

Health, Disease, and Healing II
History of Medicine 508, Spring 2001

Instructor: J. Rosser Matthews (263-7378; jrmathews@facstaff.wisc.edu)
1423 MSC, 1300 University Avenue
Office Hours: Tues., Thurs., 11-12 AM and by appointment

Time & Place: Tues., Thurs., 2:30-3:45 PM; 3285 MSC

Prerequisites: Junior Standing or Above

Credits: Three or Four

Description: This course surveys how society has confronted the issues of health and disease from the eighteenth century to the present day with a primary focus on European developments. Although we will discuss some of the major medical “breakthroughs” in this era, this course is considerably more than just a chronology of medical accomplishments. Rather, we will place the evolution of medicine in the broader social, intellectual, and cultural context of Western history. Specifically, we will engage questions like the following: what types of institutions (hospitals, financing arrangements, etc.) has Western society developed to treat and manage disease; from the standpoint of health care policy and public health, what diseases have received the most attention; how has the experience of the patient changed over time; with the increasing prominence of science, how has the nature of the physician-patient relationship been reconceptualized; how have the major ethical challenges posed by contemporary medicine (organ transplantation, genetics, etc.) forced us to “rethink” the goals of medicine as we confront a new century and a new millennium.

Required Books:

Roy Porter, The Greatest Benefit to Mankind
David J. Rothman, Steven Marcus, and Stephanie A. Kiceluk, Medicine and Western Civilization (abbreviated as “M & WC” below)
Rene and Jean Dubos, The White Plague
Terence Ranger and Paul Slack, Epidemics and Ideas
Mary Shelley, Frankenstein
James D. Watson, The Double Helix
Anne Sayre, Rosalind Franklin and DNA
A. J. Cronin, The Citadel

Recommended Book (for term paper):

Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams, The Craft of Research

Schedule of Reading Assignments for the Semester:

1/23: Introduction and mechanics of the course; no reading

- 1/25: Class will meet in the Middleton Library to discuss the history of medicine resources with the librarian Micaela Sullivan-Fowler. Read handout by Charles E. Rosenberg, “Framing Disease: Illness, Society, and History” ***Required class
- 1/30: The Enlightenment, Part I: 18th Century Medical Theories
Porter, pp. 245-274, 277-281; Rush and Cowper in M & WC
- 2/1: The Enlightenment, Part II: Smallpox Inoculation and Vaccination
Porter, pp. 274-277; Jenner in M & WC
- 2/6: The Enlightenment, Part III: “Medical Police” and “Alternative Healers”
Porter, p. 281-303; Montaigne, Burton, and Wordsworth in M & WC
- 2/8: Parisian Clinical Medicine
Porter, pp. 304-320; Laennec, Pinel, and Foucault in M & WC
Submit a brief paragraph discussing what you plan to write about in your term paper. Make a “first attempt” to articulate the question that your research will attempt to solve and your rationale for doing the research.
- 2/13: Germany, the Laboratory, and the Rise of Physiology
Porter, p. 320-347; Bernard in M & WC
- 2/15: Frankenstein and the Questioning of Science
- 2/20: “Consumption” as a Romantic Disease
Dubos, pp. 3-66
- 2/22: Nineteenth-Century Medical Care, Part I : Professionalization, Women in Medicine, and Surgery
Porter, pp. 348-374; Blackwell, Clarke, Jacobi, Lister, Simpson, and Burney in M & WC. Submit a bibliography of the sources that you have located to date.
- 2/27: Nineteenth-Century Medical Care, Part II: Hospitals, Nurses, Specialization, and Alternative Medicine
Porter, pp. 375-396; Semmelweis, Nightingale, Mass General, and Orwell in M & WC.
- 3/1: Industrialization and the Rise of Public Health
Porter, pp. 397-427; Chadwick in M & WC; Pickstone and Evans in Epidemics and Ideas. Submit a briefly annotated bibliography of the sources that you have located.
- 3/6: The Bacteriological Revolution
Porter, pp. 428-448; Pasteur and Koch in M & WC.
- 3/8: Tuberculosis as a Nineteenth-Century Public Health Problem
Dubos, finish. Submit a one-page “point-based” outline of your term paper
- 3/13 & 3/15: Spring Break

