Modern Medicine: A Historical Introduction
TTh 8:30 – 9:45 am
Stephenson Res and Tech. Cntr 1030

Professor: Kathleen Crowther
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Course Description:

This course examines the history of medicine in Europe and America from antiquity to the present (with a few forays into the non-Western world). 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? 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 and we will discuss a range of issues in contemporary medicine.

During some class periods I will lecture and during others we will have discussions. These are noted in the syllabus. Discussion will be based on the assigned reading, so it is essential that you do the reading assigned for discussion days before you come to class. The participation part of your grade is based on your work in small group discussions.

There will be a midterm and a final exam, both consisting of short answer questions and a longer essay question. The possible essay questions will be distributed at least a week before each exam. The final is comprehensive. You will also write three short (5-page) papers on assigned topics.

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.

Required Texts:
Lynn Payer, Medicine and Culture
Paul Farmer, Pathologies of Power
Robert Munson, Raising the Dead
J. Eric Oliver, Fat Politics
Anne Fadiman, The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down
All other readings are on D2L.

**Grading Policy:**
- Participation: 20%
- Papers (3): 45% (15% each)
- Midterm exam: 15%
- Final exam: 20%

**Schedule:**

**Week 1**  
Tues  Aug 20. Introduction

Thur  Aug 22. Lecture: The Four Humors  
      Reading: Shigehisa Kuriyama, "The Forgotten Fear of Excrement" *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 38:3, Fall 2008

**Week 2**  
Tues  Aug 27. Lecture: The "Modern" Body

Thur  Aug 29. Discussion: How does culture shape medical theory and practice?  
      Reading: Lynn Payer, *Medicine and Culture*, forewords, two introductory chapters and chapters on French and West German medicine

**Week 3**  
Tues  Sept 3. Lecture: Germ Theory; and other Modern Theories of Diseases

Thurs  Sept 5. Discussion: What's so great about American medicine?  
      Reading: Lynn Payer, *Medicine and Culture*, chapters on British and American medicine

**Week 4**  
      Reading: Paul Farmer, "On Suffering and Structural Violence" in *Pathologies of Power*

Thur  Sept 12. Discussion: Epidemics and Inequalities  
      Watch the film "Deadly Deception" – this is available on You Tube

**Week 5**  

PAPER #1 DUE

Week 6  
Tues  Sept 24. Lecture: History of Anatomy  

Thur  Sept 26. Discussion: Anatomy in Comparative Perspective  
Reading: Shigehisa Kuriyama, The Expressiveness of the Body, ch. III ("Muscularity and Identity")

Week 7  
Tues  Oct 1. Film: "Rx for Survival"  
Read: Paul Farmer: "A Plague on All Our Houses?" and "Cruel and Unusual" and "Health, Healing, and Social Justice" from Pathologies of Power

Thur  Oct 3. Discussion: Drug Resistant Bacteria

Week 8  
Tues  Oct 8. Lecture: History of Surgery

Thur  Oct 10. Discussion: Organ Transplantation  
Reading: Munson, Raising the Dead, excerpts TBA

Week 9  
Tues  Oct 15. Film: "Unnatural Causes"

Thur  Oct 17. Discussion: American Health Care in Comparative Perspective  
PAPER #2 DUE

Week 10  
Tues  Oct 22. Film: "6000 A Day"  
Reading: Paul Farmer, "Pestilence and Restraint" in Pathologies of Power

Thur  Oct 24. MIDTERM

Week 11  
Tues  Oct 29. Lecture: Smoking as a Public Health Hazard
Thur Oct 31. Discussion: America's Obesity Epidemic

**Week 12**

Tues Nov 5. Lecture: Pharmacology and the Pharmaceutical Industry

Thur Nov 7. Discussion: Regulation of Drugs
Reading: TBA

**Week 13**

Tues Nov 12. Lecture: Understanding Human Heredity

Thur Nov 14. Discussion: Sacred DNA

**Week 14**

Tues Nov 19. Lecture: A History of the Embryo

Thur Nov 21. Discussion: Problems and potentials of genetic and reproductive technologies

**PAPER #3 DUE**

**Week 15**

Tues Nov 26. Discussion: The Body in Comparative Perspective

Thur Nov 28. **THANKSGIVING**

**Week 16**

Tues Dec 3. Film: "The Pill" (American Experience)

Thur Dec 5. Final Review

**FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 11, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm**