Transforming Galen

This course will view the work and influence of Galen of Pergamum (129-216) as a way of understanding the development of humoral medicine, from Antiquity to the present. It will explore not only the way in which Galen interpreted his own predecessors to create his own brand of Hippocratic medicine, but also the many ways in which, over the centuries, different aspects of Galen have been rediscovered and used to justify changes within medicine. The competing and overlapping views of Galen taken by historians and by medical practitioners provide a neat introduction to the methodologies of medical history.

1 The Life of Galen
This lecture sketches the life and times of Galen, in Asia Minor, Alexandria, and imperial Rome.

Essential reading:

Further reading:
Galen, Selected Writings, tr. Singer, pp. 3-29.
G. W. Bowersock, Greek Sophists in the Roman Empire, OUP, 1969
W. D. Smith, The Hippocratic Tradition, Cornell U.P., 1979
V. Nutton, ‘Galen and Medical Autobiography,’ in Nutton, From Democedes to Harvey, Variorum Reprints, 1988, I, pp. 50-62

2 Galenic theories
This lecture looks at the major theories of Galen, especially his views on the relationship of medicine and philosophy.

Essential reading:
M. Grant, Galen on Food and Diet, Routledge, 2000, p. 6-61

Further reading:
Galen, Selected Readings, tr. Singer, pp. 30-34, 150-176, 345-96
Galen, On my own Opinions, tr. Nutton, Akademie Verlag, 1999
T. Barton, Power and Knowledge, Ann Arbor, 1994
R. Flemming, Medicine and the Making of Roman Women, OUP, 2000, 288-358
V. Nutton, Ancient Medicine, Routledge, 2004, 230-247

3 Whose Hippocrates?
This lecture examines the Hippocratic Corpus, and the ways in which Galen (and his predecessors) created a picture of the historical Hippocrates out of diverse material.
Essential reading:

Further reading:
Galen, On the Elements according to Hippocrates, tr. De Lacy, Akademie Verlag, 1996
L. Edelstein, Ancient Medicine, Johns Hopkins U.P., 1967, pp. 133-144
J. Jouanna, Hippocrates, Johns Hopkins UP, 1999
V. Nutton, Ancient Medicine, Routledge, 2004, pp. 53-73

4 Physiology and Anatomy
This lecture considers the rise of anatomy from Aristotle to Erasistratus, the debates it engendered, and the revival of anatomy from Marinus to Galen.

Essential reading:
M. T. May, Galen on the Usefulness of Parts of the Body, Cornell U.P., 1968, pp. 13-44

Further reading:
Galen, Anatomical Procedures, Book I, tr. C. Singer, OUP, 1956
Galen, On Problematical Movements, tr. Nutton – translation to be supplied
L. Edelstein, Ancient Medicine, Johns Hopkins U.P., 1967, pp. 247-302
C. R. S. Harris, The Heart and the Vascular System, OUP, 1973
J. Rocca, Galen on the Brain, Leiden, 2003

5 Towards a Galenic system
This lecture looks at the contradictions within Galen, and the ways in which, in late Antiquity, these were removed, e.g. by the creation of a Galenic syllabus, encyclopaedias of extracts.

Essential reading:

Further Reading:
Agnellus of Ravenna, Lectures on Galen’s De Sectis, Buffalo, 1981, pp. 3-41
6 The Arabic Galen
This lecture begins with the 9th century translation movement and its impact on medicine in the Islamic world, and looks at the shape of this new medicine.

Essential reading:

Further reading:
P. Pormann and E. Savage-Smith, Medieval Islamic Medicine, Edinburgh U.P., pp. 24-29, 41-79

7 The Medieval West
This lecture looks at the different ways in which Greek material was transmitted and utilised in the medieval West, from Salerno to Niccolò da Reggio.

Essential reading:

Further reading:
M. H. Green, ed., *The Trotula*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2001, pp. 3-13

8 Galen in the Renaissance
This lecture focusses first on the new translations and editions of the medical humanists, and then on the propaganda for the new medicine, anatomy and medical method.

Essential reading:
Further reading:

9 From Icon to Windbag
This lecture examines the attacks on Galenic medicine, from Vesalius and Paracelsus to the 19th century, as well as the uses that continued to be made of Galenic material within Western medicine.

Essential reading:

Further reading:

10 Continuities
This lecture contrasts historians’ understanding of Galen (Temkin, Sarton, Lloyd, Nutton) with the continued existence of Galenism in Yunani and other contemporary medical systems.

Essential reading:

Further reading:
- G. Sarton, *Galen of Pergamum*, Lawrence, University of Kansas Press, 1954
- O. Temkin, *Galenism*