

# THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF AMERICAN MEDICINE

HISTORY G8733: SPRING 2001

PROFESSOR DAVID J. ROTHMAN

## COURSE ORGANIZATION

The seminar is designed to introduce graduate students in history and in public health to the social history of medicine. The aim is to explore major themes, approaches, and interpretations, with particular attention to the impact of culture upon medicine and medicine upon culture. The focus is on the United States in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, with frequent references to European developments.

Requirements for the course include reading and intensive class discussions and one seminar paper (due early April). Students will also be responsible for making short, opening presentations.

Readings from primary sources and articles are on reserve in the History Reading Room (4<sup>th</sup> floor, Fayerweather), and in Hammer Library (168<sup>th</sup> St). Both places provide easy access to photocopy machines.

Books that have been ordered for the course are: Foucault, Birth of the Clinic; Warner, The Therapeutic Perspective; Ludmerer, Learning to Heal; Leavitt, Brought to Bed: Childbearing in America; and Rothman, Sheila, Living in the Shadow of Death. They are available at the Columbia University Bookstore.

Students who wish background readings in the history of medicine may wish to consult Robert P. Hudson, Disease and its Control: The Shaping of Modern Thought or Roy Porter, The Greatest Benefit to Mankind: A Medical History of Humanity. The Porter volume contains a superb bibliography in the history of medicine.

## THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### 1. WHAT CONSTITUTES THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE?

Gert Brieger, *A History of Medicine*, @ *A Guide to the Culture of Science, Technology, and Medicine*, Paul Durbin, ed. New York, 1984.

Judith W. Leavitt, *Medicine in Context: A Review Essay of the History of Medicine*, @ *American Historical Review*, 1990.

David Rosner and Susan Reverby, *Introduction*, @ *Health Care in America: Essays in Social History*. Philadelphia, 1979.

#### 2. MEDICALIZING THE BODY AND THE CORPSE

\*Michel Foucault, *The Birth of the Clinic*. New York, 1994. chs. 3, 5-9.

Londa Shiebinger, *Why Mammals are Called Mammals: Gender Politics in Eighteenth Natural History*, @ *American Historical Review*, April 1993.

Rudolph Virchow, *A Description and Explanation of the Method of Performing Post-Mortem Examinations*. @ London, 1880. Selections

Johann Ludwig Casper, *A Handbook of the Practice of Forensic Medicine*. London, 1861. Selections

Ruth Richardson, *Death, Dissection, and the Destitute*. London, 1989. chs. 5-6.

## II. MEDICINE IN THE ANTE BELLUM AMERICA

### 3. THE RELIEF OF PAIN

Martin Pernick, A Calculus of Suffering. New York, 1985. chs. 3-4, 11.

Fanny Burney, "A Mastectomy, 1811," Selected Journals and Letters. London, 1975.

Thomas Laqueur, "The Humanitarian Narrative," @ The New Cultural History, Lynn Hunt, ed. Berkeley, 1959. pp. 176-204.

### 4. MEDICAL THERAPEUTICS

David J. Rothman, The Discovery of the Asylum. Boston, 1971. chs 5-8, 11.

\*John Warner, The Therapeutic Perspective: Medical Practice, Knowledge and Identity in America, 1820-1885. Cambridge, MA, 1986. ch. 4.

### 5. BEING A PATIENT

Roy Porter, "The Patient's View: Doing Medical History from Below," @ Theory and Society, 1985, pp. 175-198.

\*Sheila M. Rothman, Living in the Shadow of Death. New York, 1994. chs. 7-8, 15.

Nancy Tomes, A Generous Confidence: Thomas Story Kirkbride and The Art of Asylum Keeping. New York, 1984. ch. 3.

### III. THE ORIGINS OF MODERN MEDICINE, 1890-1930

#### 6. & 7. BACTERIOLOGY AND THE EXPERIMENTAL METHOD

Bruno Latour, The Pasteurization of France. Cambridge, 1988, chs. 1-4..

Robert Koch, "The Etiology of Tuberculosis," 1882.

Nancy Tomes, Gospel of Germs. Cambridge, MA, 1998. Chs. 7-8.

Susan E. Lederer, Subjected to Science. Baltimore, 1995. chs. 1, 3.

\*Kenneth Ludmerer, Learning to Heal. Baltimore, 1996. chs 4-13.

#### 8. & 9. THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE HOSPITAL

David Rosner, A Once Charitable Exercise: Hospitals and Health Care in Brooklyn and New York, 1885-1915. New York, 1982. chs. 2-5.

Morris J. Vogel, The Invention of the Modern Hospital, Boston, 1870-1930. Chicago, 1980. chs. 2-3

\*Judith Leavitt, Brought to Bed: Childbearing in America. New York, 1986. chs. 6-7.

Joel Howell, Technology in the Hospital: Transforming Patient Care in the Early Twentieth Century. Baltimore, 1995. chs. 1-2, 4-5.

Michael Bliss, William Osler: A Life in Medicine. Oxford, 1999. chs. 5-7.

10. WOMEN AS DOCTORS AND PATIENTS

Regina Morantz- Sanchez, Conduct Unbecoming a Woman: Medicine on Trial in Turn-of-the-Century Brooklyn. New York, 1999. chs. 3-7.

Ellen S. More, Restoring the Balance: Women Physicians and the Profession of Medicine, 1850-1995. Cambridge, 1999. chs. 4-7.

Rachel P. Maines, The Technology of Orgasm: "Hysteria," the Vibrator, and Women's Sexual Satisfaction. Baltimore, 1999.

Nelly Oudshoorn, Beyond the Natural Body. London, 1994, chs. 2-4.

IV. MEDICINE IN OUR TIME

11. THE RULE OF INSTITUTIONS

Barron H. Lerner, Contagion and Confinement: Controlling Tuberculosis Along the Skid Road. Baltimore, 1998. chs. 5-7.

Kenneth M. Ludmerer, Time to Heal: American Medical Education from the Turn of the Century to the Era of Managed Care. Oxford, 1999. chs. 8-11.

David Sudnow, Passing On. Engelwood Cliffs, NJ, 1967. chs. 3-4

David J. Rothman, Strangers at the Bedside. New York, 1991.

12. & 13. THE BODY REDEFINED

Elizabeth Haiken, Venus Envy. Baltimore, 1997. chs. 2-6.

David J. Rothman, ATrafficking in Organs,@ New York Review of Books, March 1998.

Lee M. Silver, Remaking Eden. New York, 1997, chs. 5-10, 17-18.