Course Description:
This course examines the history of modern medicine in Europe and America. We will explore the different ways in which people have answered questions like: how does the human body work? what causes us to get sick? what can we do to restore health? We begin in the 18th century, a period in which traditional, holistic views of the body prevailed and the most common therapy was bloodletting. We end in the late 20th century, a time when understandings of the body have been transformed by developments in genetics and biochemistry and the therapeutic arsenal includes antibiotics, AZT and organ transplants. Throughout the course we will seek to connect medical ideas and medical practices to the broader social and cultural contexts in which they were developed.

In general, I will lecture on Mondays and Wednesdays, and we will have discussion on Fridays. Discussion will be based on the assigned reading, so it is essential that you do the reading assigned for each week before you come to class on Friday.

Further information and many of the course readings are available on-line at learn.ou.edu. Please use your OU email account, or arrange for email to be forwarded from that account to the one you use. This will ensure that you receive course-related emails. I encourage you to check the course web site regularly. I will continue to add material throughout the semester, including assigned readings and links to relevant web sites.

Required Texts:
David Rothman et al. (eds.), *Medicine and Western Civilization*
Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *A Midwife’s Tale*
Sheila M. Rothman, *Living in the Shadow of Death*
Nancy Tomes, *The Gospel of Germs*
Lynn Payer, *Medicine and Culture*

Grading Policy:
Midterm exams (2)  20% (10% each)
Papers (3)  45% (15% each)
Final exam  25%
Participation  10%
### Week 1

**Mon**  Aug 20.  Introduction

**Wed**  Aug 22.  Lecture: Humoral Medicine  
Reading: Hippocrates, *The Nature of Man* (MWC pp. 43-47)

**Fri**  Aug 24.  Discussion: Bloodletting and Acupuncture  

### Week 2

**Mon**  Aug 27.  Lecture: Medical Practitioners in the 18th Century

**Wed**  Aug 29.  Lecture: Medical Marketplace in the 18th Century

**Fri**  Aug 31.  Discussion: Midwives  
Reading: Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *A Midwife's Tale*, pp. TBA

### Week 3

**Mon**  Sept 3.  NO CLASS – LABOR DAY

**Wed**  Sept 5.  Lecture: Paris Clinic  

**Fri**  Sept 7.  Discussion: Patients' Experiences of Consumption  
Reading: Sheila Rothman, *Living in the Shadow of Death*, pp. 1-127

### Week 4

**Mon**  Sept 10.  Lecture: Public Health in the 18th Century; Miasmatic Theory  

**Wed**  Sept 12.  Lecture: Morbidity and Mortality in the 18th and 19th Centuries

**Fri**  Sept 14.  Discussion: Morbidity and Mortality in the 20th Century  
Reading: TBA  
PAPER #1 DUE

### Week 5

**Mon**  Sept 17.  Lecture: Hospitals in the 18th and 19th Centuries  
Reading: Florence Nightingale, *Notes on Hospitals* (MWC pp. 360-364) and
Massachusetts General Hospital, *By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, Acts and Resolves* (MWC 365-367)

**Wed** Sept 19. Lecture: Resurrectionists

**Fri** Sept 21. Discussion: Body and Gender from the 18th to the 20th Centuries

**Week 6**

**Mon** Sept 24. Lecture: Medicine and the Laboratory I; Cell theory and physiology
Reading: Claude Bernard, *An Introduction to the Study of Experimental Medicine* (MWC 314-318)

**Wed** Sept 26. Lecture: Public Health in 19th-Century Cities

**Fri** Sept 28. **EXAM 1**

**Week 7**

**Mon** Oct 1. Lecture: Medicine and the Laboratory II; Germ Theory

**Wed** Oct 3. Lecture: Surgery

**Fri** Oct 5. NO CLASS – TEXAS FRIDAY

**Week 8**

**Mon** Oct 8. Lecture: "New" Public Health

**Wed** Oct 10. Lecture: Public Health in the late 20th Century

**Fri** Oct 12. Discussion: Health in the Home
**Week 9**
Mon  Oct 15.  Lecture: Nursing


**PAPER #2 DUE**

**Week 10**
Mon  Oct 22.  Lecture: Medical Education
Reading: Selections from the Flexner report (on-line)


Fri  Oct 26.  Discussion: TBA
Reading: TBA

**Week 11**
Mon  Oct 29.  Lecture: Careers in Medicine in the 20th Century

Wed  Oct 31.  Lecture: Cancer

Fri  Nov 2.  **EXAM 2**

**Week 12**
Mon  Nov 5.  Lecture: Medicalizing Motherhood; Childbirth in the US

Wed  Nov 7.  Film: "The Pill"

Fri  Nov 9.  Discussion: What does it mean to be a (good) mother?
Reading: TBA

**Week 13**
Mon  Nov 12.  Film: "Typhoid Mary: The Most Dangerous Woman in America"
Reading: TBA

Wed  Nov 14.  Discussion: Andrew Speaker: Today's Typhoid Mary?
**PAPER #3 DUE**

Fri  Nov 16.  NO CLASS – STATEHOOD DAY

**Week 14**
Mon  Nov 19.  Lecture: Health Care in 20th-century America
Wed  Nov 21.  NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING

Fri  Nov 23.  NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING

**Week 15**
Mon  Nov 26.  Film: AIDS ("6000 A Day")

Wed  Nov 28.  Discussion of film

Fri  Nov 30.  NO CLASS

**Week 16**
Mon  Dec 3.  Lecture: The Human Genome Project

Wed  Dec 5.  Lecture: Paying for Health Care

Fri  Dec 7.  Discussion: Medicine and Culture
    Reading: Lynn Payer, *Medicine and Culture*, pp. TBA

**FINAL EXAM: Wed Dec 12, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**