

**Topics in Medical History:**

**Body History**

**HIST 458A**

Prof. T. Schlich

Fall Term 2007

Thursday 2.05-4.55 PM

3647 Peel Street, room 101

*Contact Information*

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*Course Requirements*

All students should have taken at least History 249 or an equivalent course. Students will be required to write a term paper of 20 pages in length on a topic related to the history of the body broadly conceived. This paper will count for 50 per cent of your final grade. Class participation will count for another 50 per cent. Participation includes attendance, performance of assigned tasks and contributions to discussions. Assignment will consist e.g. in introductions to the readings of the session (20-30 minutes). The readings for this course are available in the form of a course pack that can be purchased at the McGill bookstore.

*On the course:* This course is an introduction into body history. It deals with defining the field, its range, contents and different aspects. It introduces some basic historical facts and landmarks of the history of the body, but the main focus is on the discussion of methods, approaches, and theories in order to prepare the students' own research in the field. Each class thus introduces a significant contribution to the history of the body together with an example of possible source material. The second part of the course in the Winter Semester of 2008 will continue this work in more depth and put the focus on the topics and approaches chosen by the students for their own research studies.

**6 Sept. Introduction to the course**

*HW: look up definitions of "body", short statement about what might be special about body history*

**13 Sept. What is body history?**

Roy Porter: "History of the Body", in: Peter Burke (ed.): *New Perspectives on Historical Writing*, Pennsylvania State University Press, University Park PA 1991, pp. 206-232.

**20 Sept. The Western and the Eastern Body**

Shigehisa Kuriyama, "Pulse Diagnosis in the Greek and Chinese Traditions", in *History of Diagnosis*, ed. by Yosio Kawakita (The Ianiguchi Foundation, 1987), pp. 43-67.

Shigehisa Kuriyama, *The Expressiveness of the Body and the Divergence of Greek and*

*Chines Medicine*, Zone Books, New York 2002, ch. 3, “Muscularity and Identity”, pp. 111-151, 292-302.

HW: look up Scholasticism, scholastic method

### **27 Sept. Middle Ages and Religion**

Caroline Walker Bynum: “[Why All the Fuss about the body: A Medievalist’s Perspective](#)”, *Critical Inquiry* 22 (1995), pp. 1-33. **Web**

Source: [The Collected Works of Thomas Aquinas](#), Summa Theologiae, Question 75. **Web**

### **4 Oct. The Dead Body**

Katherine Park: “[The Life of the Corpse: Division and Dissection in Late Medieval Europe](#)”, *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* 50 (1995), pp. 111-132.

Ruth Richardson: *Death, Dissection and the Destitute*, second edition, University of Chicago Press, Chicago 2000, Introduction, pp. xiii-xvii, and ch. 1 “The Corpse and Popular Culture”, pp. 1-29, 296-307.

Source: Richard Blakeborough: *Wit, Character, Folklore and Customs of the North Riding of Yorkshire*, Henry Frowde, London, preface, pp. vii-x, excerpts from ch. 7 “Customs of Courtship, Marriage, Birth, and Death”, pp. 116-126.

### **11 Oct. The science of the body: Anatomy**

Roger French: “The Anatomical Tradition”. In: W.F. Bynum and Roy Porter (eds.) *Companion Encyclopaedia of the History of Medicine*, London and New York: Routledge, vol. 1, 1993, pp. 81-102.

Andrew Cunningham: *The Anatomical Renaissance. The Resurrection of the Anatomical Projects of the Ancients*, Ashgate, Aldershot, Hants 1997, ch. 4, Vesalius: The Revival of Galenic Anatomy, pp. 88-142.

Source: Baldasar Heseler: Andreas Vesalius’ First Public Anatomy at Bologna, 1540, an Eyewitness Report, ed. by Ruben Eriksson, Almqvist&Wiksell, Uppsala and Stockholm 1959, pp. 76-93.

***Special event!!! 17 Oct. 2007, 3:30 PM, SSoM seminar: Michael Sappol, National Library of Medicine, “Toward an iconography of the industrial body: Fritz Kahn, medical illustration and the visual rhetoric of modernity”.***

### **18 Oct. Osler Library**

#### **25 Oct. Patient’s history**

Barbara Duden: “Medicine and the History of the Body”, in: *The Social construction of illness: illness and medical knowledge in past and present*, ed. by J. Lachmund and G. Stollberg, Steiner, Stuttgart 1992, pp. 39-51.

Sources: Barbara Duden: *The Woman Beneath the Skin. A Doctor’s Patients in Eighteenth-Century Germany*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass. 1991 (orig. 1987), excerpts from ch. 4 “The Perception of the Body”, pp. 104-131, 222-227.

Julia L. Epstein: “[Writing the Unspeakable: Fanny Burney’s Mastectomy and the Fictive Body](#)”, *Representations* No. 16, pp. 131-161. **Web**

### **1 Nov. Gender and Body**

Thomas Laqueur: "[Orgasm, Generation and the Politics of Reproductive Biology](#)", *Representations* No. 14 (1986), pp. 1-41. **Web**

Source: Susan Lawrence: "[His and Hers: Male and Female Anatomy in Anatomy Texts for U.S. Medical Students, 1890-1989](#)", *Social Science and Medicine* 35 (1992), No. 7, pp. 925-934. **Web**

### **8 Nov. Body techniques**

Marcel Mauss: *Sociology and Psychology. Essays*, Routledge 1979 (orig. 1950), part 3 "Body Techniques". pp. 97-123.

Michel Foucault: *Discipline and Punish. The Birth of the Prison*, Vintage Books, New York 1995 (orig. 1975), ch. 3.1. "The Docile Body", pp. 135-169.

### **15 Nov. Body and machine**

Anson Rabinbach: *The Human Motor. Energy, Fatigue, and the Origins of Modernity*, University of California Press, Berkeley, Los Angeles 1992, ch. 5, "The Laws of the Human Motor", pp. 120-145, pp. 336-342.

Sources: Frank B. Gilbreth, *Motion Study. A Method for Increasing the Efficiency of the Workman*, D. Van Nostrand, New York 1911, ch. 2 "Variables of the Worker", pp. 10-42, ch. 4 "Variables of the Motion", pp. 65-85. Frederick Winslow Taylor, *The Principles of Scientific Management*, Harper and Brothers, New York and London 1913, excerpts, pp. 5-8, 66-77.

### **22 Nov. Surgery**

Thomas Schlich, "The Technological Fix and the Modern Body: Surgery as a Paradigmatic Case", in *The Cultural History of the Human Body* (ed. by Linda Kalof and William Bynum), vol. 6 "1920-present. The Age of Change" (ed. by Ivan Crozier), London: Berg Publishers, 2008 (unpublished manuscript, forthcoming).

Source: Jacques Joseph: 'Operative Reduction of the Size of a Nose (Rhinomiosis)'. In: Frank McDowell (ed.): *Plastic Surgery*, Silvergirl: Austin, Texas 1987, pp. 102-105 (first published in German in *Berliner klinische Wochenschrift* 44 (1898), p. 882)

### **29 Nov. Conclusion: How to do body history**