

History of Medicine: Antiquity to the Scientific Revolution.

HSMT 140.105

Autumn 2015

Welcome to the History of Medicine, Antiquity to the Scientific Revolution. We will be meeting Monday-Wednesday-Friday 10-10:50 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays will be lectures; on Fridays, you will meet with your section leaders for discussion of readings and assignments.

We will review the long-term development of Western medicine in the pre-modern period, including its contact and exchange with other medical cultures. We will examine the social and intellectual contexts of medical personnel, institutions, practices and ideas, addressing in particular these issues:

- a) Notions of body, health and illness in a comparative and cross-cultural perspective.
- b) The social definition of the physician's role. We will examine the tension between the medical marketplace, populated by a variety of competing healers, and the medical licensing system, as it was gradually introduced starting in the European Middle Ages. We will review the varying criteria of inclusion and exclusion from medical practice (such as gender, class and education). We will also look at important changes in the relationship between healers and patients, as regulated by social custom and by the law.
- c) Medicine as a system of knowledge. We will examine the interplay of theoretical models with the practices of observation and recording of data. We will also consider the intellectual exchange between medicine and other disciplines, such as natural philosophy and natural history.
- d) The varying relationship between medicine and religious belief.

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Requirements and grading

The course is organized into two lectures and one discussion section per week. Doing well in this course requires regularly attending lectures, participating in discussions and keeping up with the readings. For each week, readings are listed that will help you understand the lectures and will form the basis of the Friday discussion. It is strongly recommended that you start the readings for each week well in advance, in order to be ready for the discussion section. More in general, it is strongly recommended that you take notes of both lectures and readings. Note-taking will greatly facilitate your active participation in class discussion and in exam preparation.

Your grade will be based on the following: participation in discussion section (20%); written assignments (30%); mid-term exam (20%); final exam (30%).

Academic Ethics

Doing history is a social process. We rely upon other scholars for finding sources, translating them, and offering us fresh interpretations based upon them. Therefore it is very important to credit others for such work, usually by means of footnotes or other forms of citation. Please see the helpful guide to citation practices on the library's research help website:

<http://library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/>. If you have any questions, please raise them with your instructor or TA. It is also important to listen respectfully to the views of others; history is a conversation, and everyone is entitled to their own point of view, provided they can offer evidence for it. When you disagree with another student's interpretation, say so courteously and explain why you see it differently.

The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, re-use of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. Report any violations you witness to the instructor. You may consult the associate dean of student affairs and/or the chairman of the Ethics Board beforehand. For more information, you may refer to the guide on "Academic Ethics for Undergraduates" and the Ethics Board Web site at http://www.jhu.edu/design/oliver/academic_manual/ethics.html

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

You will write two short papers analyzing primary sources.

- 1) **First paper, due October 9:**

In a short text (4-6 pages) compare the case histories in the excerpts from the Hippocratic *Epidemics* and from al-Rhazi's (=Rhazes's) casebook (see readings for September 11 and October 2). Guidelines for the writing of the paper will be distributed in class.

2) Second paper, due November 22:

In a short text (4-6 pages) compare the vision of the role of the physician as expressed in Vesalius' Preface to *The Fabric of the Human Body* and in Paracelsus' *Seven Defensiones* (see readings for October 23 and November 6). Guidelines for the writing of the paper will be distributed in class.

Text (available new or used from online retailers):

Lawrence I. Conrad, Michael Neve, Vivian Nutton, Roy Porter, and Andrew Wear *The Western Medical Tradition: 800 BC-1800 AD*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995).

All other readings for the course are on reserve at the Eisenhower Library and on the library website. Look for "reserve readings" under the course number or the instructor's name: <http://www.library.jhu.edu/> Look for "electronic reserves" in the middle column under "Tools and Tips". You'll be asked to login with your JHED ID.

The Blackboard website has the syllabus, guidelines for the written assignments, and a link to the reserve readings, plus other material for the course. To access the website, go to: <http://blackboard.jhu.edu>. Log in using your JHED ID and select the course. If you are not yet registered for the course, or you do not yet have a JHED ID, you can log in as a guest. Use test_140.105 as your login and student as your password.

WEEK ONE: August 31-September 4

August 31: Lecture 1. The history of medicine across cultures: an introduction.

September 2: Lecture 2. Comparative histories of medicine: ancient Greek and Chinese views of the body.

September 4: Discussion.

Reading:

* Shigehisa Kuriyama, *The Expressiveness of the Body and the Divergence of Greek and Chinese Medicine*, New York, Zone Books, 1999 (available also as electronic text at

<http://www.netlibrary.com/urlapi.asp?action=summary&v=1&bookid=9314>): ch. 3: “Styles of seeing: muscularity and identity”, pp. 111-151.

* Larissa N. Heinrich, *The Afterlife of Images: Translating the Pathological Body between China and the West*, Taipei, Tianxia wenhua, 2009: selection from ch. 4, pp. 117-134.

WEEK TWO: September 7-10. Hippocratic medicine.

September 7: Labor Day. Classes suspended.

September 9: Lecture 3. Hippocratic medicine: birth and diffusion of a medical tradition.

September 11: Discussion.

Readings:

Vivian Nutton, “Medicine in the Greek World”, in *The Western Medical Tradition*, pp. 11-38.

Source: *Epidemics*, Book 1 (from *Hippocratic Writings*, edited with an introduction by G. E. R. Lloyd, Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1978) pp. 87-112.

WEEK THREE: September 14-18. Medicine in late Antiquity.

September 14: Lecture 4. Healers and patients in ancient Mediterranean cultures.

September 16: Lecture 5. Hellenistic medicine and Alexandrian anatomy.

September 18: Discussion.

Reading:

Heinrich von Staden. “The Discovery of the Body: Human Dissection and Its Cultural Contexts in Ancient Greece”, in *The Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine*, 65 (1992), pp. 223-41.

WEEK FOUR: September 21-25. Ancient medicine from Paganism to Christianity.

September 21: Lecture 6. Medicine in Imperial Rome. Galen and the transformation of Hippocratic medicine.

September 23: Lecture 7. Christianity and medicine.

September 25: Discussion.

Readings:

Vivian Nutton, “Roman medicine, 250 BC to AD 200” in *The Western Medical Tradition*, pp. 39-70.

Source:

Galen, *On Prognosis*, tr. Vivian Nutton, Berlin, 1979, pp. 69-87.

WEEK FIVE: September 28-October 2. Arab-Islamic medicine.

September 28: Lecture 8. Transmission, translation and reinterpretation of the ancient texts.

September 30: Lecture 9. The transformation of Greek humoral medicine in medieval Islam.

October 2. Discussion.

Readings:

Lawrence I. Conrad, “The Arab-Islamic Medical Tradition”, in *The Western Medical Tradition*, pp. 93-138.

Source: Max Meyerhof, “Thirty-three clinical observations by Rhazes (circa 900 AD)”, in *Isis*, 23, 2, 1935, pp. 332-349.

WEEK SIX: October 5-9. Medieval medicine between Islam and the Latin West.

October 5: Lecture 10. Avicenna’s medical synthesis.

October 7: Lecture 11. Hospitals, universities and the emergence of medical licensing.

October 9: Discussion.

Readings:

Vivian Nutton, “Medicine in Medieval Western Europe”, 1000-1500”, in *The Western Medical Tradition*, pp. 139-153.

Nancy Siraisi, *Medieval and Early Renaissance Medicine. An Introduction to Knowledge and Practice*, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1990: ch. 1, pp. 1-16.

First written assignment due on October 9:

In a short text (4-6 pages) compare the case histories in the excerpts from the Hippocratic *Epidemics* and from al-Rhazi's (=Rhazes's) casebook (see readings for September 11 and October 2). Guidelines for the writing of the paper will be distributed in class.

