History of Medicine
CORE COURSE
Autumn Term, 2008

Instructor: Professor Harold J. Cook
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Time and Place: Tuesdays 5pm-7pm; Seminar Room, 5th floor 183 Euston Road with
the exception of 14 October, which will be held at the Hunterian Mu-
seum, Royal College of Surgeons.

Description: This course is designed to introduce students to major topics in the
history of medicine, to some of the current literature, and to various
approaches to the subject. The goal is to enable students to recognize
the problems in dispute when reading current journals in the field, and
to contribute to similar historical debates when conducting their own
research.

Requirements: Students are required to attend all sessions, to read the required read-
ings before class and to participate in the discussions. Each student
will be required to lead or co-lead the discussion of one topic. Three
short essays (no more than 3 pages in length) will be due on October
21, November 18, and December 9, to be in the form of a book re-
view on any book from the suggested readings, analyzing the argu-
ment of the author. An unseen examination will also be taken in mid-
January.

Marking: Students will be marked on their performance in leading and contrib-
uting to discussions (one point for each regular class session, and 5
for the presentation, or 14% of the overall mark), on their three essays
(12% each, or 36% of the overall mark) and on the final exam (50%
of the overall mark).

Final Exam: Friday 9th January 10am-1pm
SEPTEMBER 23
INTRODUCTION AND ORGANIZATION

SEPTEMBER 30
PATIENTS AND PRACTITIONERS
W/ Bill MacLehose

OCTOBER 7
FRAMING DISEASE
W/ Sanjoy Bhattacharya

OCTOBER 14
MATERIAL CULTURE: OBJECTS AND DEVICES
W/ Simon Chaplin

OCTOBER 21
HISTORY AND THE EXPERIENCE OF THE BODY
W/ Guy Attewell
(1st BOOK REVIEW)

OCTOBER 28
MEDICINE AND GENDER
W/ Helga Satzinger

NOVEMBER 4
READING WEEK

NOVEMBER 11
DEMOGRAPHY AND PUBLIC HEALTH
W/ Anne Hardy

NOVEMBER 18
LABORATORIES AND SCIENTIFIC TECHNOLOGIES
W/ Tilli Tansey
(2nd BOOK REVIEW)

NOVEMBER 25
FOODS, DRUGS, THERAPIES
W/ Emma Spary

DECEMBER 2
MADNESS AND CIVILISATION
W/ Sonu Shamdasani

DECEMBER 9
MEDICINE AND VISUAL CULTURE
W/ Roger Cooter
(3rd BOOK REVIEW)
Does ‘medicine’ look different from the patient’s point of view? To what extent do patients exercise control during the medical encounter?

**Required Reading:**

**Suggested Reading:**
How do historians handle problems of disease, quantitatively and qualitatively? Can modern definitions of a disease be used for past experiences? What factors might have caused the rise and decline of epidemic diseases?

**Required Reading:**

**Suggested Reading:**
NOTE: meet at 5.10pm in the foyer of the Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln’s Inn Fields, for tour and discussion at the Hunterian Museum

How have collections of objects affected medical knowledge? What possibilities are there for historians to use objects in interpreting the past?

Required Reading:

Suggested Reading:
Do people in different times and places experience the body differently? Would that make a difference to historical interpretation?

**Required Reading:**

**Suggested Reading:**
A difference, that makes a difference? – What does it mean for medicine and health that all societies discriminate between men and women? How is this social difference made and unmade, what part did medicine and science play?

**Required Reading:**

**Suggested Reading:**
What is the relationship between public health and the nation state? How much influence do ‘medical’ people have in providing, or in influencing the provision of, public health? How do historians estimate population sizes? and changes in size and composition? Taking England as the main example, do birth rates or mortality shifts seem most important?

**Required Reading:**

**Suggested Reading:**
McKeown, Thomas (1976) *The modern rise of population*. London: Edward Arnold
To what extent does modern medicine depend on laboratory and technological investigations and devices? How does this change the doctor-patient relationship? What effects do the new relationships have on the medical profession?

Required reading:

Suggested reading:
What is a food? What is a drug? Why have these definitions changed over time? How did the rise of pharmaceutical chemistry and other new sciences change the understanding, production, testing and evaluation of drugs? How are ‘good’ and ‘bad’ uses of foods and drugs determined, in relation to changing views of health, healing and pleasure?

**Required reading:**

**Suggested reading:**


from scholarly reception to practical impact. *Medical History*, 45, 359-376


How is ‘madness’ defined? ‘mental health’? How is it ‘medicalised’?

**Required Reading:**


**Suggested Reading:**


How do images affect understanding and practice? And how do they implicate the viewer?

**Required Reading:**


**Suggested Reading:**


Martin Lengwiler, ‘Between war propaganda and advertising: the visual style of accident prevention as a precursor to postwar health education in Switzerland’ in V. Berridge and K. Loughlin (eds), *Medicine, the Market and the Mass Media*, (London: Routledge, 2005), 55-75.

Kelly A. Joyce, ‘From Numbers to Pictures: the development of magnetic resonance imaging and the visual turn in medicine’, *Science as Culture*, 15 (March 2006), 1-22;


Luc Pauwels (ed), *Visual Cultures of Science: rethinking representational practices in knowledge building and science communication* (Hanover, NH: Dartmouth College Press, 2006).