This course will explore the emergence of modern medicine from the 18th century to the present day in European society. It will assess how historians have interpreted the radical changes in the last 250 years of European medicine. In 20 sessions we will discover how the response of medical practitioners, institutions, legislators and the general public to health problems always reflected and at the same time contributed to changing social and cultural ideas and attitudes within contemporary European society.

You are required to read one of the textbooks listed under ‘General Introductions into the History of Medicine’. They are all to be found back in the Wellcome Library’s Student Loan Collection. Also, have a look at the general introductions into the period as some background knowledge on the period is expected. All the other reading on this list is meant as a starting point for your own essay and dissertation research.

Assessment:

You need to submit two written tasks, which between them carry 50% of the total mark. The exam, which makes up the other half, is in the third term.

Task 1: Book review of 1000 words – choose any one of the books listed on this syllabus.
To be submitted on
Task 2: Essay of 1500 words on one on the given ‘Discussion topics’
To be submitted on

Throughout the course we will include short sessions on academic skills such as the use of sources and their interpretations, the use of the internet, writing essays, and how to correctly reference them. The following can be useful:

- David Bosworth, *Citing your references: A guide for authors of journal articles and students writing theses or dissertations*, 2004.
- Centre for history and new media  
  http://chnm.gmu.edu/
  http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=26&storycode=403327
  http://chnm.gmu.edu/resources/essays/d/42
- Referencing guide – UCL library  
  http://www.ucl.ac.uk/Library/CitationPlagiarism.doc
General Introductions into the History of Medicine:


Introductions to the ‘modern world’

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Introduction

1. ‘Modern Society’ and how to write its history of medicine.
In this session we will introduce ourselves and the course, will discuss its contents, aims and tasks. We will consider the changing face of medical history, how traditional accounts of Western medicine have been challenged by new historical approaches in the last twenty years and think about the meaning of ‘modernity’.

Discussion topics:
- How do cultural historians approach the history of medicine?
- Why is every aspect of medicine’s history necessarily ‘social’?
- Why has the ‘patients view’ been lost in much medical history?

Reading:
- Susan M. Reverby and David Rosner, ‘Beyond the great doctors’ revisited: a
Part 1: 1750-1800

2. Medicine and Enlightenment
This week we will look at some of the important cultural changes that took place in the 18th century and how they influenced ideas about the body, about man and woman’s place in nature and the theory and practice of medicine.

Discussion topics:
- Explain the main changes in the understanding of the working of the body that occurred in the 18th century.
- How should we understand the changes in the management of childbirth that happened in the 18th century?
- Analyse the influence of the ideas of ‘enlightenment’ on the medical theory and practice.

Reading:
Primary source:
Secondary sources:

3. The 18th century Medical Marketplace
Which different types of healers a sick person could call upon in the 18th century in a system whereby practice of medicine was related to structures of offer and demand? We will explain how sickness continued to be perceived and described in medical, religious and magical terms, and how it was met by patients and practitioners.

Discussion topics:
- Discuss some of the options available to the sick in 18th century when seeking treatment.
- Discuss what is meant by the ‘medical marketplace’ and how it fits in with contemporary developments in the 18th century.
- How did folk medicine and learned medicine influence each other in the treatment of smallpox?

Reading:
Primary source:
Secondary sources:
- Evelyn B. Ackerman, Healthcare in the Parisian countryside, Rutgers, 1990.

Part 2: 1800-1850

4. Medicine in the Hospital
Historians have located a broad shift in the history of western medicine in the years following the French Revolution in 1789. We will discuss the transformation of the hospital as the main site for learning about disease and medical care influenced by broader social and political changes. We will also discuss the emergence of new specialized institutions, such as asylums and lying-in hospitals.

Discussion topics:
- How did the social changes brought about by the ideas leading to the French Revolution inspire hospital and asylum reform?
- Explore the relationship between doctor and patient in the new hospital.

Reading:
Primary Source:
Secondary Sources:
5. Seeing the Signs.
In this session the fundamental changes in the theory and practice of medicine of the ‘Paris model’ will be further explored. We will talk about new ways of diagnosing and classifying illness, look at the impact of the new science of clinical pathology, and assess further the changing relationship between doctors and patients.

Discussion topics:
- Why do historians call the changes of the beginning of the 19th century a ‘revolution’ in medicine? Do you agree?
- Can medicine as practiced in the Paris hospital be called scientific? Why (not)?
- ‘The question, ‘What is the matter with you?’ … was replaced by that other question, ‘Where does it hurt?’’ (Michel Foucault, The Birth of the Clinic, 1963, xviii). Explain this statement and the change it describes.

Reading:
Primary source:
Secondary sources:

6. Cleaning up: Sanitary Reform
In this session we will study how social conditions in towns and cities as a result of industrialisation and urbanisation lead to a movement for sanitary reform in Europe in the first half of the 19th century. Outbreaks of major epidemics like cholera and the persistence of ‘fevers’ among the working classes, lead hygienists to conduct investigations of social conditions and disease.

