



Department of History & Sociology of Science
University of Pennsylvania
Fall 2011

HSSC 503:

Current Issues in the History of Medicine

Wednesday 2-5 pm
337 Logan (Cohen) Hall
Office Hours: M 10:30-12, T 3:30-4:30
or by appointment

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Description:

A strategic sampling of approaches to the social, cultural, and historical study of health-related knowledge and practice, covering a wide chronological and geographical range. Goals of the course:

intensive analysis of selected methodologies and styles that have characterized important recent work on the historical and social study of medicine and health; systematic reflection on teaching strategies in the field, including discussion of the parallel undergraduate survey course, HSOC 002 ("Medicine in History"); critical analysis of the (too often unexamined) details of scholarly practice, including citation, stylistic conventions, rhetorical strategies, and the unwritten rules of academic polemics; an ongoing conversation regarding the practicalities of academic training in graduate school, ranging from "how to read" to "how to attend a scholarly conference."

Requirements:

[Note: All students are encouraged to audit HSOC 002: "Medicine in History," TTh 10:30-11:50, 402 Logan Hall]

- assigned readings, attendance, and participation in discussion;
- discussion questions and brief reflection pieces based on assigned readings, submitted by e-mail prior to class meetings;
- one short paper on scholarly citation practices, 5-7 pages;
- the design of a pedagogical web site, including interpretive essays.

Readings:

Assigned books are available for purchase at Penn Book Center. (Whether you buy the books there or not, please patronize independent bookstores—an endangered species.) If you plan to get books via BorrowDirect etc., get your requests in early!

Schedule of Assigned Readings

[All books assigned in their entirety, unless otherwise noted]

WEEK 1 September 7

Introduction and Overview
(no assigned readings)

WEEK 2 September 14

Shigehisa Kuriyama, The Expressiveness of the Body and the Divergence of Greek and Chinese Medicine

WEEK 3 September 21

Katharine Park, Secrets of Women: Gender, Generation, and the Origins of Human Dissection

WEEK 4
September 28

Barbara Duden, The Woman Beneath the Skin: A Doctor and His Patients in Eighteenth-Century Germany

Thomas Laqueur, review of Woman Beneath the Skin, in Bulletin of the History of Medicine

WEEK 5
October 5

Conevery Bolton Valencius, The Health of the Country

WEEK 6
October 12

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812

Friday October 14: Paper Due (Citation Review)

WEEK 7
October 19

Charles Rosenberg, The Care of Strangers: The Rise of America's Hospital System (all except chapters 10 and 11)

WEEK 8
October 26

Paul Starr, The Social Transformation of American Medicine, Book One and first two chapters of Book Two

WEEK 9
November 2

Article Week: readings selected in advance by students from list (generated by students) of award-winning and frequently-cited articles in the field

WEEK 10
November 9

Warwick Anderson, Colonial Pathologies: American Tropical Medicine, Race, and Hygiene in the Philippines (all except chapter 5)

WEEK 11
November 16

Allan Brandt, The Cigarette Century (all except chapters 8, 10, and 11)

WEEK 12
November 23: No Class

WEEK 13
November 30

Eric Klinenberg, Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago

WEEK 14
December 7

Priscilla Wald, Contagious: Cultures, Carriers, and the Outbreak Narrative

December 16
Pedaogical Website Project Due