

Department of History
Spring 2005

History 101.021

Health, Medicine, and the Body

Instructor: Daniel Ussishkin

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00-4:00, and by appointment, 2116 Dwinelle Hall

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This course will examine key issues in the histories of health and the body since the mid-eighteenth century. We will try to understand what is ‘modern’ about modern medicine and other related disciplines (such as public health, nutritional sciences, psychology, psychiatry, and so forth), and how they have worked, along with other cultural practices and representations of the human body to construct contemporary notions of health and disease. We will ask to what extent, and how, has the healthy body emerged as a social problem? How has health emerged as a site of and government intervention, or for a politics of empowerment? In what ways has the healthy body come to be a prime moral and ethical concern? And above all, how notions of health have themselves changed over time? What do we really mean by ‘health’?

The course will begin with few weeks of intensive reading that are arranged both chronologically and thematically. We will look at the historiographic debate about the relation between health, medicine and the Enlightenment; we will examine the relation between health and gender, sex and sexuality; health, medicine, and race; health, empire, and colonial rule; the healthy body and the national *Bildung*; health and the ethics of the self; medicine and anxieties about the effects of modernity (such as urbanization and degeneration); and the relation between medicine and the changing concepts of disease (as in the cases of tuberculosis and anorexia).

Research papers can deal with any of the above topics, and much, much more – the changing role of physicians in society; health, consumerism, and the media; health and beauty; medicine and war; smoking; health and globalization; AIDS, its politics and representations; pharmaceutical industries and their politics; ‘alternative medicine’ (and its commercialization); nutritional sciences and practices; physical education; yoga...

An early identification of a research question and available primary sources is a huge step towards writing a successful paper. While the course will mainly deal with examples from Europe (and the United Kingdom), the United States, and the colonial encounter, we will glance at other cultural and national settings as well. Students who wish to write their research paper on other geographical settings should contact the instructor beforehand.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Attendance and active participation (includes at least one presentation): 10%
- 2) Research Journals: (January 21, February 17, March 1, March 15): 25%
- 3) Two drafts of research paper: 65%

Recommended texts:

Roy Porter, *The Greatest Benefit to Mankind: A Medical History of Humanity* (New York: Norton, 1999).

W. F. Bynum, *Science and the Practice Medicine in the Nineteenth Century* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994)

Note: The chief purpose of the two textbooks is to supplement our weekly readings; however, there are no assigned readings from either. Porter's is an excellent, accessible, and stimulating account on the history of medicine since ancient times. It is especially useful as a source of ideas for research paper topics, and has an excellent bibliographical section. It is by far the best account on the history of medicine.

Bynum's is a more focused account – on medicine during the long nineteenth-century and its interaction with scientific practices. It is an excellent, if not required, source for those interested in the period and the type of questions it explores, and its bibliographical essay at the end is unsurpassed. Both will be on 2 hours reserve in the library.

Required texts:

David Arnold, *Colonizing the Body: State Medicine and Epidemic Disease in Nineteenth-Century India* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1993).

Michel Foucault, *The Birth of the Clinic: An Archeology of Medical Perception* [1963] (New York: Vintage, 1994).

Thomas Laqueur, *Solitary Sex: A Cultural History of Masturbation* (New York: Zone Books, 2003) [Should be available in paperback soon]

*Course Reader will be available for purchase at Copy Central.

Some related journals:

Body and Society

Bulletin of the History of Medicine

Clio Medica

Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry

History of Psychiatry

Isis

Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences

Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Science

Signs

Social History of Medicine

Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science

Helpful Databases and Electronic Resources (accessible from UCB Library website)

Historical Abstracts

History of Science, Technology, and Medicine

JSTOR

PsycInfo
PubMed (HistMed)
Victorian Database Online
Women's Studies International
WorldCat

See also the Wellcome Trust Library: <http://library.wellcome.ac.uk> (Wellcome bibliography for the history of medicine; BioethicsWeb; Psci-Com; MedHist).

Course Schedule

*As the first two weeks are very intensive in both quantity and complexity, students are highly encouraged to begin the first Thursday's readings in advance.

Week I

Tuesday, January 18: Introduction.

Thursday, January 20: Enlightenment I

Michel Foucault, *The Birth of the Clinic*, preface, pp. 3-148, conclusion.

*Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality Vol. I: The Will to Knowledge* [1976] (New York: Vintage, 1998), pp. 135-159.

(* = course reader)

Week II:

Tuesday, January 25: Enlightenment II

Thomas Laqueur, *Solitary Sex: A Cultural History of Masturbation*, pp. 13-82; 185-358.

Thursday, January 27: Germs and Medicine: The Case of Tuberculosis

*David Barnes, 1995. *The Making of a Social Disease: Tuberculosis in Nineteenth-Century France* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press), chapter 2: "Redemptive Suffering and the Patron Saint of Tuberculosis", pp. 48-73.

*Michael Worboys, *Spreading Germs: Disease Theories and Medical Practice in Britain, 1865-1900* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), chapter 6: "From Heredity to Infection: Tuberculosis, Bacteriology and Medicine, 1870-1900," pp. 193-233.

Note: By the end of week II, all students should have met at least once with the instructor.

Week III:

Tuesday, February 1: Medicine and Colonial Rule

David Arnold. *Colonizing the Body: State Medicine, and Epidemic Diseases in Nineteenth-Century India*, Chapters 1-2, 5, and conclusion.

Thursday, February 3: Workshop - Finding Primary and Secondary Sources (meeting at Doe Library)

Week IV (last week of regular class meetings)

Tuesday, February 8: Race and its Health

*Robert Proctor. 1988. *Racial Hygiene: Medicine Under the Nazis* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1988). Chapter 7: "The Destruction of 'Lives Not Worth Living,'" and chapter 8: "The Organic Vision" pp. 177-222, 223-250.

* Warwick Anderson, *The Cultivation of Whiteness: Science, Health, and Racial Destiny in Australia* (New York: Basic Books, 2003), chapter 6: "Whitening the Nation."

*Max Nordau. *Degeneration* [1895] (New York: Fertig, 1968), Part I: "*Fin-De-Siècle*," pp. 1-34.

Thursday, February 10: between medicine and culture: Anorexia and AIDS

*Susan Bordo, "Whose Body is This? Feminism, Medicine, and the Conceptualization of Eating Disorders," in her *Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture, and the Body* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1993): pp. 45-70.

*Sander Gilman, 1991. "The Jewish Disease: Plague in Germany 1939/1989." In his *The Jew's Body* (New York: Routledge, 1991), pp. 210-243.

* Leo Bersani, "Is the Rectum a Grave?" *October*, No. 43 (1987): pp. 197-222.

* **One page of research interests and questions.**

Week V

Thursday, February 17: Workshop - Outline of Research Project: What is my question; how am I going to look for possible answers; preliminary list (2 pages) of primary and secondary resources.

Week VII

Tuesday, March 1: Exchange 2 pp. report on progress

Thursday, March 3: Workshop: planning a paper.

Week IX

Tuesday, March 15: Exchange plan of research (4 pages)

Thursday, March 17: Workshop: How to write a research paper.

SPRING RECESS (March 21 – March 25)

Week XI

Thursday, April 7: Exchange first drafts.

Thursday, April 14: Workshop – presentations and comments on first draft.

Week XIV

Thursday, May 5: Final papers and presentations.