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History of Science, Medicine and Technology 140.124

WOMEN AND MEDICINE  
Spring, 2002

This course introduces students to the history of women and medicine. Moving from the Middle Ages to the present, we will explore how women functioned as health-care providers -- as domestic healers, nurses, physicians, midwives. At the same time, we will pursue the history of women as patients: how did women experience illness in the past? what expectations and norms shaped that experience? Finally, we will discuss how medical knowledge about women changed, how ideas about gender were constructed by the medical professions. The format of the course is lecture and discussion section.

Evaluation and Requirements:

25% each of two in-class exams  
25% paper (8-10 pages)  
25% participation in discussion section

Readings:

The following three books can be purchased at the JHU bookstore, Gilman Hall; the remainder of the readings for the course are on reserve in the Eisenhower Library and available on-line through the library (look under Reserves on the main library web-page, <http://catalog.library.jhu.edu/webpac-bin/wgbroker?new+-access+top.jhu>)

Joan Jacobs Brumberg, *Fasting Girls: The History of Anorexia Nervosa*, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1988.

Regina Morantz-Sanchez, *Sympathy and Science*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985.

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *A Midwife's Tale*, New York: Knopf, 1990.

## Lectures and readings:

Jan. 28 Introductory lecture

Jan. 29 The legacy of classical antiquity

Jan. 30 Discussion section: organizational meetings

Feb. 4 Medieval practitioners

Feb. 5 Medieval ideas about gender

Feb. 6 Discussion section:

Helen Rodnite Lemay, "Anthonius Guainerius and Medieval Gynecology" in Julius Kirshner and Suzanne F. Wemple, eds., *Women of the Medieval World*, Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1985, pp.317-336.

Beryl Rowland, ed., *Medieval Woman's Guide to Health: The First English Gynecological Handbook*, Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, pp. 59-69.

Feb. 11 Medieval women and appetite

Feb. 12 The structure of early-modern medical practice

Feb. 13 Discussion section:

Merry Weisner, "Early Modern Midwifery: A Case Study" in *Women and Work in Pre-Industrial Europe*, ed. Barbara Hanawalt, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986. pp. 94-113.

Alice Thornton, *Autobiography*, Surtees Society, vol. 62, 1875. (selections);

Feb 18 No class - President's Day

Feb 19 The early-modern patient

Feb 20 Discussion section:

Susan Garfinkel, "'This Trial Was Sent in Love and Mercy for My Refinement': A Quaker Women's Experience of Breast Cancer Surgery in 1814", *New Jersey Folklife 15* (1990), pp. 18-31.

Fanny Burney, *Journals and Letters*, ed. Joyce Hemlow et al, Oxford: Clarendon, 1975 (orig. document 1811), vol. VI, pp. 598-615.

Feb 25 Early-modern midwifery & the rise of male-midwifery

Feb. 26 Sexual Difference in the Enlightenment

Feb. 27 Discussion section:

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *A Midwife's Tale*, New York: Knopf, 1990.

Mar. 4 Making Enlightenment Motherhood

Mar. 5 Inventing a Female Biology

Mar. 6 Discussion section:

Londa Schiebinger, "Skeletons in the Closet: The First Illustrations of the Female Skeleton in Eighteenth-Century Anatomy", in Gallagher and Laqueur, *The Making of the Modern Body*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987, pp. 42-82.

Mar. 11 Inventing obstetrics & gynecology

Mar. 12 FIRST EXAM

Mar. 13 Discussion section:

Carroll Smith-Rosenberg and Charles E. Rosenberg, "The Female Animal: Medical and Biological Views of Woman and Her Role in Nineteenth-Century America", *Journal of American History* 60 (1973), pp. 332-356;

Nancy F. Cott, "Passionlessness: An Interpretation of Victorian Sexual Ideology, 1790-1850", *Signs* 4 (1978), pp. 219-236.

Mar. 18-24 Spring Break

Mar. 25 Health reform and sectarian medicine

Mar. 26 Women enter medical education

Mar. 27 Discussion section:

Regina Morantz-Sanchez, *Sympathy and Science*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985, pp. 90-183.

Apr. 1 Women and medical education 2

Apr. 2 Re-thinking Florence Nightingale

Apr. 3 Discussion section:


Emily K. Abel, "A 'Terrible and Exhausting' Struggle: Family Caregiving During the Transformation of Medicine", *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* 50 (1995), pp. 478-506.

Apr. 8 Sexual science, sexual policing

Apr. 9 Germ Theories and the Home

Apr. 10 Discussion section:

Joan Jacobs Brumberg, *Fasting Girls: The History of Anorexia Nervosa*, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1988, pp. 101-188.

Apr. 15 Medicine enters the hospital 

Apr. 16 Childbirth enters the hospital

Apr. 17 Discussion section: presentation of papers

PAPER DUE -- HISTORY OF SCIENCE OFFICE, 204 AMES, BY 5 PM.

Apr. 22 Maternal and child welfare

Apr. 23 The birth control movement

Apr. 24 Discussion section:

Margaret Llewelyn Davies, *Maternity: Letters from Working Women*, Trafalgar, [1915], "New Introduction" (not paginated), and pp. 18-48;

Leslie J. Reagan, "'About to Meet Her Maker': Women, Doctors, Dying Declarations, and the State's Investigation of Abortion, Chicago, 1867-1940", *The Journal of American History* 77, (1991): 1240-64.

Apr. 29 Film: "Forgotten Frontier" (1932)

Apr. 30 SECOND EXAM