

HISTORY OF MEDICINE

Antiquity to Scientific Revolution

Graduate Student Survey



Ahmed Ragab, MD. PhD.

M, W 10-10.50 am; Gilman 132 + Section W 3-5.30 (Seminar Room, Wlech)

HISTORY OF MEDICINE

INTRODUCTION

What happened when one got sick in ancient Greece, China or India? What types of medicines they took? How did physicians think about diseases, bodies and healing? How did this change over the medieval period and into early modernity? What did race, sex and gender mean from a medical perspective? And how did religion and medicine interact throughout this period?

In this course, we will take a journey through the history of medicine from antiquity to the early modern period. Throughout these centuries, we will trace how human bodies were understood, how diseases were diagnosed and treated, how physicians and other medical practitioners learned, were certified and practiced. We will also consider how medicine contributed to concepts of race, sex, gender and human difference, what role medicine played in early colonial history, in slavery and genocide of native peoples; and how religion affected or influenced medical knowledge and practice. Thinking comparatively, we will trace major developments and trends in medical thought and practice and how they resonated across different regions around the world.

In the grad seminar, we will also focus on historiography of premodern medicine, questions that animated scholarship and new directions and questions in the field

COURSE STRUCTURE

Each week, you will attend the undergraduate lectures on Monday and Wednesday. We will meet for the graduate seminar, where we will discuss new primary sources as well as questions of methodology and historiography. The assignments in the course are meant to help you develop new skills in premodern history of medicine.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance

Attendance and participation are key part of the course. If you cannot make it to class, let me know as soon as you can. We will work together to facilitate make-up discussions.

Disability and mental health

I will do my best to ensure that you are in the best position to learn. If you have any disability, difficulty in learning or using the course materials, including lectures, or in participating in the seminar, let me know. We will work together to alleviate these difficulties.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Participation in lecture and section

Participation in lecture and section are key to the course. As part of your participation, before the seminar, choose a paragraph or a short quote from one of the readings that spoke to you, you found difficult, challenging, or interesting.

2. Primary "Sourcing"

An important part of a historian's work with primary sources is related to finding these sources, knowing where to look and choosing which sources can address particular questions and why. Every week starting on week 3, one student will sign up to find a primary source for all of us to discuss. A sign-up sheet will be available in our first meeting. I will work closely with you every week to find primary sources. You will send the selected source on the Monday before the seminar meeting and briefly present it during the seminar.

3. Syllabus (due on 12/2)

Prepare a syllabus for a seminar (13 weekly meetings) that addresses one or more of the themes in the course, and/or focuses on any of the different periods that we cover in the course. We will discuss syllabus development in several meetings throughout the semester.

4. Prepare an exam (due on 12/2)

Prepare an exam composed of three essay questions based on this course. This should be designed as an open-book exam. Each question should be answerable in about 7 hours. We will discuss the exam in section.

5. Final exam

This is the department exam.

The exam is composed of 3 sections. You will choose one question from each section. Each question should be answered in an essay, which should have a clear structure and argument. Consider the questions as prompts for essays or short papers.

- Sections 1: composed of 2 questions from which you will choose one. Each essay should be 2000 words
- Section 2: Choose one question from the exam that you prepared and we workshopped, and answer it. This essay should be 2000 words
- Section 3: This is a primary source analysis question. You will be given two primary sources to choose one and analyze. This essay should be 1500 words

This is an open-book exam. You can check your notes, use books, etc. You will have 35 work hours (1 week) to answer the questions. If you have difficulty during the exam period, encounter health or mental health problems or concerns, let me know. We will work out a make-up plan.

SCHEDULE

1. ***Introduction: Medicines and Bodies 8/31***

How can we study the ancient world? What does ancient mean? And why does history of medicine matter?

Duden, Barbara. *The Woman Beneath the Skin: A Doctor's Patients In Eighteenth-Century Germany*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1991

2. ***Ancient Bodies, Ancient Medicine 9/7***

Hippocrates, Heraclitus, W. H. S. Jones, Paul Potter, Wesley D. Smith, and E. T. Withington. *Hippocrates*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2014. Pp. 4-10 (Anatomy); 98-108 (Aphorisms, first section)

TJ Hinrichs, Linda Barnes (ed.) *Chinese Medicine and Healing: an illustrated history*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2013. Pp. 40-45

Wujastyk, D. *The Roots of Ayurveda: Selections From Sanskrit Medical Writings*. New Delhi: Penguin Books India, 1998. Pp. 60-74.

Kuriyama, Shigehisa. *The Expressiveness of the Body and the Divergence of Greek and Chinese Medicine*, New York, Zone Books, 1999 (e- text at JHU online NetLibrary). Chs 1, 2

Nathan Sivin, "Why Some Comparisons Make More Difference Than Others," in Lloyd, G. E. R., & Jingyi Jenny Zhao, eds, *Ancient Greece and China Compared* (Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 2018): 3-40.

3. ***Medicine, Religion and Empire 9/14***

Larissa N. Heinrich, *The Afterlife of Images: Translating the Pathological Body between China and the West* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2009). ch. 4.

Needham, Joseph, and Lu Gwei-Djen. "Hygiene and preventive medicine in ancient China." *Journal of the history of medicine and allied sciences* (1962): 429-478.

Van Minnen, Peter. "Medical care in late antiquity." In *Ancient Medicine in Its Socio-Cultural Context, Volume I*, pp. 153-169. Brill, 1995.

Marx-Wolf, Heidi, and Kristi Upson-Saia. "The state of the question: religion, medicine, disability, and health in Late Antiquity." *Journal of Late Antiquity* 8, no. 2 (2015): 257-272.

4. ***Roman and Byzantine medicine 9/21***

Galen, *On Prognosis*, ed. & trans. Vivian Nutton, (Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 1979), [*Corpus Medicorum Graecorum*; vol. V, pt. 8, no. 1.]: 101-117.

Baldwin, Barry. "Beyond the house call: Doctors in early Byzantine History and Politics." *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 38 (1984): 15-19.

Temkin, Owsei. "Byzantine medicine: tradition and empiricism." *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 16 (1962): 95-115.

Magoulias, Harry J. "The lives of the saints as sources of data for the history of Byzantine medicine in the sixth and seventh centuries." (1964): 127-150.

5. *Eastern Humorism: From Syriac to Islamic Medicine* 9/28

Zacharias, Bishop of Mytilene, F. J. (Frederick John) Hamilton, E. W. (Ernest Walter) Brooks, and British Library. The Syriac Chronicle Known As That of Zachariah of Mitylene. London: Methuen & Co., 1899. Pp. 103-5; 265-68

Budge, E. A. Wallis *Syrian Anatomy, Pathology and Therapeutics: Or, "the Book of Medicines" ; the Syriac Text, Edited From a Rare Manuscript, with an English Translation, Etc..* London: Oxford University Press, 1913. Pp. 1-15; 441-49

Pormann, Peter E., and Emilie Savage-Smith. *Medieval Islamic Medicine*, (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2007): 6-23.

Gutas, Dimitri. *Greek Thought, Arabic Culture: The Greco-Arabic Translation Movement in Baghdad and Early Abbasid Society*. (London; New York: Routledge, 1998). Pp. 11-27

Ragab, Ahmed. "Translation and the Making of a Medical Archive: The Case of the Islamic 'Translation Movement.'" *Osiris* 37 (2022).

6. *The New Islamic Medicine* 10/5

Max Meyerhof, "Thirty-three Clinical Observations by Rhazes", *Isis* 23 (1935), 321-56.

‘Abd al-‘Azīz Al-Sulamī, Gary Leiser, and Noury Al-Khaledy. *Questions and Answers for Physicians: A Medieval Arabic Study Manual*. Leiden: Brill, 2004. Pp. 25-39.

Katharine Park, Ahmed Ragab, *Communities of Knowledge: Medicine and Science in Medieval Europe and Islamdom*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press (forthcoming). Chapter 4: Cinnamon

Paul D. Buell, "How did Persian and Other Western Medical Knowledge Move East, and Chinese West? A Look at the Role of Rashīd al-Dīn and Others," *Asian Medicine: Tradition and Modernity*, 3.2 (2007): 279-95.

Ronit Yoeli-Tlalim, "Revisiting 'Galen in Tibet', *Medical History* 56.3 (2012), 355-365;

Gutas, Dimitri. *Greek Thought, Arabic Culture: The Greco-Arabic Translation Movement in Baghdad and Early Abbasid Society*. (London; New York: Routledge, 1998). Pp. 11-60

7. *The Age of the Hospital* 10/12

Horden, Peregrine. "The Earliest Hospitals in Byzantium, Western Europe and Islam." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 35, no. 3 (2005): 361-89.

