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 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 changes in pharmacology.

## Basic course information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course website:</th>
<th>n/a</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moodle Web site:</td>
<td><a href="https://moodle.ucl.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=38859">https://moodle.ucl.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=38859</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment:</td>
<td>There are two primary forms of assessment: an essay due on Friday, 15 December and a final examination, to be held during the third term.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timetable:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/hpsc">www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/hpsc</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prerequisites:</td>
<td>no prerequisites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course tutor(s):</td>
<td>Dr Bill MacLehose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:w.maclehose@ucl.ac.uk">w.maclehose@ucl.ac.uk</a> - t: 020 7679 2929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ucl.ac.uk/silva/sts/staff/maclehose">www.ucl.ac.uk/silva/sts/staff/maclehose</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office location:</td>
<td>22 Gordon Square, Room 3.2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday 11-12; Thursday 1.30-2.30 and by appointment</td>
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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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UCL Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Introduction and archaic Greek medicine</td>
<td>2-6 Oct</td>
<td>Nutton, ch 3, 4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hippocratic Medicine I: Theory</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Hippocratic medicine II: Practice</td>
<td>9-13 Oct</td>
<td>Nutton, ch 5, 6, Hippocratic Oath et al.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Discussion of the Oath, et al.</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Natural philosophy and Aristotle</td>
<td>16-20 Oct</td>
<td>Nutton, ch 8, 9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dissection and anatomy in Alexandria</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Roman medicine</td>
<td>23-27 Oct</td>
<td>Nutton, ch 13, 15-16</td>
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<td>Galen of Pergamum</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>The triumph of humoral theory</td>
<td>30 Oct-3 Nov</td>
<td>Nutton, ch 18, 19</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Religion and medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Reading Week</td>
<td>6-10 Nov</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Islam: inheritance and innovation</td>
<td>13-17 Nov</td>
<td>Conrad, pp. 93-125, 139-146</td>
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<td>Western medieval medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>The rise of hospitals</td>
<td>20-24 Nov</td>
<td>Conrad, pp. 187-198; Park, Medical Practice;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Contagious diseases: leprosy and plague</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Renaissance medicine</td>
<td>27 Nov-1 Dec</td>
<td>Conrad pp. 250-92</td>
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<td>Vesalius and the new anatomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Medicine, magic and Paracelsus</td>
<td>4-8 Dec</td>
<td>Conrad, pp. 310-40</td>
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<td>Harvey and the circulation of blood</td>
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<td>Life and death in the seventeenth century</td>
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Assessments

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<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Word limit</th>
<th>Deadline for Tutors to provide Feedback</th>
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<tr>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research essay</td>
<td>5pm, 18th December 2017</td>
<td>3000 words</td>
<td>12 Jan 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>Third term, tba</td>
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</table>

Assignments

The essay will consist of a 3000-word study of a topic of your choice in the history of premodern medicine, from your own research based on primary and secondary materials. Essays must be submitted via Moodle.
In order to be deemed ‘complete’ on this module students must attempt both the essay and the
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:
This module aims to familiarise the student with premodern views of the body, health and illness, including Hippocratic, Aristotelian and Galenic views of theoretical and practical medicine as well as Islamic, medieval and early modern additions and reactions to their predecessors’ thought.

Objectives:
The objectives of this module are to train the student to think critically about the past and to contextualise 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:


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
Lecture Readings:

Session 1: Archaic medicine
Required: Nutton, Ancient Medicine, ch. 3.
Recommended: Kirk, et al., The Presocratic Philosophers

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
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

Session 6: Alternate Models in Golden-Age Rome
Required: Nutton, Ancient Medicine, chs. 13 & 14
Recommended: Ludwig Edelstein, Ancient Medicine, 173-191

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

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
Session 9: Religion and medicine
Required: Nutton, *Ancient Medicine*, ch. 18
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

Session 12: The rise of hospitals
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)

Session 13: Contagious diseases: leprosy and plague
Boccaccio, Decameron: [http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/decameronintro.asp](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/decameronintro.asp)
Recommended: Samuel Cohn, *The Black Death transformed*

Session 14: Renaissance medicine
Required: Conrad, et al., *Western Medical Tradition*, pp. 250-264, 298-310
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
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 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.