

# Introduction to the History of Medicine

Course Website: <https://courseplus.jhu.edu/core/index.cfm/go/course.home/coid/15553/>

## Contact Information

### Faculty

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## Prerequisites

Introduction to Online Learning

## Intended Audience

Students taking courses from the Online Program in the History of Medicine

MPH students

## Course Description

This course introduces students to key themes and approaches in the history of medicine, healing, and public health. Topics include the history of disease, the history of therapeutics, and patients and healers. The course explores a variety of approaches to the interpretation of primary and secondary sources; a range of analytic frameworks for understanding history; and different techniques for writing histories of scientific research, healing practices, or technologies. We will examine how various historical developments were not predestined, but instead were produced by real people, with interests, wants, needs, motives, and limitations. Students will explore the history of medicine and public health as a way of knowing balancing primary and secondary sources.

## Course Learning Objectives

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe key themes in the history of medicine, healing, and public health
2. Develop skills in the analysis of primary and secondary historical sources
3. Identify a range of techniques for writing about the history of medicine, healing, and public health
4. Demonstrate the value of different analytic frameworks in the history of medicine, healing, and public health

## Course Schedule

Please see the [course schedule](#) for a full list of dates and items for this course.

## Session Topics

This course covers the following topics:

- Historical interpretations of the Black Death
- Gender, Reproduction, and Childbirth
- What is Disease?
- Patients and Healers
- Cultural Histories of Pain

- Rethinking Efficacy: Therapeutics in Historical Perspective
- Bodies and Representation
- Ethics and Experimentation

The course develops the following transferable skills:

- Critical evaluation of secondary literature
- Analysis of primary sources, including texts, data, images, maps, and artifacts
- Identifying how authors use evidence to make arguments

## Methods of Assessment

Assignments: 80%; Final Paper: 20%.

## Methods of Assessment Details

This course is Pass/Fail. Assessment is based on a combination of weekly assignments (completed alone or in small groups) and a final paper. The percentage breakdown for each component is:

Weekly Assignments and Participation: 80%

Final Paper: 20%

## Modes of Communication (email, discussion forums, etc)

Email will be used for regular communication among students and faculty, including announcements and exchange of information. All students will be expected to check email regularly. Online office hours by appointment.

The course will also make regular use of VoiceThread and Live Talks.

For technical assistance contact: [ctlhelp@jhsphe.edu](mailto:ctlhelp@jhsphe.edu)

## LiveTalk Requirements

We will be using Zoom for our live sessions in this course. You are **required** to use a JHU Blue Jays Zoom account for participation in all live Zoom activities. Information about creating your free JHU Zoom account, using your JHED, can be found at [JHU Student Zoom Info](#). You are expected to have Zoom [downloaded](#), regularly [updated](#) to the latest version, and ready for use prior to the first day of class. You are encouraged to turn on your video to better engage with your peers, faculty, and guest lecturers during the live sessions. Additionally, you should familiarize yourself with Zoom etiquette, such as muting yourself unless you are currently speaking and using your host's parameters for discussion by using the chat or raise hand function.

This PDF also has tips on how to use Zoom: <https://courseplus.jhu.edu/fileDepot/onlineLibrary/2143/LiveTalks-JoiningViaZoom.pdf>

The LiveTalks will be recorded. These recordings will be made available to all students registered for this course for educational purposes only.

## Registration Notes

JHU students enrolled in graduate degree programs (not in the School of Medicine) must submit a History of Medicine Program online application at <http://historyofmedicine.jhmi.edu>, in addition to an IDR with their home school to register for this course. No audits allowed.

## Academic Ethics and Student Conduct Code

Students enrolled in the Bloomberg School of Public Health of The Johns Hopkins University assume an obligation to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to the University's mission as an institution of higher education. A student is obligated to refrain from acts which he or she knows, or under the circumstances has reason to know, impair the academic integrity of the University. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to: cheating; plagiarism; knowingly furnishing false information to any agent of the University for inclusion in the academic record; violation of the rights and welfare of animal or human subjects in research; and misconduct as a member of either School or University committees or recognized groups or organizations.

Students should be familiar with the policies and procedures specified under Policy and Procedure Manual Student-01 (Academic Ethics), available on the school's <http://my.jhsph.edu> portal.

The faculty, staff and students of the Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Johns Hopkins University have the shared responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner that upholds the law and respects the rights of others. Students enrolled in the School are subject to the Student Conduct Code (detailed in Policy and Procedure Manual Student-06) and assume an obligation to conduct themselves in a manner which upholds the law and respects the rights of others. They are responsible for maintaining the academic integrity of the institution and for preserving an environment conducive to the safe pursuit of the School's educational, research, and professional practice missions.