Discussion topic:
- Analyse the role of and the approach taken by medical professionals of in stimulating changes in public health.

**Reading:**

Primary sources:
- Florence Nightingale *Notes on nursing*, 1860, Chapter II.–Health of houses. 24-34
  
  "http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/nightingale/nursing/nursing.html"

Secondary sources:

**Part 3: 1850-1900**

**7. Medical police: case study prostitution**

Morality and medicine were deeply linked in 19th century debates on prostitution. In this session we will look at the figure of the prostitute and analyse the role of medicine in the public debate on venereal disease. We will also question the double standard related to various attempts at medical control of prostitution.

**Discussion topics:**
- Discuss how medical and moral discourses on sex were intertwined.
- Explain: ‘Victorian medical explanations of prostitution and venereal disease were determined by analyses based upon ideological beliefs about class and gender.’ Mary Spongberg.

**Reading:**

Primary sources:
- Cesare Lombrose and Guillermo Ferrero, *La donna delinquente, la prostituta e la donna normale*, 1893, translated as *The Female Offender* 1895.

Secondary sources:

8. Medicine in the laboratory
In the second half of the 19th century, medicine sought a secure, rational foundation in experimental science and in this process ideas about the nature of disease and life itself were challenged. Adopting an experimental approach towards the study of vital processes, physiology was based on advances in chemistry and physics. In this session we discuss the role of the laboratory for medicine, its proponents and adversaries.

Discussion Topics:
- “It was not the experiments on animals they [antivivisectionists] were protesting it was the shape of the century to come” What does Richard French mean and do you agree?
- How important was the laboratory for medicine and in what ways did it change medical knowledge and practices?

Reading:
Primary source:
Secondary sources:
- Christopher Lawrence, ‘Incommunicable knowledge: science, technology and the clinical art in Britain’, *Journal of contemporary history*, XX, 1985, 503-20
By the mid 19th century, the disordered mind became a medical subject of study and scientific approaches towards mental problems were proposed, although there was no agreement on the way such diseases should be treated. We will trace how ideas on insanity and what it constituted were linked to social concerns.

Discussion topics:
- What were the reasons for the rise in asylum population in the 19th century?
- What was the impact of ‘biological psychiatry’ at the turn of the 20th century?

Reading:
Primary source:
Secondary sources:

10. From Dirt to Germs
Transformations in nineteenth-century medicine were evident most clearly in new explanations of disease. What exactly caused disease and the role of science for medicine and society were discussed in debates surrounding germ theory. This lecture will look at the enquiry into and debates on the causes of disease. We will study how doctors working in the laboratory identified micro-organisms causing disease.

Discussion topics:
- How did germ theory influence medical practice?
- What did Bruno Latour mean with the “pasteurization” of France?
- “The political cultures nurturing the growth of bacteriology have been often overlooked in favour of more value-neutral explanations.” Paul Weindling. Explain.

Reading:
Primary source:
Secondary sources:
- Thomas D. Broch, Robert Koch, a life in medicine and bacteriology, Madison, 1999
11. Surgical revolution

During the 19th century surgery went through very important changes. Following the introduction of anaesthesia and antisepsis, by the end of the century, surgery as an accepted way to repair damaged organs, had acquired immense prestige and surgeons claimed their place at the forefront of scientific medicine. In this class we will look in more detail at some of those developments in surgery, the ambitions of surgeons and the experience of patients.

Discussion topics:
- Discuss the relationship between germ theory and the developments in surgery in the 2nd half of the 19th century.
- Explain how the introduction of anaesthesia is closely related to the emerging professionalism and scientific medicine.

Reading:
Primary source:

Secondary sources:
- Toby Gelfand, Professionalizing modern medicine: Paris surgeons and medical science and institutions in the 18th century, Westport, 1980.
- Lindsay Granshaw, ‘Upon this principle I have based a practice’: the development and reception of antisepsis in Britain, 1867-90, in John Pickstone, ed. Medical innovations in historical perspective. Basingstoke, 1993, 17-46.

**12. Man and women of medicine: the making of professional identities**

We will look at the ways in which medical professional identities were constructed through training of doctors and through conflict and politics. Nineteenth century doctors established themselves as practitioners of ‘regular’ medicine, in contrast to those offering ‘irregular’ healing. We will also learn about the gradual entry of women in medical practice and the professionalisation of nursing.

**Discussion topics:**
- Discuss the main changes in training, practice and status of medical practitioners in Europe in the 19th century.
- How and why was women’s access to the medical profession restricted?
- How and why did nursing develop in a profession in the 19th century?