Ragab, Ahmed. *The Medieval Islamic Hospital: Medicine, Religion and Charity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015. Pp. 1-102

8. *How different was Hospital Medicine* 10/19

Henderson, John, *The Renaissance Hospital: Healing the Body and Healing the Soul*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006. Ch. 1, 2 and 7

Ragab, Ahmed. *The Medieval Islamic Hospital: Medicine, Religion and Charity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015. Pp 141-230.

9. *Universities, Madrasas and Yixue: medical education and licensing* 10/26

Shinno, Reiko. "Medical schools and the temples of the three progenitors in Yuan China: A case of cross-cultural interactions." *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* (2007): 89-133.

Vivian Nutton, "Medicine in Medieval Western Europe, 1000-1500," 139-206

Makdisi, George. "Madrasa and university in the middle ages." *Studia Islamica* 32 (1970): 255-264.

Pormann, Peter E. "The physician and the other: images of the charlatan in medieval Islam." *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* (2005): 189-227.

10. *Black Death: Medicine in pandemic times II/2*

Sussman, George D. "Was the black death in India and China?." *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* (2011): 319-355. (Read this article over the two Black Death sessions)

Horrox, Rosemary. *The Black Death*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1994. Ch3.

Sussman, George D. "Was the black death in India and China?." *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* (2011): 319-355. (Read this article over the two Black Death sessions)

Dols, Michael W. *The Black Death In the Middle East*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1977. Pp. 13-67; 84-142.

11. *New Bodies: Orientalism, Humanism and Race II/9*

Tolmacheva, Marina. "The medieval Arabic geographers and the beginnings of modern Orientalism." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 27, no. 2 (1995): 141-156.

Heng, Geraldine, *The Invention of Race In the European Middle Ages*. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 2018. Pp. 181-200.

Shefer, Miri. "An Ottoman physician and his social and intellectual milieu: the case of Salih bin Nasrallah Ibn Sallum." *Studia Islamica* 106, no. 1 (2011): 102-123.

Charles Webster. *Paracelsus: Medicine, Magic and Mission at the End of Time*, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008), 1-33

Seth, Suman, *Difference and Disease: Medicine, Race, and the Eighteenth-Century British Empire*. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 2018. Pp. 25-57

Hanson, Marta. *Speaking of Epidemics In Chinese Medicine: Disease and the Geographic Imagination In Late Imperial China*. Hoboken: Taylor & Francis, 2011. Pp. 69-90.

12. *Anatomy, sex and gender II/16*

Bray, Francesca. *Technology, Gender and History In Imperial China: Great Transformations Reconsidered*. London: Routledge, 2013

Ragab, Ahmed. "One, two, or many sexes: sex differentiation in medieval Islamicate medical thought." *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 24, no. 3 (2015): 428-454

Burshatin, Israel. "Written on the body: slave or Hermaphrodite in sixteenth-century Spain." *Queer Iberia: Sexualities, cultures, and crossings from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance* (1999): 420-56.

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

Viesca, Carlos, and Ramos R. Mariblanca. "Vesalius: His Presence in New Spain." *Vesalius: Acta Internationales Historiae Medicinae* 22, no. 1 (2016): 43-62.

13. *Slavery and genocide II/30*

Gomez, Pablo F., *The Experiential Caribbean: Creating Knowledge and Healing In the Early Modern Atlantic*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2017

Kelton, Paul. *Cherokee Medicine, Colonial Germs: An Indigenous Nation's Fight against Smallpox, 1518-1824*. Vol. II. University of Oklahoma Press, 2015. Ch. I, 2.

Block, Kristen. "Slavery and inter-imperial leprosy discourse in the Atlantic World." *Atlantic Studies* 14, no. 2 (2017): 243-262.

McAllister, Marie E. "Stories of the Origin of Syphilis in Eighteenth-Century England: Science, Myth, and Prejudice." *Eighteenth-Century Life* 24, no. 1 (2000): 22-44.

14. *Quarantine: Plague and the making of Europe I2/7*

Bradley, Richard. *The plague at Marseilles consider'd*. Vol. I. W. Mears at the Lamb without Temple-Bar., 1721. (selections)

Varlık, Nükhet. *Plague and Contagion in the Islamic Mediterranean*. Arc Humanities Press, 2017. Pp. 57-88.