WEEK SEVEN: October 12-16. Medieval medicine: theory and practice.

October 12: Lecture 12. Theory and practice in medieval medicine.

October 14: MIDTERM EXAM.

October 16. Fall Break: classes suspended

Reading:

Nancy Siraisi, *Medieval and Early Renaissance Medicine*, ch. 2, "Practitioners and Conditions of practice", pp. 17-47.

WEEK EIGHT: October 19-23. The Medical Renaissance.

October 19: Lecture 13. Medical Humanism.

October 21: Lecture 14. The renaissance of anatomy.

October 23: Discussion.

Readings:

Andrew Wear, "Medicine in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1700" in *The Western Medical Tradition*, pp. 250-280; 298-310.

Source: Andreas Vesalius, Preface, *On the Fabric of the Human Body*, at <http://vesalius.northwestern.edu/books/FA.a.html>

WEEK NINE: October 26-30. The Early Modern Medical Profession.

October 26: Lecture 15. Medical Colleges, professionalization, and the medical marketplace.

October 28: Lecture 16. Physicians, apothecaries and barber-surgeons. Cooperation and rivalry.

October 30: Discussion.

Readings:

Andrew Wear, "Medicine in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1700" in *The Western Medical Tradition*, pp. 215-250.

Harold J. Cook, "Markets and Cultures: Medical Specifics and the Reconfiguration of the Body in Early Modern Europe," *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, 21 (2011): 123-145.

WEEK TEN: November 2-6: Challenges to the medical orthodoxy.

November 2: Lecture 17. Paracelsianism and "chymical" medicine.

November 4: Lecture 18. Neo-Hippocratism and the decline of Galenism.

November 6: Discussion.

Readings:

Andrew Wear, "Medicine in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1700" in *The Western Medical Tradition*, pp. 310-325.

Source: Paracelsus, "Seven Defensiones", in *Four Treatises*, Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1941 (New York, Arno Press reprint, 1979), pp. 1-42.

WEEK ELEVEN: November 9-13: Breakthrough in Anatomy: the Age of Discovery.

November 9: Lecture 19. Post-Vesalian anatomy.

November 11: Lecture 20. Discoveries: the circulation of the blood and the lymphatic vessels.

November 13: Discussion.

Reading:

Andrew Wear, "Medicine in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1700" in *The Western Medical Tradition*, pp. 280-298; 325-340.

WEEK TWELVE: November 16-20. Medicine and the Scientific Revolution.

November 16: Lecture 21. Mechanical medicine and natural philosophy.

November 18: Lecture 22. Physicians and naturalists: natural history and the new *materia medica*.

November 20: Discussion.

Reading:

Andrew Wear, "Medicine in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1700" in *The Western Medical Tradition*, pp. 340-361.

Second written assignment due on November 20:

In a short text (4-6 pages) compare the vision of the role of the physician as expressed in Vesalius' Preface to *The Fabric of the Human Body* and in Paracelsus' *Seven Defensiones* (see readings for October 23 and November 6). Guidelines for the writing of the paper will be distributed in class.

NOVEMBER 23-29: Thanksgiving holiday**WEEK THIRTEEN: November 30-December 4. Medicine in the first global age: comparative and connected histories.**

November 30: Lecture 23. Western medicine and the European expansion: the encounter with other medical traditions.

December 2: Lecture 24. Networks of medical communication in the first global age.

December 4: Discussion.

Readings:

Harold J. Cook and Timothy D. Walker, "Circulation of Medicine in the Early Modern Atlantic World" in *Social History of Medicine*, 26 (2013) pp. 337-35.

Harold J. Cook, "Conveying Chinese Medicine to Seventeenth-Century Europe," in *Science Between Europe and Asia*, ed. Feza Günergun and Dhruv Raina, Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science, 2011, Vol 275, Part 4, pp. 209-232.