

# HPSC3029 Medicine, Disease and History

## Course Syllabus

2013-14 session | Dr Bill MacLehose | [w.maclehose@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:w.maclehose@ucl.ac.uk)

This course addresses the changes and developments in Western medicine from the Ancient Greek world to 1700. We will discuss ancient, medieval and early modern understandings of the body and illness, the varieties of theory and practice of medicine, and the historical background to premodern medicine. Among the themes we will pursue are the rise of hospitals, developments in anatomy and physiology, religion and medicine, contagious diseases, and the changes in pharmacology. The course combines lectures with occasional discussions of essential primary sources from the different periods under consideration.

The objectives of the course are two: first, to become familiar with premodern views of the body, health and illness and second, to be able to think historically and contextualise past practices and theories of medicine.

### Course Information

#### Basic course information

Moodle Web site:	HPSC3029
Assessment:	One essay (3,000 words) (50%), one exam (3 hours) (50%)
Timetable:	<a href="http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/hpsc">www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/hpsc</a>
Prerequisites:	course designed for year 3 students
Required texts:	no required texts
Course tutor(s):	Dr William MacLehose
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Office location:	22 Gordon Square, Room 2.3
Office hours:	Mondays, 11-12 Thursdays, 11-12

## Schedule

UCL Week	Topic	Date	Activity
6	Introduction and early Greek medicine	30 Sept, 3 Oct	Nutton, ch 3 & 4
7	Hippocratic medicine	7 & 10 Oct	Nutton, ch 5 & 6, Hippocratic writings
8	Alexandria and Rome	14 & 17 Oct	Nutton, ch 8, 9, 11
9	Galen and humoral medicine	21 & 24 Oct	Nutton ch 13, 15-16, 19
10	Religion and medicine; Islamic medicine	28 & 31 Oct	Nutton, ch 18; Conrad, pp. 93-125
11	<b>Reading Week</b>	4 & 7 Nov	
12	Western medieval medicine; hospitals	11 & 14 Nov	Conrad, pp. 139-68
13	Plague and Leprosy	18 & 21 Nov	Conrad, pp. 187-98; Boccaccio intro
14	Vesalius and anatomy	25 & 28 Nov	Conrad 250-310
15	Paracelsus, chemistry and magic; Harvey and the circulation of blood	2 & 5 Dec	Conrad, pp. 310-40
16	The New Science and medicine	9 & 12 Dec	Conrad, pp. 215-50; 340-61

## Assessments

### Summary

	Description	Deadline	Word limit
<b>Essay</b>	Research essay	11 December, 11.59 pm	3000
<b>Exam</b>	3 hour final examination	tba 2012	3 hours

### Assignments

[insert additional information regarding the nature of the assignment where applicable]  
 Essays must be submitted via Moodle [or insert alternative submission info]  
 In order to be deemed 'complete' on this module students must attempt [insert assessments]

### Criteria for assessment

The departmental marking guidelines for individual items of assessment can be found in the STS Student Handbook.

## Aims & objectives

The objectives of the course are two: first, to become familiar with premodern views of the body, health and illness and second, to be able to think historically and contextualise past practices and theories of medicine.

## Reading list

There are two basic textbooks we will use for this module. Several copies are available at the UCL Science library. Many copies of each are available just around the corner at the Wellcome Library, 183 Euston Rd. Each has its strengths as well as its faults. They are:

Vivian Nutton, *Ancient Medicine*. Abingdon: Routledge, 2004.

Lawrence Conrad, Michael Neve, Vivian Nutton, Roy Porter, and Andrew Wear. *The Western Medical Tradition, 800 BC to AD 1800*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

Note that Nutton's *Ancient Medicine*, which we will read extensively in the first half of term, is available online via the Wellcome Library. You must register as a reader at the Wellcome (it's free and fairly easy) and then, with your library membership information, you can access the book anywhere at:

<http://catalogue.wellcome.ac.uk/record=b1586991~S8>

### Session 1: Archaic medicine

Required: Nutton, *Ancient Medicine*, ch. 3.

Recommended: Kirk, et al., *The Presocratic Philosophers*

James Longrigg, 'Presocratic Philosophy and Hippocratic Medicine', *History of Science*, 27, 1989, 1-38

### Session 2: Hippocratic medicine: theories of disease

Required: Nutton, *Ancient Medicine*, chs. 4 & 5

Recommended: Helen King, *Hippocrates' Woman*, 1998

G.E.R. Lloyd, *Early Greek Science: Thales to Aristotle*, chap. 5.

### Session 3: Hippocratic medicine: patients and practitioners

Required: Nutton, *Ancient Medicine*, ch. 6 and The oath and Epidemics selections

Recommended: *Hippocratic Writings* (Penguin edition, ed. G.E.R. Lloyd)

V. Nutton, 'Beyond the Hippocratic Oath', in Wear et al., *Doctors and Ethics*, 10-37

### Session 4: Natural philosophy and the Hellenistic World

Required: Nutton, *Ancient Medicine*, ch. 8

Recommended: Plato, *Timaeus*

Longrigg, *Greek Rational Medicine*, ch. 5

### Session 5: Dissection, vivisection and new frontiers

Required: Nutton, *Ancient Medicine*, chs. 9 & 11.

