History of Medicine  
CORE COURSE  
Autumn Term, 2009  

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 20 October, which will be held at the Hunterian Museum, 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 readings before class and to participate in the discussions. Each student will be required to lead the discussion of one topic and to lead the response to a staff presentation. Two short essays (no more than 3 pages in length) will be due on October 27, November 24, to be in the form of a book review on any book from the suggested readings, analyzing the argument of the author. An additional assignment is a dissertation proposal, outlining the historical problem and indicating the methods and sources to be used to tackle it, due on December 15. An unseen examination will be taken at the end of term.  

Marking:  Students will be marked on their performance in leading the discussions and responses (for 14% of the overall mark), on their two essays and research proposal (12% each, or 36 % of the overall mark) and on the final exam (50% of the overall mark).  

Final Exam:  Friday 18th December 10am-1pm
SEPTEMBER 29
INTRODUCTION AND ORGANIZATION

OCTOBER 6
PATIENTS AND PRACTITIONERS
W/ Bill MacLehose

OCTOBER 13
FRAMING DISEASE
W/ Sanjoy Bhattacharya

OCTOBER 20
MATERIAL CULTURE: OBJECTS AND DEVICES
W/ Simon Chaplin

OCTOBER 27
HISTORY AND THE EXPERIENCE OF THE BODY
W/ Guy Attewell
(1st BOOK REVIEW)

NOVEMBER 3
MEDICINE AND GENDER
W/ Helga Satzinger

NOVEMBER 11
READING WEEK

NOVEMBER 17
DEMOGRAPHY AND PUBLIC HEALTH
W/ Anne Hardy

NOVEMBER 24
LABORATORIES AND SCIENTIFIC TECHNOLOGIES
W/ Tilli Tansey
(2nd BOOK REVIEW)

DECEMBER 1
FOODS, DRUGS, THERAPIES
W/ Emma Spary

DECEMBER 8
MADNESS AND CIVILISATION
W/ Sonu Shamdasani

DECEMBER 15
MEDICINE AND VISUAL CULTURE
W/ Roger Cooter
(Dissertation Proposal)
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:**
OCTOBER 20
MATERIAL CULTURE: OBJECTS AND DEVICES
With Simon Chaplin

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:**
nese Medicine.* New York: Zone Books

**Suggested Reading:**
Bynum, C. (1995) *Why all the fuss about the body? A medievalist’s perspective.* *Critical In-
quiry,* 22, 1-33
Jordanova, L. (1993) Gender and the historiography of science. *British Journal for the His-
tory of Science,* 26, 469-83
Lawrence, C. & Shapin, S., eds (1998) *Science Incarnate: Historical Embodiments of Natu-
ral Knowledge.* Chicago: Chicago University Press
1929.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
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 readings:**


Lawrence, C (2005) *Rockefeller Money, the Laboratory and medicine in Edinburgh 1919-1930* University of Rochester Press, esp chapters 2 and 3


**Suggested readings:**


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).