- 3/20: European Colonialism and Tropical Medicine
Porter, pp. 462-492. .
- 3/22: Colonialism/Tropical Medicine (continued)
Chandavarkar and Vaughan in Epidemics and Ideas
- 3/27: Psychiatry in the Nineteenth Century: The Asylum
Porter, pp. 493-514; Pinel and Dix in M & WC.
- 3/29: Psychiatry in the Twentieth Century: Psychoanalysis
Porter, p. 514-524; Freud, Freud and Breuer, and Styron in M & WC
Submit a two-to-three page abstract of what you plan to accomplish in your term paper. Pay particular attention to how you frame your introduction and conclusion. This is really a “mini-draft” of your paper.
- 4/3: The Antibiotic Revolution and the Discovery of Penicillin
Porter, pp. 448-461.
- 4/5: Bradford Hill, the RCT, and the Evolving Ethics of Human Subjects Research
Matthews lectures on these subjects
- 4/10: Clinical Science and the Problem of Chronic Disease in the Latter Half of the Twentieth Century
Porter, p. 561-596.
- 4/12: Discussion of Watson’s The Double Helix and Anne Sayre’s Rosiland Franklin and DNA
- 4/17: Twentieth-Century Developments in Surgery
Porter, pp. 597-627
- 4/19: Ethical Problems Posed by Modern Surgery
Jean Stafford, Pius XII, and Harvard Committee on Brain Death in M & WC
Submit the final version of the term paper.
- 4/24: Health Care and the Twentieth-Century State
Porter, pp. 628-667; “Hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on Health” in M & WC; Berridge in Epidemics and Ideas
- 4/26: The Physician-Patient Relationship in the Twentieth Century
Porter, pp. 668-686; Hurston, Lightfoot, and Monette in M & WC.
- 5/1: “Medicalization and its Discontents”
Porter, pp. 687-718; Kinsey, Masters and Johnson, and Sherfey in M & WC.
- 5/3: A. J. Cronin, The Citadel
- 5/8 & 5/10: Review and TBA

Grading and Written Requirements:

Your grade in this course will be determined primarily by three short (750 words, c. 3 pages) “reaction papers,” a term paper based on research in primary sources, and an in-class essay-type final examination. The three reaction papers collectively will worth one third of your grade; the term paper will be worth one third; and the final will be worth one-third. Although these written assignments will be used to establish your “base grade,” I will consider attendance and participation when assigning final grades. Specifically, I reserve the right to lower your final grade by a grade increment for failing to participate in class discussions. Needless to say, a student who does not attend class regularly cannot participate in the discussions, which means that there is a high probability that there will be a reduction in that student’s final grade.

Graduate students and undergraduates who plan to receive 4 credits are required to write a term paper of approximately 20 pages; undergraduate taking the course for three credits are required to write a term paper of approximately 10 pages.

Questions for the Reaction Papers:

- 1) Discuss Victor Frankenstein’s “research.” Although this is a work of (science) fiction, comment on the multiple ethical dilemmas that Frankenstein faces. Are there interesting parallels with contemporary scientific research--for example, stem cell research, the Human Genome Project, etc.? The paper will be due at the time that we discuss the novel in class on 2/15.
- 2) Address the role of awards (like Nobel Prizes) in scientific and medical research. Do awards serve a positive role, or do you see problems with rewarding individual scientists when modern scientific research is largely a collaborative enterprise? Discuss the awarding the Nobel Prize to Watson and Crick as a “case study” to illustrate your arguments. The paper will be due on 4/12, the day that we discuss the books by Watson and Sayre.
- 3) Discuss the multiple dilemmas that Andrew Manson confronts in the course of his career. Do you think that he always behaved ethically? Give reasons for your answer. Also, comment on how his career illustrates some of the on-going tensions within contemporary medicine. The paper will be due on the day that we discuss the novel, which will be 5/3.

Preparing the Term Paper:

To prepare to write the research paper, you are *required* to attend the class in the Middleton Library on 1/25. Also, you are encouraged to make appointment(s) with the Writing Center. A Writing Center instructor can help you organize your ideas and provide constructive criticism of a draft of your paper.