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 (Cititation 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*