HIS 208: HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND DISEASE

Getting sick is a universal human experience. Regardless of time, place, or culture, we all know what it’s like to be ill. But the meaning we ascribe to those illnesses and the ways we attempt to heal ourselves have varied greatly over time. In this class, we will investigate how ideas about medicine and disease have been constructed over time, how those ideas have been used to enforce or undercut social norms, and what impact that has had on our modern understandings of science, medicine, and wellness.

WARNING:
This class covers material that is medically graphic in nature. If you are sensitive to the sight of bodily fluids or made uncomfortable by descriptions of other people’s pain, this is not the class for you.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
All required readings are available for free online, and will be linked below and on Canvas.

Please note that lacking internet access the day a reading is due is no excuse for not having read it. You have the whole semester to access, print, or save copies of the readings.
ASSIGNMENTS:

I do not accept late work. I do not round grades.

Assignments submitted to Canvas must be submitted as a.doc, .docx, or .pdf format. Any files that are submitted as nonstandard file types or that are corrupted and unopenable will receive an automatic failing grade.

EXAMS (3): The exams will be available on Canvas for the 24-hour period of the due date, and will have two sections. The first part of each exam will require you to analyze a series of primary or secondary sources and their relevance to what we’ve covered in class. For the second part of the exam, you will be asked to respond to a series of short-answer questions about the larger themes we’ve touched on. (SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

ARTICLE ANALYSIS: You will choose a scholarly article from a provided list, and write a 2-3 page analysis of the author’s main argument. You will also be expected to connect the content of the article to material we have covered in class. More information will be provided on Canvas.

FINAL PROJECT: You will design a public health poster or brochure describing a disease from the historical perspective of a specific time period. More information and examples will be provided on Canvas.

Percentage breakdown:

EXAMS: 25% EACH
ARTICLE ANALYSIS: 15%
FINAL PROJECT: 10%

GRADING SCALE:

100.99-94.00 = A  86.99-84.00 = B  76.99-74.00 = C  66.99-64.00 = D
93.99-90.00 = A-  83.99-80.00 = B-  73.99-70.00 = C-  63.99-60.00 = D-
89.99-87.00 = B+  79.99-77.00 = C+  69.99-67.00 = D+  59.99-0 = F

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1) Demonstrate broad knowledge of the political, religious, and social history of medicine and disease
2) Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives.
3) Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing.

General Education Global Perspectives Student Learning Outcomes:

4) Interpret or evaluate information on diverse cultures, polities, and/or intellectual traditions.
5) Describe interconnections among regions of the world. (Must include substantial focus on at least one culture, nation, or sub-nationality beyond Great Britain and North America).
6) Use diverse cultural frames of reference and alternative perspectives to analyze issues
Academic Integrity Policy:

I do not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or any other violation of the integrity policy. Depending on the severity of the offense, I reserve the right to fail you for the assignment or for the class. [https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/](https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/)

Adverse Weather Policy:

If you think that the university might be closed due to weather, either call the UNCG Adverse Weather Line at (336) 334-4400 or check the SpartanAlert website ([http://spartanalert.uncg.edu/](http://spartanalert.uncg.edu/)). If the university is open, we will have class (that includes two-hour delays. **We will start class at 10**). If the university is closed, I will send an email letting you know how the syllabus has changed and what readings we will cover during the next class.

Attendance:

I make no distinction between excused and unexcused absences. After you have missed three class periods for any reason, your final grade for the course will be reduced by two percentage points (ie from 85 to 83) for each additional absence.

Other Important Stuff:

You can bring your laptop to class for note-taking purposes. However, if I find that you are using your laptop for non-class-related purposes, I will ask you to put it away and not bring it to class again.
# SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

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<tr>
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<td>Aug 22</td>
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| Aug 27  | Classical medicine       | Hippocrates, *Aphorisms*  
[https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/ancient/greeksci.asp](https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/ancient/greeksci.asp)  
Galen, *Medicine*  
[https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/ancient/greeksci.asp#Galen](https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/ancient/greeksci.asp#Galen) |
| Aug 29  | Classical epidemics      | Procopius: The Plague  
[https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/542procopius‐plague.asp](https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/542procopius‐plague.asp) |
| Sept 3  | Medieval medicine, pt 1  | Ibn Sina (Avicenna): On Medicine  
| Sept 5  | Medieval medicine, pt 2  | Boccaccio: The Decameron Introduction  
[https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/boccacio2.asp](https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/boccacio2.asp) |
| Sept 10 | Renaissance & Reformation, pt 1 | Broadside regarding the arrival of Dr. Puff Stuff Sham Quirko Ye-Trick  
[https://digital.nls.uk/broadsides/view/?id=15924&transcript=1](https://digital.nls.uk/broadsides/view/?id=15924&transcript=1) |
| Sept 12 | Post-Renaissance         | Excerpts from William Harvey, *On the Motion of the Heart*                |
| Sept 17 | Exam 1                   |                                                                          |
| Sept 19 | Smallpox                 | Lady Mary Wortley Montagu: Smallpox Vaccination in Turkey  
[https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/montagu-smallpox.asp](https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/montagu-smallpox.asp) |
| Sept 24 | Anatomy                  | Broadside: “Confessions made by William Burke”  
[https://digital.nls.uk/broadsides/view/?id=15229&transcript=1](https://digital.nls.uk/broadsides/view/?id=15229&transcript=1) |
| Sept 26 | Medicalization           | Fanny Burney: Letter describing her mastectomy  
[https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/letter-from-frances-burney-to-her-sister-esther-about-her-mastectomy#](https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/letter-from-frances-burney-to-her-sister-esther-about-her-mastectomy#) (click the Transcript link to read the actual letter) |
| Oct 1   | Reproductive medicine    | Excerpts from Oliver Wendell Holmes, *Contagiousness of Puerperal Fever*, 1843 |
| Oct 3   | Cholera                  | Mayhew: “Visit to the Cholera districts of Bermondsey”                    |
| Oct 8   | Yellow Fever             | Newspaper articles                                                       |
| Oct 10  | TB                       | List of deaths from Philadelphia, last week of June 1802  
Excerpt from Bram Stoker’s *Dracula* |
| Oct 15  | Fall Break               |                                                                          |
| Oct 17  | Mental Health            | A Description of Bedlam                                                   |
| Oct 22  | Battlefield medicine     | Voices of the First World War: Shell Shock  
[https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/voices-of-the-first-world-war-shell-shock](https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/voices-of-the-first-world-war-shell-shock) |
| Oct 24  | Spanish flu              | Letter from Dr. D. A. Richardson about a New Mexico pueblo  
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<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>The Fad of <em>La Grippe</em></td>
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<td>Oct 31</td>
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<td>Eugenics</td>
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<td>Polio</td>
<td>Newspaper articles from Roanoke Rapids and Jacksonville, NC</td>
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<td>HIV/Aids</td>
<td>Letter from Dr. Jonathan Kaplan on Aids in Uganda</td>
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<td>Modern Epidemics</td>
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<td>Dec</td>
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