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History of Science, Medicine, and Technology 140.382
Health and Healing in Early-Modern England
Fall 1996

This course explores medicine and society in early-modern England -- that is, from about 1500 to 1800. "Medicine" is construed very broadly, encompassing healing practices at all levels of society, concepts of health and illness (both those of professional healers and those of patients), and patterns of disease. The course is intended to introduce you to these topics in the social history of medicine but also to explore the ways in which historians investigate the past; hence, we will be reading and analyzing a range of early-modern sources. There is no textbook for the course; instead, a set of readings is on reserve in the Reserve Room in Eisenhower Library.

Sept. 5 Lecture: The Material Conditions of Life

Sept. 6 Discussion: in-class handout, causes of death, burial register, Bristol, England 1784.

Sept. 12 Lecture: Childbirth and Midwifery

Sept. 13 Discussion:

"The Lass of Lynn's New Joy" [ca. 1680] in J.W. Ebsworth ed, The Bagford Ballads, New York: AMS Press, 1968, pp. 466-468.

Roger Langdon, The Life of Roger Langdon, London: Elliot Stock, n.d., pp. 14-21.

Aristotle's Masterpiece, or The Secrets of Generation Displayed..., London: J. How, 1684, pp. 136-141.

Sept. 19 Lecture: The Patient's Experience

Sept. 20 Discussion:

David Vaisey, ed., The Diary of Thomas Turner 1754-1765, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1984, pp. 197-232.

Margaret Hoby, The Diary of Lady Margaret Hoby 1599-1605, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1930, pp. 68-9, 72-3, 100-101, 107-109.

An Exact Relation of the Wonderful Cure of Mary Maillard, London: J. Noon, 1730.

Sept. 26 Lecture: The Practitioner's Experience

Sept. 27 Discussion:

Advertisements from The Philadelphia Gazette, and from collections in the British Library.

Oct. 3 Lecture: Early Modern Medical Books

Oct. 4 Practicum, Early Modern Medical Books, Rare Book Room, Welch Library.

Oct. 10 Lecture: Theories of Disease

Oct. 11 Discussion:

Focus your reading on discussions of dropsy or measles in the following excerpts:

William Salmon, Synopsis Medicinae, London: Printed for W. Godbird, for Richard Jones, 1671, pp. 113, 143, 349-50, 730-32.

Thomas Sydenham, The Works of Thomas Sydenham, London: the Sydenham Society, 1858, pp. 182-6; 163-184.

William Cullen, First Lines of the Practice of Physick, Dublin: J. William, 1780, vol.2: pp.76-87; vol 4.: 139-166, 211-220.

Oct. 17 Lecture: Epidemics

Oct. 18 Discussion:

William Boghurst, Loimographia. An Account of the Great Plague of London in the Year 1665, ed. Joseph Frank Payne, London: Shaw and Sons, 1894, pp. 20-31, 46-49, 56-63.

Thomas Dekker, A Rod for Run-awaies, in F.P. Wilson, ed., The Plague Pamphlets of Thomas Dekker, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1925, pp. 137-139, 158-165.

Oct. 24 Lecture: The Early Modern Body

Oct. 25 Discussion:

A Strange and Lamentable Accident That Happened Lately at Mears Ashby in Northamptonshire, London: Rich. Harper and Thomas Wine, 1642.

Aristotle's Masterpiece, or The Secrets of Generation Displayed..., London: J. How, 1684, pp. 24-34.

The Miracle of Miracles, in John Ashton, Chapbooks of the Eighteenth Century, London: Skoob Books, 1990.

28 OCTOBER PAPER DUE, 5 PM, HISTORY OF SCIENCE OFFICE, 204 AMES

Oct. 31 Lecture: Inventing Hospitals

Nov. 1 Discussion:

John Bellers, excerpts from Proposals for Raising a Colledge of Industry (rev. ed., 1696) and An Essay Towards the Improvement of Physick (1714) both in George Clarke, John Bellers: His Life, Times and Writings London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1987, pp. 52-55; 181-191.

John M.T. Ford, A Medical Student at St Thomas's Hospital, 1801-1802 Medical History Supplement 7 (1987), pp. 37-69.

Nov. 7 Lecture: Enlightenment Optimism & the State

Nov. 8 Discussion:

Jonas Hanway, A Sentimental History of Chimney-Sweepers... London: Dodsley, 1785, pp.16-29, 37-42, 53-56, 82-92.

John Howard, The State of the Prisons in England and Wales..., third ed., Warrington: William Eyre, 1784, pp. 1-12, 382-3, 467-72.

Nov. 14 Lecture: The Disenchantment of the World

Nov. 15 Discussion:

Excerpts from the Gentleman's Magazine, vol. 18, 1748: pp. 13-14, 413-14, 448-451, 513.
[Henry Heers], The Most True and Wonderful Narration of Two Women Bewitched in Yorkshire,
[London]: Tho. Vere and W. Gilbertson, 1658.
John Bucknall, The Shepherds Almanack, London: Printed for the Company of Stationers, 1675,
excerpts.

Nov. 21 Lecture: Remaking the (Gendered) Enlightenment Body

Nov 22 Discussion:

William Cadogan, An Essay on Nursing and the Management of Children, London: Robert
Horsefield, 1764, pp. 1-43.

Nov. 28 & 29: Thanksgiving holiday

Dec. 5 Lecture: Death and Dying

Dec. 6 Discussion:

A True Relation of Mary Jenkinson..., London: George Croom, 1685/6.

On the Death of Mrs Mary Soame..., [London: 1669].

On the Form of the Proceeding to the Funeral of her Late Majesty Queen Mary II..., London:
Edward Jones, 1694/5.

Jeremy Taylor, The Rule and Exercises of Holy Dying, London: Printed by Roger Norton for
Richard Royston, 1667, pp. 42-45, 100-101, 251-3.

An Exact and True Relation of the Behaviour of Edmund Kirk, John Bennet, Morgan Keading and
Andrew Hull..., London: Elizabeth Mallet, [1684].

FINAL EXAM DUE 13 DECEMBER AT 5 PM, HISTORY OF SCIENCE OFFICE, AMES 204

Evaluation and assignments:

33% Class Participation.

33% Paper

33% Final exam (take-home)

Written work:

1. Paper. You will write a brief paper about a seventeenth or eighteenth-century book in the collections of the Welch Library. The purpose of the paper is to explain what the book is, what evidence the physical object of the book might provide about its intended and actual uses, what its publication history suggests about its use, and a brief discussion of the book's author and its contents. The practicum on 4 Oct. will get you started. DUE OCT. 28.

2. Final exam: A set of questions will be distributed in class on Dec. 2; it is due by 5 pm in the History of Science Office (Ames 204) on Dec. 13.

Since one-third of your grade is based on class participation, you are expected to have read and thought about the assigned readings so that you can contribute to discussions on Fridays. In addition, you will be expected to present a brief introduction to one source during the semester, describing the source and suggesting some of the questions it raises for historians. If you do not attend class, or if you never contribute to discussion, you can expect a very low grade for class participation.