

History 97i: Introduction to Historical Practice: Women and Medicine

Winter 2005

Prof. Mary Terrall

Monday, 1:00 - 3:50, 1265 Bunche

Questions? Contact Prof. Terrall at terrall@history.ucla.edu

Office Hours: Mon. 10:30-11:30, Tuesday 10-12, and by appointment

This course will introduce students to different styles and approaches to history of science and medicine through readings of books and articles around the general topic of women and medicine. We will analyze the readings each week for their arguments, their use of evidence, their sources and their style. A major portion of our work each week will be to understand how historical arguments are constructed and supported. As a seminar, the course requires each student's active participation in discussion and engagement with the material.

Requirements for the course:

Each class meeting will be devoted to discussing a book or a set of articles. All reading must be completed before the seminar meeting in which it will be discussed. This means if a whole book is assigned, you must find time to read the whole book. Each week you will write a single paragraph identifying some point or argument of interest in the assigned reading. In order to receive a grade for participation, you must not only come to class, but actively engage in the discussion in a focussed way, having prepared ahead of time for discussion.

There will be two short papers (4-5 pp.) for which you will find a primary document (e.g. medical text, image from historical collection, periodical article, polemical pamphlet) and write about how you could use it to write a work of historical scholarship. This will not be a full-fledged research paper, but an exploration of possibilities, along with an analysis of your document, building on the material in the assigned reading. We will discuss what kinds of documents might lend themselves to this sort of analysis. You may choose to use your second paper to further develop your first; or you may do something completely different. In weeks 9 and 10, we will spend part of the class session on student presentations of their primary sources.

There is no final exam in this course.

Grading:

40%: Participation (worthwhile contribution to discussion; completing reading; presentation)

30%: Paper #1

30%: Paper #2

Required Reading (available in ASUCLA bookstore):

Charlotte Furth, [A Flourishing Yin: Gender in China=s Medical History](#)

Nina Gelbart, [The King=s](#)

[Midwife](#)

Barbara Duden, [The Woman Beneath the Skin: A Doctor=s Patients in 18th-Century Germany](#)

Ornella Moscucci, [The Science of Woman: Gynecology and Gender in England, 1800-1929](#)

Jacqueline Wolf, [Don't Kill Your Baby: Public Health and the Decline of Breastfeeding in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries](#)

Elizabeth Watkins, [On the Pill: A Social History of Oral Contraceptives, 1950-1970](#)

In addition, one week=s readings will be posted on the course website.

Schedule of Assignments and Topics

Jan. 10: Introduction to the course

Jan. 17: MLK Holiday

Jan. 24: Furth, [A Flourishing Yin](#)

Jan. 31: Duden, [The Woman Beneath the Skin](#)

Feb. 7: Gelbart, [The King=s Midwife](#)

Feb. 14: Selected readings on hysteria and sensibility

[Jan Goldstein, "The Hysteria Diagnosis"](#)

[E. Williams, Hysteria and the Court Physician](#)

***** **[First Paper Due](#)** (at beginning of class)

Feb. 21: Holiday

Feb. 28: Moscucci, [The Science of Woman](#)

Mar. 7: Wolf, [Don=t Kill Your Baby](#)

Mar. 14: Watkins, [On the Pill](#)

***** **[Second Paper Due](#)**