## **Toolbox Videos**

The Online Program has made a number of brief videos that provide guidance on specific aspects of historical work, such as reading primary sources, or avoiding plagiarism. All the videos are available on our YouTube channel in the "Toolbox" playlist.

Please refer to [this link](#).

## **Students with Disabilities - Accommodations and Accessibility**

School of Public Health registrants:

Johns Hopkins University values diversity and inclusion. We are committed to providing welcoming, equitable, and accessible educational experiences for all students. Students with disabilities (including those with psychological conditions, medical conditions, and temporary disabilities) can request accommodations for this course by providing an Accommodation Letter issued by Student Disability Services (SDS). Please request accommodations for this course as early as possible to provide time for effective communication and arrangements. For further information or to start the process of requesting accommodations, please contact Student Disability Services at the Bloomberg School of Public Health at [JHSPH.dss@jhu.edu](mailto:JHSPH.dss@jhu.edu).

School of Medicine registrants:

Students with disabilities who require accommodations for this course should first contact Kristina Nance, [Student Disability Services](#) Coordinator for Graduate Biomedical Education ([GradDisabilityOffice@jhu.edu](mailto:GradDisabilityOffice@jhu.edu) or 667-209-8058). The Coordinator can provide information about how to establish eligibility for accommodations as well as the process to use to officially request them.

## Schedule

Available	Assignment	Due	
<b>Week 1: Introduction &amp; The Black Death: Two Stories</b>			
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Lecture 0	Course Introduction (Moses)	---
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Readings	Readings Week 1	---
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Lecture 1	The Black Death: Two Stories ( <i>Fissell</i> )	---
Wed, Sep 1 , 7 PM to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	LiveTalk 1	Weds, Sept. 1, 2021, 7:00-8:30 pm ET	---
Sat, Aug 28 to Fri, Sep 3, 11:59 PM	Assignments	Week 1 Assignments	Wed, Sep 1 , 5 PM
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Activity	Office Hours	---
<b>Week 2: From Witches to Man-Midwives: Childbirth in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries</b>			
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Lecture 2	From Witches to Man-Midwives: Childbirth in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries ( <i>O'Brien</i> )	---
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Readings	Readings Week 2	---

Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Assignments	Week 2 Assignments	Fri, Sep 10 , 11:59 PM
Sat, Aug 28 to Sat, Oct 23, 11:59 PM	Activity	Office Hours	---
<b>Week 3: What is Disease?</b>			
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Lecture 3	What Is Disease? ( <i>Greene</i> )	---
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Readings	Readings Week 3	---
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Assignments	Week 3 Assignments	Fri, Sep 17 , 11:59 PM
Sat, Aug 28 to Sat, Oct 23, 11:59 PM	Activity	Office Hours	---
<b>Week 4: Patients and Healers</b>			
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Lecture 4	Patients and Healers ( <i>Fissell</i> )	---
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Readings	Readings Week 4	---
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Assignments	Week 4 Assignments	Fri, Sep 24 , 11:59 PM

Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Activity	Office Hours	---
Mon, Sep 20 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Survey	Week 4 Assignments	---
<b>Week 5: Rethinking Efficacy: Therapeutics in Historical Perspective</b>			
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Lecture 5	Therapeutics ( <i>Greene</i> )	---
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Readings	Readings Week 5	---
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Assignments	Week 5 Assignments	Fri, Oct 1 , 11:59 PM
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Activity	Office Hours	---
<b>Week 6: Cultural Histories of Pain</b>			
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Lecture 6	Cultural History of Pain ( <i>Mooney</i> )	---
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Readings	Readings Week 6	---
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Assignments	Week 6 Assignments	Fri, Oct 8 , 11:59 PM

Wed, Oct 6 , 4 PM to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	LiveTalk 2	Weds, Oct. 6, 2021, 5:30PM - 6:30PM ET	---
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Activity	Office Hours	---
<b>Week 7: Bodies and Representation</b>			
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Lecture 7	Bodies and Representations ( <i>Fissell</i> )	---
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Readings	Readings Week 7	---
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Assignments	Week 7 Assignments	Fri, Oct 15 , 11:59 PM
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Activity	Office Hours	---
<b>Week 8:</b>			
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Lecture 8	Judging the Past: History and the Ethics of Human Experimentation ( <i>Moses</i> )	---
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Assignments	Week 8 Assignments	Sun, Oct 24 , 11:59 PM
Wed, Oct 20 , 5:30 PM to Wed, Dec 31,	LiveTalk 3	Weds., Oct. 20, 2020, 5:30PM-6:30PM ET	---

11:59 PM			
Sat, Aug 28 to Wed, Dec 31, 11:59 PM	Activity	Office Hours	--
Mon, Oct 11 to Fri, Nov 5, 11:59 PM	Course Evaluation	Please share your feedback on the course.	--