

HISTORY 179 A

HISTORY OF MEDICINE:

THE HISTORIC ROOTS OF THE HEALING ARTS

Winter Quarter 2009

Instructor: Dora B. Weiner, Ph.D., Professor of the Medical Humanities and History

Time: Mon-Wed 2:00-3:15

Place: TBA

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The purpose of this course is to introduce college students to the traditions, practices, goals and myths of the Western healing professions, from the time of the ancient Greeks to the Renaissance. The weekly themes will be presented by the instructor in historical perspective, with reference to contemporary politics and literature, and illustrated by contemporary art and architecture.

Many class meetings will focus on the analysis and discussion of famous primary source materials: these texts will be found on the Web, through links* with the weekly themes. **STUDENTS MUST DOWNLOAD THE APPROPRIATE TEXT EACH WEEK AND BRING IT TO THE CLASS** when the primary text is to be studied so that they can take an active part in the discussion.

In addition, ****Background Readings** contain important relevant information that will be part of the final test. The books that contain these Readings are **LISTED ON THIS SYLLABUS** and they are on **RESERVE IN POWELL** Library and can be downloaded by following the link on the syllabus.

A **BOOK REVIEW** is due on Wednesday, February 4. On pages 5-12 of this syllabus you will find lists of **further suggested reading** with books you may want to review. If you have other choices, please **ask for the instructor's approval** of your selection.

Students' Obligations in this Course:

Students must attend class meetings and participate in the discussion of the documents under review. (25% of the final grade). A book review is due on Wednesday, February 4 (25% of the final grade) . There will be a final exam (50% of final grade).

COURSE OUTLINE

This outline lists the weekly topics and the primary and background texts. The * **PRIMARY SOURCE TEXTS** will be found on the Web linked to the weekly topic. The ** **BACKGROUND READINGS** will also be found on the Web, linked to the weekly topic and will be available in Powell Library, on Reserve for this course.

Week I (Jan. 5,7): Classical Standards of Health and Beauty

“The Human Body in Health and Illness” Lecture

* Diagram of elements, qualities, humors

“The Patient and the Physician”

* "The Hippocratic Oath" Discussion

** Background Reading:

H. Sigerist, chaps 1-4, "Life in the Greek City-States," "Hippocrates and the Collection of Hippocratic Writings," "Patient and Physician," "Medical Theories" in The Golden Age of Greek Medicine, part IV of A History of Medicine (New York: Oxford UP, 1961)

Week II (Jan. 12, 14)

Hippocrates as Theorist and Therapist

Hippocratic Medicine

* Hippocrates, "Prognostics," Discussion

Priests and Temple Healing

* Stelae Epidauros Discussion

**Background Reading:

Ludwig and Emma Edelstein, "Temple Medicine," in Asclepius: A Collection and Interpretation of the Testimonies (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998), 139-234

Monday, January 19: Martin Luther King Day

Week III (Jan. 21)

Thucydides on the Plague

* Thucydides, "The Plague at Athens" Discussion

**Background Reading:

Sarton, George, "...Historians of the 5th Century," in Ancient Science Through the Golden Age of Greece (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1979), 84-110

ALERT: A book report will be due on February 4. Choices to be discussed in class.

Week IV (Jan . 26)

Observation and Experiment at Alexandria

“The Medical School at Alexandria”

Lecture

* Herophilus (Selections) Discussion

** Background Reading:

Hadas, Moses, "Alexander and the Oikoumene; The Successors,"
"Barbarian Receptivity," "Education: Gentlemen, Scribes, Saints"
in Hellenistic Culture (New York: Columbia University Press, 1959),
chapters 3, 4, 6

Week IV (Jan. 28)

Galen and Medicine in the Roman Empire

“Galen and his Physiology”

Lecture

* Diagram of Galen’s Physiology

*Galen, "On the Pulse," "A Case History," "On the Kidneys,"

"On the Uterus," "On Bones," "Case History"

Discussion

** Background Reading:

Temkin, Owsei, "The Portrait of an Ideal," "The Rise of Galenism as a
Medical Philosophy," in Galenism: The Rise and Decline of a Medical
Philosophy (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1973), 10-94

Book Review due Wednesday, February 4

Week V: (Feb. 2, 4)

Background to the History of Medicine in the Middle Ages:

The Fall of Rome, the Rise of Towns

Hospitals for Nursing Care, Universities for Teaching Medicine

*Translations from the Greek and Latin

**Background Reading:

Porter, Roy, “Medicine and Faith,” “The Medieval West,” in The Greatest
Benefit to Mankind: A Medical History of Humanity from
Antiquity to the Present (London: HarperCollins, 1997), 83-134

Week VI: (Feb. 9, 11)

The Education and Training of Medical Personnel

The Christian Nursing Orders.

The education of doctors

The training of surgeons, pharmacists. midwives

Western Medicine in the New World: The example of the Spanish Empire

Week VII:

Monday, February 16: Presidents’ Day

Wednesday, February 18: * "The Regimen of Health of Salerno"

Health Maintenance as the Patient’s Responsibility

Discussion of “The six things non-natural”

Week VIII (Feb. 23, 25)**The Rise of Islam: Muslim and Jewish Doctors the Crusades**

- “The Muslim Contribution to Medicine and Pharmacy” Lecture
 * “Gondeshapur” and “Bimaristan” in Encyclopedia of Islam
 * Avicenna's "Poem on Medicine" Discussion
 “The Jewish Contribution to Medicine”
 * Maimonides, “Treatise on Poisons and their Antidotes” Discussion

**** Background Reading:**

- Hamarneh, Sami, "The Climax of Medieval Arabic Professional Pharmacy,"
Bulletin of the History of Medicine, 1968, 42: 450-461
 Rosner, Fred, "The Medical Writings of Moses Maimonides,"
The New York State Journal of Medicine, 1973: 2185-2190
 Sarton, George, "Avicenna: Physician, Scientist and Philosopher,"
 "Maimonides: Philosopher and Physician,"
 in Sarton on the History of Science, D. Stimson, ed.
 (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1962), 67-101
 Bos, G., ed., “Qusta Ibn Luqa’s Medical Regime for the Pilgrims to Mecca,”
Islamic Philosophy, Theology, and Science, 11: 1-12

Weeks IX and X (March 2, 4; 9, 11)**Medieval Corporations of Physicians and Surgeons****How to become a physician in the Middle Ages****Discussion of Primary Sources:*****Selection of Documents from Spain, Italy, Paris****Final Exam**