

HPSC0110 Medicine, History and Society

Course Syllabus

2024-25 session | Dr Cristiano Turbil | Email Address c.turbil@ucl.ac.uk

Course Information

What are the origins of modern medicine? How did people experience disease in the past? This course addresses the changes and developments in Western medicine from the Ancient Greek world to the 19th century. In this historical survey we will look at changes in the education of practitioners, locations of healing, and how expectations that people had of medicine, the body and illness shifted with new discoveries and theories about health and disease. Among the themes we will pursue are the rise of hospitals, developments in anatomy and physiology, religion and medicine, contagious diseases outbreaks, and changes in the doctor and patient relationship.

Basic course information

Course website:	n/a
Moodle Web site:	https://moodle.ucl.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=38859
Assessment:	There are two primary forms of assessment: a 1000-word source analysis and a 2000-word essay.
Timetable:	www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/hpsc
Prerequisites:	no prerequisites
Required texts:	See below.
Course tutor(s):	Dr Cristiano Turbil
Contact:	c.turbil@ucl.ac.uk
Web:	
Office location:	22 Gordon Square

Schedule

Note: There will be brief supplementary readings from primary sources each week, in addition to the items mentioned under 'Activity' and in the Readings lists below.

UCL Week	Topic	Date	Activity
6	<i>Introduction to the course:</i> from archaic to Hippocratic medicine	30 Sept	Lecture & seminar discussion
7	<i>Mapping the Human Body:</i> Dissection and vivisection in Hellenistic	07 Oct	Lecture & seminar discussion
8	<i>Galenism:</i> Galen of Pergamum and Roman Medicine	14 Oct	Lecture & seminar discussion
9	<i>Islamic Medicine:</i> translations, inheritance and innovation	21 Oct	Lecture & seminar discussion
10	<i>Western Medieval medicine:</i> charities, hospitals and contagious diseases (leprosy and plague)	28 Oct	Lecture & seminar discussion
11	Reading Week		
12	<i>Renaissance Medicine:</i> Rethinking anatomy and physiology Vesalius and Harvey	11 Nov	Lecture & seminar discussion
13	<i>Plague a tale of two cities:</i> <i>Early modern understanding of disease outbreaks</i>	18 Nov	Lecture & seminar discussion
14	<i>'The birth of the clinic':</i> The Hôtel-Dieu and the rise of clinical medicine	25Nov	Lecture & seminar discussion
15	<i>La Médecine Expérimentale:</i> Medicine, laboratories and experiments in the 19 th century	2 Dec	Lecture & seminar discussion
16	<i>Madness and Society</i>	9 Dec	Lecture & seminar discussion

Assessments

Summary

	Description	Deadline	Word limit	Deadline for Tutors to provide Feedback
	Source analysis	5pm, 13 th November	1000 words	TBC
	Research essay	5pm, 11 th December	2000 words	TBC

Assignments

The assignments will consist of a 1000-word source analysis and a 2000-word essay on different topics of your choice in the history of medicine. Both assessments will be based on your own research, starting from primary and secondary materials.

Both assessments must be submitted via Moodle.

In order to be deemed 'complete' on this module students must attempt both assessments.

Criteria for Assessment for this Module:

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

Aims & objectives

Aims:

What are the origins of modern medicine? How did people experience disease in the past? This course addresses the changes and developments in Western medicine from the Ancient Greek world to the 19th century. In this historical survey we will look at changes in the education of practitioners, locations of healing, and how expectations that people had of medicine, the body and illness shifted with new discoveries and theories about health and disease. Among the themes we will pursue are the rise of hospitals, developments in anatomy and physiology, religion and medicine, contagious diseases outbreaks, and changes in the doctor and patient relationship.

Objectives:

The objectives of this module are to train the student to think critically about the past and to contextualize past practices and theories of medicine.

Course expectations

The objectives of this module are to train the student to think historically and contextualise past practices and theories of medicine.

Reading list

Best General Introductions:

There are two basic textbooks we will use for this module. 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 the first of the two textbooks, 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>

Additional readings:

Mark Jackson, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Medicine* (Oxford: OUP, 2011): Full text online via Library.

Nancy Siraisi, *Medieval and Early Renaissance Medicine: An Introduction to Knowledge and Practice* (Chicago: Chicago UP, 1990) Full text online via Library

W. F. Bynum et al., *The Western Medical Tradition: 1800 to 2000* (2006).

Peter Elmer (ed.), *The Healing Arts: Health, Disease and Society in Europe 1500-1800* (2003).

Mary Lindemann, *Medicine and Society in Early Modern Europe* (1999).

Roy Porter, *'The Greatest Benefit to Mankind': A Medical History of Humanity from Antiquity to the Present* (1997)

Peter Pormann & Emilie Savage-Smith, *Medieval Islamic Medicine* [New Islamic Surveys Series] (Edinburgh University Press 2007). Full text online via Library.

Readings:

Week 1: Introduction to the course: from archaic to Hippocratic medicine

Required: Nutton, *Ancient Medicine*, chs. 3-4

J. Wilkins, "Hippocratic lessons for modern health", in *Welcome History* 41 (2009) 11-12

Look at:

The Hippocratic Oath: https://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/greek/greek_oath.html

The Hippocratic Oath: Modern Version:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hippocratic_Oath#Modern_version

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

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

Helen King, *Hippocrates' Woman*, 1998

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

Week 2: Mapping the Human Body: Dissection and vivisection in Hellenistic

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

Week 3: Galenism: Galen of Pergamum and Roman Medicine

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

Read also the brief treatise by Galen, 'The Best Doctor is also a Philosopher':

https://moodle.ucl.ac.uk/pluginfile.php/465064/mod_resource/content/1/Galen%20-%20Best%20Doctor.pdf

Recommended: Nutton, *Ancient Medicine*, ch. 13

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

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

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

Week 4: Islamic Medicine: translations, inheritance and innovation

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

See primary sources on Moodle.

