HISTORY 2613: The History of Medicine
Acadia University
Winter Term 2016

Course Instructor: Dr. Robert J. Perrins
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Office Hours: 5:00 to 7:00 pm Wednesdays
CourseSlot 73: Wednesdays, 7:00 to 10:00 pm

Course Description: From the Acadia University Calendar: “This course examines the development of medicine from antiquity to the present. Among the major topics to be addressed: concepts of disease; social construction of the body; development of ‘germ theory’ and the growth of modern medical science; development of public health; histories of medical practitioners including physicians, midwives and nurses; history of medical institutions including hospitals, asylums and laboratories.”

This course's lectures revolve around the following three main themes:
• The chronological development of Western medical science over the past two millennia.
• The emergence of several of the most important fields of medical practice (pathology, anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, surgery, psychiatry and nursing).
• Brief biographies of some of the most important figures in the history of medicine

This course is meant to serve two groups of undergraduate students: 1) those who are considering pursuing careers in medicine, nursing and other healthcare related fields and who desire an historical introduction to their future professions, and 2) those who are simply interested in the histories of medicine, disease, science and technology.

Course Assignments and Policies: There will be no extensions for any reason granted to the final due date for the major research project. The projects are due at the start of the last class of the term (2 December). I suggest that you start the project early and draft a schedule that will see it completed prior to the final due date! This class is simply too large for me to hunt missing projects down. The projects will be graded in the week following the end of the semester, and grades will be available at the final exam. Students who fail to write the mid-term exam will be required to submit formal medical documentation to the University Registrar's Office. Once the instructor has been informed that a medical excuse has been officially documented, the 25% value of the mid-term will be added to the final exam (which will then be worth 55% of your final grade).

Mid-Term Examination (25% of Final Grade): Students will be tested on materials from the first six weeks of lectures and assigned readings. (24 February 2016)

Major Research Project: Due at the start of the last class of term, this research project is the major written and research component for this course. It is suggested that you work in groups of up to eight members as the work entailed in the project is quite substantial. Groups must register their members and full contact information (names, student numbers, and contact telephone numbers) with the course instructor by the end of the third week of the term.
The manner of the project submission is to be decided upon by your respective groups. Creative projects are welcome but must demonstrate a clear understanding of the topic. The projects will be graded on how thorough they are, how well organized they are, as well as on the quality of the written components.

**Final Examination:** This exam will be scheduled during the formal examination period in April. It will consist of two sections: a broad thematic question on the history of Western medicine, and a second section that will address the development of various fields of medical practice and biomedical science. The questions are designed to test your mastery of materials covered in the lectures, videos shown in class, and the assigned and supplementary readings.

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<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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<td><strong>Mid-term examination (24 February 2016):</strong> A map quiz (20 locations on a map of Western Europe and the Mediterranean World); as well as a chronology, match the columns, and short answers (identify and explain the historical significance).</td>
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<td><strong>Major Research Project</strong> on the one of the diseases (narcotics) listed below. The final format of the project’s report is open, but must be approved by the course instructor. The research report is due at the start of the last class of term. <em>(6 April 2016)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Final course examination (April Exam Schedule)</strong></td>
<td>30%</td>
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**Potential Group Research Project Topics:**

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<th>Disease/Topic</th>
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<td>Plague of Justinian</td>
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<td>Black Death</td>
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<td>Plague in 17th-Century London</td>
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<td>Third Plague Pandemic</td>
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<td>Influenza 1918-1919</td>
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<td>Malaria</td>
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<td>Tuberculosis</td>
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<td>Syphilis</td>
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<td>STDs and the Military</td>
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<td>Polio</td>
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<td>HIV-AIDS</td>
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<td>Cholera (Europe 1800s)</td>
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<td>Leprosy</td>
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<td>Cannabis Use</td>
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<td>Opium in History</td>
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<td>Scurvy</td>
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<td>Smallpox</td>
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<td>Yellow Fever</td>
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<td>Cholera</td>
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<td>Contraceptive Pill</td>
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**Required Readings:** There are a number of scholarly articles assigned as supplementary reading for this course. The articles are available as full-text pdf files from the Acadia University Library's collection of on-line journals. Students are expected to access and to read all of the supplementary articles prior to the mid-term and final examinations.

**Some Suggested Journals on the History of Medicine**

Most of these journals are now available in electronic, full-text form through Acadia's Vaughan Memorial Library, although older citations may have to be ordered through Interlibrary Loan.

*Bulletin of the History of Medicine*
*Canadian Bulletin of Medical History*
*Isis*
*Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*
*Social History of Medicine*
Recommended Internet Sites for Background Reading and Research:

Canadian Bulletin of Medical History [http://www.cbmh.ca]
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (US Department of Health and Human Services) [http://www.cdc.gov]
Wellcome Trust (Particularly note the online catalogues and Knowledge Centre links) [http://www.wellcome.ac.uk]
World Health Organization (WHO) [http://www.who.int/en/]

Note: These links (and indeed all internet sites) are to be used only as starting points for your research group projects. Research projects that are based largely on internet sites and sources will receive grades that will be no higher than a C- (60%). This is a history course, and as such you must use sources that are appropriate for the discipline—this means refereed journal articles, and monographs. As you work on the group research project you will have to spend many hours of research time working with paper sources, consulting the reference desk, using online article indices (for example J-STOR) and catalogues such as WorldCat, Library of Congress, Wellcome Trust Library, and the US National Library of Medicine (in Bethesda), ordering interlibrary loans (having located sources not available at Acadia or local libraries), and even wandering through the library’s stacks.

Class Schedule (Winter Term 2016)
Weekly Topics and Assigned Readings

Class 1 (January 20): Course Introduction:
Overview of course syllabus, objectives, major research assignment and policies.
Establishing groups for major research project and assigning topics.

Class 2 (January 27): What is the History of Medicine and Thinking About Diseases
a. Methodologies, Sources and Approaches to the History of Medicine
b. Thinking about Disease: The History of Pathology
Required Reading:

Class 3 (February 3): Medicine in the Classical World
a. Medicine in Antiquity
b. Galen and his Influence on the 'Development' of Medicine
Required Readings:

Class 4 (February 10): Medicine in the Medieval World and Origins of Anatomy
a. Constructing the 'Body': The History of Anatomy
b. Medicine in the Medieval West
c. Medicine and Islam

Required Readings:

**READING WEEK ACADIA UNIVERSITY: (15 to 19 February)**

Class 5 (February 24): Mid-Term Examination

Class 6 (March 2): The Renaissance and Medicine & Field of Physiology
a. Breathing Life into the Body (Origins of Physiology)
   b. The Development of Medicine from the Renaissance through the Enlightenment (William Harvey and Antoni van Leeuwenhoek)

Required Readings:

March 9: NO CLASS: Group Project Work Day

Class 7 (March 16): Emergence of Modern Medicine in the 1800s and Physician Education
a. History of Medical Education
b. The Science of Bacteriology and Development of “Germ Theory” (Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch)
c. Development of Epidemiology
d. Surgery and Medical Technology in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries

Required Readings:

Class 8 (March 23): Medical Institutions
a. The Development of Hospitals and Laboratories
b. Madness, Asylums and the Birth of Psychiatry

Required Readings:

Class 9 (March 30): War and Military Medicine: From Battlefield Surgeries to STDs

Required Readings:

Class 10 (April 6): Plagues of Mankind and Epidemic Diseases:
• The Black Death of the Middle Ages and the Great Plague of the Seventeenth Century
• Smallpox
• Cholera
• The Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919
• Tuberculosis
• Yellow Fever

Required Readings: