HMED_3014: History of Asian Medicine

Intercalated BSc in the History of Medicine 2011-2012
The UCL Centre for the History of Medicine

Term 2 (9 January 2012 - 19 March 2012)
Mondays 1400-1600

Lecturers:
Dr Leon Rocha (University of Cambridge)
Dr Theresia Hofer (University of Oslo)
Course Description

This course aims to provide knowledge of the background and development of key concepts and practices in the history of Chinese medicine, with a secondary focus on the history of Tibetan medicine. It will describe the transmissions of these Asian medical systems and traditions to Europe and the practice of traditional medicine in the modern world. The course will give a broad historical perspective, whilst at the same time focussing on the social, cultural and political contexts of key times of medical innovation. (1/2 Unit)

Practical Details

There will be 11 sessions, held on Mondays between 1400 and 1600. The lecturers for the course are Dr Leon Rocha (Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge) and Dr Theresia Hofer (Section for Medical Anthropology and Medical History, University of Oslo).

Contact details: Leon Rocha – LAR29@cam.ac.uk
Theresia Hofer – resi.hofer@gmail.com

You are very welcome to contact us by email or arrange an appointment whenever questions arise, when you wish to discuss your assignments and examinations, and so forth. Please contact Dr Rocha for questions relating to the China material and Dr Hofer for the Tibet modules.

In total, students are expected to read all “Essential Readings” (marked by an *) and spend at least three hours a week reading. Extra and in-depth reading is recommended and is a requirement for the two essays (50%) and for exam preparation (50%).

Background Reading for China

Easy illustrated readings for a general understanding of Chinese history and culture. Concentrate on the late Warring States and early Empires, as well as the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. For the second half of the term, read the sections on Religion.


For Modern China:
Reference Works for China

Quick and easy reference:

More specialist:

General Readings for Chinese Medicine


# indicate general, introductory articles

Background Reading for Tibet

General Readings for Tibetan Medicine


Lecture 1  The Chinese Body and Cosmology

(Week 1, 9 Jan 2012)


For reference:


Lecture 2  Diagnosis and Treatment in Chinese Medicine  
(Week 2, 16 Jan 2012)


Lecture 3  The Origins of Tibetan Medicine and Sowa Rigpa’s Historical Developments – 12th to early 20th century  
(Week 3, 23 Jan 2012)


* Hofer, Theresia The Inheritance of Change – Transmission and Practice of Tibetan Medicine in Ngamring. Wiener Studien zur Tibetologie und Buddhismuskunde, University of Vienna. (Introduction and Chapter 1).


Lecture 4 The Tibetan Medical Body: Diagnosis and Treatment (Week 4, 30 Jan 2012)


Lecture 5a Self-Cultivation in Chinese Traditions (Week 5, 6 Feb 2012)


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Some other good texts on Qigong and Falun Gong include:


Lecture 5b  Medical Plurality in China  
(Week 5, 6 Feb 2012)


READING WEEK  
(Week 6, 13 Feb 2012)
Lecture 6a  Alchemy, Religion, and Chinese Medicine  
(Week 7, 20 Feb 2012)


Lecture 6b  Pharmacology and Food in China  
(Week 7, 20 Feb 2012)


Lecture 7  Joint Session: The Receptions of Western Medicine and Biomedicine in China and Tibet  
(Week 8, 27 Feb 2012)

China Readings


On Wu Lien-teh (1879-1960) and the Manchurian Plague:


Tibet Readings


Lecture 8  
“TCM” – The Reinvention of Traditions  
(Week 9, 5 Mar 2012)


Lecture 9  
Tibetan Medicine, Communist Reforms and the Revitalisation of “Tradition”  
(Week 10, 12 Mar 2012)


**Lecture 10**  
Joint Session: The Globalisation of Chinese and Tibetan Medicines

(Week 11, 19 March 2012)


China Readings


Useful Websites:

BBC Radio 4, “Science – The Other Medicine”
http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/science/other_medicine.shtml

House of Lords Report on Complementary Medicine
http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/ld199900/ldselect/ldsctech/123/12301.htm

Tibet Readings


Saxer, Martin “Journeys with Tibetan Medicine”, Film (producer: Anyma Films)


Useful Websites:
Tibetan Medicine Education Centre http://www.tibetanmedicine-edu.org/index.php
Padma Company http://www.padma.ch/en/
Shang Shung Institute, USA http://www.shangshung.org/home/school.html

Comparative Readings: Ayurveda and South Asian Medicines


Ayurvedic Practitioners Association http://www.apa.uk.com/1/home