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

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

Week 5: Western Medieval medicine: charities, hospitals and contagious diseases (leprosy and plague)

Required: Katharine Park, 'Medical Practice' in *The Cambridge History of Science: Vol. 2, Medieval Science* (available via the library website; click on View Chapter PDF)

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

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

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

Lester K. Little, "Plague Historians in Lab Coats," *Past & Present* 213 (2011), 267-290.

Week 6: Renaissance Medicine: Rethinking anatomy and physiology with Vesalius and Harvey

Required: Roy Porter, *The Greatest Benefit to Mankind* (New York: Norton, 1997), 176-190

Andreas Vesalius, Preface, *On the Fabric of the Human Body*, see translation at: <http://vesalius.northwestern.edu/books/FA.a.html>

Look at images at:

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/historicalanatomies/vesalius_home.html

Selections from Harvey, *On the Motion of the Heart and Blood in Animals* (1628), in Rothman, 68-75.

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

Week 7: The plague, a tale of two cities: Early modern understanding of disease outbreaks

Required:

Mary Lindemann, *Medicine and Society in Early Modern Europe* (2nd ed. 2010), Ch. 2, 'Plagues and peoples', pp. 50-83.

The *London Bills of Mortality*: download at least one example from the online database Wellcome Images, or other online sources. Why were they made, and what information do they contain? <http://images.wellcome.ac.uk>

Justin Champion, "Epidemics and the Built Environment in 1665", in *Epidemic Disease in London*, edited by J.A.I. Champion (Centre for Metropolitan History Working Papers Series, No.1, 1993): pp. 35-52. <http://www.history.ac.uk/ihr/Focus/Medical/epichamp.html>

Browse the digitized medicine and recipe collections at the Wellcome Library: <http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/using-the-library/subject-guides/food-and-medicine/domestic-medicine-and-recipe-books-16th-17th-century/>

Recommended: Joan Lane, *A Social History of Medicine. Health, Healing and Disease in England, 1750-1950*, London: Routledge, 2001, ch. 8, 'Infections and disease control', 134-60.

Andreas-Holger Maehle, 'Conflicting attitudes towards inoculation in Enlightenment Germany', in Porter ed., *Medicine in the Enlightenment*, Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1995, 198-222.

Roy Porter, *Bodies Politic: Disease, Death and Doctors in Britain, 1650-1900*, London: Reaktion, 2001.

Week 8: 'The birth of the clinic': The Hôtel-Dieu and the rise of clinical medicine

Required: Michel Foucault, [The Birth of the Clinic](#), (London, 2003), 'Preface', ix-xix; 'Spaces and Classes', 3-21.

N. D. Jewson, '[The Disappearance of the Sick-Man from Medical Cosmology](#)', *Sociology*, 10 (1974), 369-85

J. Lachmund, 'Making Sense of Sound: Auscultation and Lung Sound Codification in Nineteenth-Century French and German Medicine', *Science, Technology, & Human Values*, 24:4 (1999), 419-450.

Recommended: Lindsay Granshaw and Roy Porter, 'The rise of the modern hospital in Britain', in Wear ed., *Medicine in Society*, 197-218

Colin Jones, *The Charitable Imperative: Hospitals and Nursing in Ancien Régime and Revolutionary France*, London: Routledge, 1989

____ *Charity and Bienfaisance: The Treatment of the Poor in the Montpellier Region 1740-1815*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982

Week 9: *La Médecine Expérimentale*: Medicine, laboratories and experiments in the 19th century

Look up: Liebig, Virchow, Müller, Bernard, Welch; Koch, Pasteur, Lister

Required: W. F. Bynum, 'Medicine in the Laboratory' in: *Science and the Practice of Medicine in the Nineteenth Century* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), 92-117.

R. Deb Roy, 'Quinine, Mosquitoes and Empire: Reassembling Malaria in British India, 1890-1910', *South Asian History and Culture* 4:1 (2013), 65-86, particularly 69-75.

J. Simon, 'Monitoring the Stable at the Pasteur Institute', *Science in Context*, 21:2 (2008), 181-200.

In addition, think about this extract from C. Bernard: 'I consider hospitals only as the entrance to scientific medicine; they are the first field of observation which a physician enters; but the true sanctuary of medical science is a laboratory. ... In leaving the hospital, a physician... must go into his laboratory; and there, by experiments on animals, he will account for what he has observed in his patients... There...he will achieve true medical science' (C. Bernard, *Introduction à l'étude de la médecine expérimentale*, 1865, 146-147) available here:

<https://archive.org/details/b21270557>

Recommended: J. Pickstone, 'Commentary: From History of Medicine to a General History of "Working Knowledges"', *International Journal of Epidemiology*, 38 (2009), 646-649.

N. Jewson, 'The Disappearance of the "Sickman" from Medical Cosmology, 1770-1870', *Sociology*, 10:2 (1976), 225-244.

W. F. Bynum, "'C'est un malade": Animal Models and Concepts of Human Disease', *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, 45 (1990), 397-413.

Week 10: Madness and Society

Required: TBC

Recommended: TBC