Recommended: H. von Staden, *Herophilus: The Art of Medicine in Early Alexandria*

Celsus, *On Medicine*, vol. 1, 3-35

James Longrigg, 'Alexandrian Medical Science', *History of Science*, 1981, 19: 155-206

### Session 6: Alternate Models in Golden-Age Rome

Required: Nutton, *Ancient Medicine*, chs. 13 & 14

Recommended: Ludwig Edelstein, *Ancient Medicine*, 173-191

Elizabeth Rawson, 'The Life and Death of Asclepiades of Bithynia', *Classical Quarterly*, 1988, ns 32: 358-370

### **Session 7: Galen of Pergamum**

Required: Nutton, *Ancient Medicine*, chs. 15 & 16

Recommended: O. Temkin, *Galenism: Rise and Decline of a Medical Philosophy*, ch.1

R.J. Hankinson, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Galen*, ch. 1-2

### **Session 8: The triumph of humoral theory**

Required: Nutton, *Ancient Medicine*, ch. 19

Recommended: O. Temkin, *Double Face of Janus*, ch. 11 and 202-222

Wesley Smith, *The Hippocratic Tradition*, 61-122

### **Session 9: Religion and medicine**

Required: Nutton, *Ancient Medicine*, ch. 18

Recommended: Darrel W. Amundsen, 'Medicine and Faith in Early Christianity', *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 1982, 56: 326-50

Lindberg, *Beginnings of Western Science*, 149-159

### **Session 10: Islam: inheritance and innovation**

Required: Conrad, et al., *Western Medical Tradition*, pp. 93-125

Recommended: P. Pormann and E. Savage-Smith, *Medieval Islamic Medicine*, ch. 1

Michael Dols, *Medieval Islamic Medicine*, pp. 1-42

### **Session 11: Western medieval medicine**

Required: Conrad, et al., *Western Medical Tradition*, pp. 139-146. 153-168

Recommended: L. Garcia-Ballester, 'The New Galen' in K.D. Fischer, ed., *Text and Tradition: Studies in Ancient Medicine and its Transmission*, 1998, 55-83

Danielle Jacquart, 'The Influence of Arabic Medicine in the Medieval West,' in *Encyclopedia of the History of Arabic Science*, ed. Roshdi Rashed. 1996, 3 vols

### **Session 12: The rise of hospitals**

Required: Katharine Park, 'Medicine and Society in Medieval Europe', in Andrew Wear, *Medicine in Society*, 59-90

Recommended: Carole Rawcliffe, 'The Hospitals of Later Medieval London', *Medical History* 28 (1984) 1-21

McVaugh, Michael R. "Bedside Manners in the Middle Ages." *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 71.2 (1997) 201-223

### **Session 13: Contagious diseases: leprosy and plague**

Required: Conrad, et al., *Western Medical Tradition*, pp. 187-198.

Boccaccio, Decameron: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/decameronintro.asp>

Recommended: Samuel Cohn, *The Black Death transformed*

François-Olivier Touati, 'Contagion and Leprosy,' in Lawrence Conrad and Dominik Wujastyk, eds, *Contagion: Perspectives from Pre-Modern Societies*, 2000.

### **Session 14: Renaissance medicine**

Required: Conrad, et al., *Western Medical Tradition*, pp. 250-264, 298-310  
Recommended: Karen Meier Reeds, 'Renaissance Humanism and Botany', *Annals of Science*, 1976, 33: 519-542  
Jean A Givens, *Visualizing Medieval Medicine and Natural History*, 2006

#### **Session 15: The new anatomy: Vesalius**

Required: Conrad, et al., *Western Medical Tradition*, pp.264-292  
Recommended: O'Malley, *Andreas Vesalius of Brussels*, esp. 17-20, 47-61; ch 6 & 11  
Roger French, *Dissection and Vivisection in the European Renaissance*

#### **Session 16: Medicine, magic, and Paracelsus**

Required: Conrad, et al., *Western Medical Tradition*, pp. 310-325  
Recommended: Paracelsus, *Paracelsus: Essential Readings*, introduction  
Charles Webster, 'Alchemical and Paracelsian Medicine', in Webster, *Health, Medicine and Mortality*, ch. 9

#### **Session 17: Harvey and the circulation of blood**

Required: Conrad, et al., *Western Medical Tradition*, pp. 325-340  
Recommended: Harvey, *The Circulation of the Blood and Other Writings*  
Roger French, *William Harvey's Natural Philosophy*, esp. introduction and ch 1-5  
Donald Bates, 'Harvey's Account of his Discovery,' *Medical History* 36 (1992) 361-78

#### **Session 18: Ancients v. Moderns: The New Science of the seventeenth century**

Required: Conrad, et al., *Western Medical Tradition*, pp. 340-361.  
Recommended: Andrew Wear, *Knowledge and Practice in English Medicine 1550-1680*, 2000.  
Jon Parkin, *Science, Religion and Politics in Restoration England*, 1999.

#### **Session 19: Life and death in the seventeenth century**

Required: Conrad, et al., *Western Medical Tradition*, pp. 215-225, 232-250  
Recommended: Roger French and Andrew Wear, *The Medical Revolution of the Seventeenth Century*, essays by Cunningham and Wear.  
Lucinda Beier, 'In Sickness and in Health: A Seventeenth Century Family's Experience' in Porter and Porter, *Patients and Practitioners*.

### **Course expectations**

Students are expected to attend classes, prepare the readings and other assignments, participate in discussions, and complete the assessments.

### **Important policy information**

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Details of college and departmental policies relating to modules and assessments can be found in the STS Student Handbook [www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/handbook](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/handbook)

All students taking modules in the STS department are expected to read these policies.