**Reading:**

*Primary sources:*

*Secondary sources:*

**Part 4: 1880-1918**

13. **Medicine, degeneracy and national decline:**

In the later decades of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th narratives of inheritance, degeneracy and efficiency affected relations between medicine and society within a context of nationalism and imperialism. We will assess the new science of eugenics and the role of medicine in the development of its ideas in Europe.

**Discussion topics**
- What is the influence of theories of evolution on the practice of medicine?
- How was the idea of degeneration linked to contemporary concerns and anxieties?

**Reading**

**Primary source:**

**Secondary sources:**

**14. Social Hygiene and the Healthy Citizen**

In this session we will look at some of the wide range of policies that aimed to improve social conditions and provide public health. We will explain some of the new medical policies that came into place in Europe in the last decades of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th. We will discuss the growing role of national governments in the provision of public and personal health, look at the analyse the role women were assigned in the making of ‘the healthy citizen’ and at the effects of germ theory on ideas on public health.

**Discussion topics:**
- How did germ theory influence public health in the second half of the 19th century?
- Analyse the role of women in public health in the fin-de-siècle.
- How was nationalism important for the making of late 19th and early 20th century public health initiatives?
- The late 19th century sees the medicalisation of society. Do you agree?

**Reading:**

**Secondary sources:**
15. People and their Health

How did people during the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century deal with their own and their family’s health? What were the options for healthcare available and based on what were choices made? How did people react to the enforcement of public health measures? We will look at examples of patient experience and at some popular ‘irregular’ practices.

Discussion topics:
- How available was ‘scientific’ medicine to ordinary people and how effective in dealing with disease was it?
- Analyse the emergence of new un-orthodox practices in the 19th century.

Reading:

Primary Source:

Secondary sources:

16. Wednesday 9 March: Early pharmaceutical industry: Case study Burroughs-Wellcome

Today’s topic will introduce us to the story of the successful pharmaceutical company set up by Henry Wellcome in the late 19th century. We will discuss the ways in which Wellcome’s approach was essentially ‘modern’ and how commercial interests became of major importance in Western medicine.

Discussion topics:
- Analyse the significant changes within the pharmaceutical industry in the first half of the 20th century with examples of its contribution to the practice of medicine.
- Discuss the relation between medicine, states and the pharmaceutical industry in UK/France/Germany and the US

**Reading:**

17. Medicine and Empire

Today we will look at Western medicine in a colonial context. In the age of empire, administrators and medical professionals were faced with many health situations unknown in Europe, and were confronted with people of different ethnic backgrounds. Historians disagree about the meaning of European medical responses to the colonial setting. How important were local perspectives and how do we need to interpret European responses?

**Discussion topics:**
- Medicine in the colonies was used to serve imperial policies. Do you agree?
- Discuss the role played by medicine in the construction of the idea of race in the 19th century?

**Reading:**

*Primary source:*

*Secondary sources:*
- Andrew Cunningham and Bridie Andrews, eds., *Western medicine as contested knowledge*, Manchester, 1997.
- Maryinez Lyons, ‘Public Health and Colonial Africa, the Belgian Congo’ in Dorothy
Part 5: 1918-1949

18. Medicine and Democracy
This week we will evaluate some of the social changes in Europe in the first half of the 20th century and will examine how medicine influenced social policy while at the same time being profoundly influenced by contemporary ideas of efficiency, rationality and economic competitiveness. We will look at the changing role of the hospital and discuss some of the changes in European healthy policy in these years look at the rise of the ‘welfare state’.

Discussion topics:
- What has been the impact of the rise of the welfare state on the practice of medicine?
- How unique is the British National Health Service?
- How did the hospital become the main provider of specialised care by the 20th century?

Reading:
Primary source
  http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/19_07_05_beveridge.pdf
Secondary sources:
- John Pickstone, Production, community and consumption: the political economy of twentieth-century medicine’ and in Roger Cooter and John Pickstone, eds., Medicine in the twentieth century, Amsterdam, 2000, 1-20.

19. The ‘therapeutic revolution’
In spite of the experience of war, Western medicine in the 20th century was confident in its method and its potential to find cures for disease. We will talk about some of the innovations in organisation of medicine, discuss the impact of technical innovations and the rise of the modern biomedical laboratory and the resulting ‘therapeutic revolution’.

Discussion topics:
- What impact did war have on medical knowledge and practice in the twentieth century?
- Why is the penicillin story a thoroughly modern one?

**Reading:**

**Primary source:**

**Secondary sources:**

**Conclusion**

**20. Triumph of modernity?**

Like its history, the practice of modern scientific medicine itself as one of progress and purpose has been criticised in the second half of the 20th century. Also its politics of availability and its access to the public are being questioned, while people continue to search alternative methods of healing. In this last session we identify some of this criticism and discuss the role of medicine today.

**Discussion topics:**
- Has the 20th century been the golden time for medicine?
- What is the role of medicine today?

**Reading:**