

HISTORY 297 A + B

THE POLITICS OF HEALTH, 1750-1900:

WORLD HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH; PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

297 A Spring 2005 -- summer research (with limited funding for travel) -- 297 B Fall 2005

Of interest to students in European and World History,
the History of Medicine and Science

Thursdays, 10-1

Registration by Permission of the Instructor

Dora B. Weiner

5274 Bunche Hall, X 5-0599
Office hours: Tu 9-10:45; 5-6

297 A This seminar will begin with the discussion of some seminal primary texts that explore the international, national, scientific, and individual dimensions of "health," such as Daniel Defoe's *Journal of the Plague Year*, James Lind's *Treatise of the Scurvy*, Thomas Malthus's *Essay on Population*, and John Howard's *Account of the Principal Lazarettos in Europe*. Background information can be gathered from books on RESERVE, such as R. Porter, *The Greatest Benefit to Mankind*, G. Risse, *Mending Bodies, Saving Souls*, G. Rosen, *A History of Public Health*, D.B. Weiner, *The Citizen-Patient in Revolutionary and Imperial Paris*, A. LaBerge, *The French Public Health Movement*, Charles Rosenberg, *The Cholera Years*, Peter Baldwin, *Contagion and the State*.

After this initial phase, the students' research interests will determine the readings. Issues of general interest are the impact of epidemic diseases on populations, including the controversy over inoculation and vaccination, the professional development of physicians, surgeons, pharmacists, midwives and nurses, the evolution of the hospital, the rise of specialization in health care—for example in pediatrics or psychiatry—and the response of patients to this care. These developments have often triggered the interventions of medical scientists, society or the government.

The scope of the readings will be of global significance, but students are encouraged to focus their research on one region of the world, preferably a region whose language they master, so that primary sources will be accessible to them. Studies may be comparative, gendered, or deal with any bodily or mental disease, or the individual, social, or political aspects of disease or ill-health.

297 A: In the spring quarter of 2005, students are expected to collect information for a major research project and to develop their argument. In the latter part of spring quarter, participants will be scheduled to present their project to the group for a critical reading and for constructive input by their colleagues.

297 B: The fall quarter of 2005 will be devoted to the writing of a scholarly essay of publishable quality. During that quarter students will meet individually with the instructor and periodically, as a group, to report on progress. Final papers will be distributed and discussed by the whole seminar.