

HISTORY OF MODERN MEDICINE

The making of scientific medicine from the anatomy theatre to the human genome project and beyond

MWF 10-10:50
Center Hall 113

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Office hours: Mondays 11-1pm, HSS 2302

Course Description:

In the last few decades, medicine and the life sciences have become the locus for some of society's most extravagant hopes and acute anxieties. History of Modern Medicine is aimed at students who would like to uncover the history behind the headlines and take the 'longer view' of some of these questions. We will investigate the origins of aspects of contemporary life familiar to us all, from the vitamins we swallow down with breakfast to giving birth in hospital, bringing a historical perspective to bear on topics such as the storms over American health care reform, the politics of pharmaceutical patents and the emergence of the new genetic determinism.

Required Books:

Roy Porter. *The Greatest Benefit to Mankind: a medical history of humanity*. Available from the UCSD bookstore.

Course Reader. Available from University Readers. Instructions for ordering on TED.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course students should demonstrate:

1. Mastery of the broad outlines of the history of scientific medicine;
2. An understanding of the difference between primary and secondary sources;
3. The capacity to analyze primary sources in their written work;
4. Some historical understanding of contemporary issues;
5. Some improvement in their powers of written expression;
6. A demonstrated grasp of scholarly citation technique.

Course Requirements:

Attendance:

Attendance at lectures is required. A sign-in sheet will be passed around on random occasions. There will be a grade penalty for more than 2 unexcused absences.

Midterm: [5-6 pages] 40%

There will be a take-home midterm in which you will analyze three primary sources, in answer to three questions. This will be 5-6 pages long, double spaced, twelve point type. Due on Wednesday of Week 6.

Primary Source: 5%

On Wednesday of Week 9, come to class with a contemporary primary source of your choice, with a paragraph of explanation of its historical significance, to be turned in to the graders. This assignment is pass/no-pass.

Final Exam: [9-10 pages] 55%

There will be a take-home final, in which you will incorporate your chosen primary source into a longer narrative about medicine in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. This will be 9-10 pages long, same format as the midterm.

Students are required to comply with the academic integrity rules of this university, and will be required to turn in an electronic copy of their take-home exams to turn-it-in.com, the plagiarism software on the WebCT site. Anyone found to be in violation will be reported to the academic integrity office, with no exceptions.

Course Schedule:

The class is organized chronologically: first week will be devoted to early modern medicine; week two to the eighteenth century; weeks three, four and five to the nineteenth century; weeks six, seven, eight and nine to the twentieth century. In tenth week we will be discussing contemporary issues.

Week 1: Introduction and Early Modern Medicine

Greatest Benefit, Ch. VIII, IX

M: Introduction to the course

W: Early modern disease and the theory of the humors

F: The Islamic Hospital and the Renaissance Anatomy Theatre

Week 2: Eighteenth Century

Greatest Benefit, Ch. X, XI

Laennec, René: *On Mediate Auscultation*, excerpts, in *Source Book of Medical History*, pp. 313-330.

M/W: Enlightenment medicine

F: The Paris Hospital and the stethoscope

Week 3: Nineteenth Century - Public Health and Education

Greatest Benefit, Ch. XIII

Snow, John, *On the Mode of Communication of Cholera* (1855), in Clendening, Logan. 1960. *Source Book of Medical History*. Mineola, NY. Dover Editions, pp. 468-472

M: No class

W: Public Health and sanitary police

F: Medical education

Week 4: Nineteenth Century – Medical Research

Greatest Benefit, Ch. XII

Bernard, Claude, (1865), *An Introduction to the Study of Experimental Medicine*, pp. 5-26.

M: Women in Medicine

W: Medical Research

F: Ghastly kitchens

Week 5: Nineteenth Century - Microbes

Greatest Benefit, Ch. XIV, XIX

Pasteur, Louis. 1881. "An Address on Vaccination in Relation to Chicken Cholera and Splenic Fever." *British Medical Journal*, July to December, 1881, pp. 233-234.

M/W/F: Microbes and asepsis

Week 6: Twentieth Century – Drugs and WWI

Greatest Benefit, Ch. XV

Paul Ehrlich (1908) *Experimental Researches on Specific Therapeutics*, pp. 1-22.

M: The industrial roots of drug production

W: Imperial Medicine

F: WWI

[MIDTERM DUE IN CLASS WEDNESDAY]

Week 7: Twentieth Century – Medicalization and Race

Greatest Benefit, Ch. XX

Van De Velde, T. H. (1930) *Ideal marriage: its physiology and technique*, pp.11-19.

M: No class

W: Medicalization

F: Racial hygiene

Week 8: Twentieth Century - WWII

Greatest Benefit, Ch. XXI

Bush, Vannevar, (1945) 'Science, the Endless Frontier: a report to the President' pp. 231-239

M/W/F: WWII and the war on disease

Week 9: Twentieth Century - AIDS

M: Medical nemesis

W/F: AIDS treatment and new therapeutic optimism

[PARAGRAPH ON CONTEMPORARY PRIMARY SOURCE DUE IN CLASS WEDNESDAY]

Week 10: Contemporary Issues

M: Human Genome Project and the Decade of the Brain

W: Discussion of student primary sources

F: Course review

Final Exam essay due Friday 3/21, by 11am.