

Georgia Institute of Technology
School of History, Technology, and Society
HTS 2080: Introduction to the History of Disease and Medicine

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Office hours:

Requirements

I will provide a set of lectures on topics outlined in the weekly schedule. Your job is to attend class, take notes, ask questions, complete reading assignments, participate in discussion, and sit for quizzes and exams. Attendance is mandatory. Absences are not acceptable except in cases of emergencies supported by appropriate documentation. Grades are determined as follows:

1. Exam One (in-class essay) -- 20%
2. Exam Two (in-class essay) -- 30%
3. Reading Quizzes (in-class short answer) – 20%
4. Final Exam (in-class short answer) -- 30%
5. The first unexcused absence will result in the subtraction of 1 point from your final grade. A second unexcused absence will each produce a subtraction of 2 points from your final grade. Each additional unexcused absence will produce a subtraction of 5 points from your final grade. Don't miss class.

Reading

Readings indicated on the schedule are to be completed in advance of class meetings. The following required books are at Engineer's Bookstore:

Sherwin Nuland, *Doctors*.
Howard Markel, *When Germs Travel*.

Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate:

- that they understand the profound influence of diseases on global history.
- mastery of a standard narrative of western medical progress since the Renaissance.
- knowledge of the interplay of social, political, and economic forces with the history of medicine and public health in the West.
- a grasp of the outlines of the evolution of medical education in Europe and America.

Weekly Schedule

Part One: Disease and History

Week One

8/21: The Black Death, Origin and Identity

No reading

8/23: The Impact of the Black Death

Read: Boccaccio, *Decameron*, First Day, Introduction. Read up to note 49. At:

<http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/decameron/engDecShowText.php?myID=d01intro&expand=day01>.

Week Two

8/28: Smallpox and the Global Balance of Power

Read: Alfred Crosby, "Conquistador y Pestilencia: The First New World Pandemic and the Fall of the Great Indian Empires," *The Hispanic American Historical Review* 47 (August 1967): 321-337.

GT Library eJournals.

8/30: Variolation, Vaccination, and Eradication

Read: Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, *Letter*. At:

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/montagu-smallpox.html>.

And: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/smallpox/>

Week Three

9/4: Potato Blight and Famine

No reading

9/6: Influenza

In-class screening and discussion: *Influenza, 1918*.

Read: Jeffery K. Taubenberger and David M. Morens, "1918 Influenza: the Mother of All

Pandemics," at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/vol12no01/05-0979.htm>

Week Four

9/11: Revolutionary and Counterrevolutionary Diseases

Read: J.R. McNeill, *Mosquito Empires: Ecology and War in the Greater Caribbean, 1620-1914*, Cambridge, 2010, ch. 6, 195-234, at: T-Square.

9/13: **Exam One**

Part Two: The Emergence of Western Medicine

Week Five

9/18: Ancient Legacies -- Hippocrates and Galen

Read: Nuland, chs. 1-2.

9/20: The New Anatomy of Vesalius

Read: Nuland, ch. 3.

And: Andreas Vesalius, *De Humani Corporis Fabrica*, preface at:

<http://vesalius.northwestern.edu/flash.html>

(section beginning "To the Divine Charles V..." and ending with the date August 1, A.D. 1542)

Week Six

9/25: Harvey and the Circulation of the Blood

Read: William Harvey, *De Motu Cordis*, Frankfurt, 1628, at:

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1628harvey-blood.html> (chapters 2, 8, 9)

And: Nuland, ch. 5

9/27: Microscopy

View: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2ezDdKyRUc>

Week Seven

10/2: Enlightened Medicine

Read: Nuland ch. 6.

10/4: French Revolution in Medicine

Read: Nuland, ch. 8.

Week Eight

10/9: Surgery

Read: Nuland, chs. 4, 7.

10/11: Anesthesia

Read: Nuland, ch. 10

Week Nine

10/18: Sanitation, Cholera, and the Birth of Public Health

Read: Edwin Chadwick, "Inquiry into the Sanitary Conditions of the Labouring Population" at:

<http://www.victorianweb.org/history/chadwick2.html>.

And: John Snow, *Cholera and the Water Supply*, at:

<http://collections.nlm.nih.gov/muradora/objectView.action?pid.nlm:nlmuid-101216228-bk>

Week Ten

10/23: The Origin of Germ Theory

Read: Nuland, ch. 9.

10/25: Pasteur, Koch, and Lister

Nuland, ch. 12

Week Eleven

10/30: **Exam Two**

Part Three: Contemporary Issues in Health and Medicine

11/1: Malaria

Read: Jeanne Guillemin, "Choosing Scientific Patrimony: Sir Ronald Ross, Alphonse Laveran, and the Mosquito-Vector Hypothesis for Malaria." *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, 57, no. 4 (2002): 385-409. GT Library eJournals.

Week Twelve

11/6: Public Health in America -- Tuberculosis and Trachoma

Read: Markel, chs. 1, 3.

11/8: Public Health in America -- Typhus and AIDS

Read: Markel, chs. 4, 5.

Week Thirteen

11/13: Medical Education in America

Read: Nuland, ch. 13.

And: *The Flexner Report*, introduction and part one, at:

http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/sites/default/files/elibrary/Carnegie_Flexner_Report.pdf

11/15: Medical Education Today

Read: Melvin Konner, *Becoming a Doctor: A Journey of Initiation in Medical School*, New York, Penguin, 1988, ch. 3. On T-Square.

Week Fourteen

11/20: Yellow Fever

No reading.

Week Fifteen

11/27: Being a Doctor

Guest speaker: Dr. Steven Shore

11/29: Taking the MCATs

Guest speaker: Jennifer Kimble, Director GT Pre-Health

Week Sixteen

12/4: AIDS and global health

Guest speaker: Dr. from CDC

12/6: Review for exam

FINAL EXAM is on 12/11, 2:50-5:40