

# Hist 384: History of Chinese Medicine

## [Jump to This Week's Schedule](#)

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## **Course description:**

This discussion seminar will explore the nearly three thousand year history of medicine in China. We will begin with an overview of the study of medicine generally and then move on to cover the basic foundations of Chinese medicine in ancient science and philosophy. The remaining classes will systematically introduce students to the most important periods in Chinese medical history, the major theories concerning health and disease, and the primary tools that Chinese physicians have used over time to combat illness. We will conclude the course with a consideration of traditional medicine as practiced in China and the West today. There are no prerequisites for this class, although prior coursework in East Asian Studies and/or history of medicine is advantageous.

## **Required texts:** (all on sale at the University Bookstore)

1. Ted Kaptchuk, *The Web That Has No Weaver: Understanding Chinese Medicine* (1983)
2. Paul Unschuld, *Medicine in China: A History of Ideas* (1985)
3. E-reserve readings

## **Resources for research papers**

## **Course Requirements:** (To pass this course, you must complete all course requirements)

1. **Attendance:** Regular attendance is required. If you must miss a class, please talk to me in person well in advance. Absence from class will only be excused for extraordinary reasons or for illness.
2. **Papers:** A short paper (4-5 pages typed) on an assigned topic is due on Oct. 23rd. Your main written assignment for the class is a 10-15 page research paper. You may choose your own topic, as long as it pertains to the history of Chinese medicine or its practice in either contemporary China or North America. A **topic proposal** of 1-2 pages typed is due Sept. 25th. An **outline and bibliography** of at least 3 appropriate books and several relevant articles (not including internet sources, the use of which for research papers is generally discouraged) is due on Oct. 16th. The **final version** of your paper is due in my office mailbox on **December 14th** no later than 10:00 AM. The research paper, including proposal, outline, bibliography, and final version, is worth a total of 40% of your final grade.

Late paper policy

Papers are due at the beginning of class. Papers turned in after class will count as late, and I will deduct 0.3 from your paper grade for each day that it is late. If you turn in your paper outside of class time, please bring it to the Eaton Hall office and put it in my mail box. Please do not slide it under my door. I do not accept papers that are more than one week late, nor will I accept papers on computer disks or e-mailed papers.

3. Oral Presentation: On either of the last two classes of the semester, you are required to give an oral presentation of approximately 10-15 minutes in length on the topic of your research paper. The Oral Presentation is worth 20% of your final grade.
4. Final Exam: The final exam for this class is a 30-minute oral exam. Details about the questions covered on the exam and suggestions on how to prepare for it will be given in class. This will be worth 20% of your final grade
5. Participation: Your participation in class discussions is critical to your success in this class. Not everyone has a gift for speaking in front of others, but I expect each of you to come to class not only having read and thought about the assigned readings but also prepared to discuss the issues raised therein. Your thoughtful comments, critiques, and questions are all welcome. In addition, you will be asked at least four or five times to serve as facilitator for class discussion. This job requires you to: 1) do a bit more thinking and preparation about the assigned readings; 2) read one extra secondary source article and prepare a 1-2 page summary of its content and main argument; 3) meet with me before class so that we can mutually plan for the discussion; and 4) assist in the running of class discussion by posing questions to your classmates and offering your own views on the readings. Overall, your participation in this class is worth the remaining 20% of your grade.

Course Schedule:

**Note: readings before the asterisks (\*\*\*\*\*) are required everyone; those after the asterisks are required for class facilitators only and are optional for everyone else. Readings are subject to change, so consult this syllabus on the web regularly. Please contact me immediately by [email](mailto:) or phone (x5429) if you cannot locate any of the e-reserve readings on the [library's reserve readings webpage](#).**

1	Tu	Aug 28	Orientation: Studying the History of Medicine		
2	Th	Aug 30	Chinese Medicine and Western Medicine: Drawing Distinctions and Making Comparisons	Discussion of Kleinman and Bray	Arthur Kleinman, "What is Specific to Western Medicine?" in W. F. Bynum and Roy Porter, eds., <i>Companion Encyclopedia of the History of Medicine</i> (London: Routledge, 1993), pp. 15-23  Francesca Bray, "Chinese Medicine," in Bynum and Porter., <i>Companion Encyclopedia of the History of Medicine</i> , pp. 728-54
3	Tu	Sep 4	Major theoretical challenges and assumptions	Further discussion of Kleinman's "What is Specific to Western Medicine" article, the Bray article on Chinese Medicine, and	N. Sivin, "Why the Scientific Revolution did not take place in China--or didn't it?" in E. Mendelsohn, ed. <i>Transformation and Tradition in the Sciences</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1984), pp. 531-549 ***** N. Sivin, "The History of Chinese Medicine: Now and Anon" in <i>positions</i> 6:3 (Winter 1998), 731-754

				today's assigned article by Sivin	
4	Th	Sep 6	Yin-yang, Five Phases, and the ancient foundations of Traditional Chinese Medicine	<p>Discussion of assigned readings</p> <p>Class facilitators: Hayley (Sivin) Adam (Nutton)</p>	<p>Unschuld, chs. 1 and 2 (skim)</p> <p>Unschuld, ch. 3, pp. 51-66</p> <p>Kaptchuk, ch 1 and appendix H (pp. 343-354) *****</p> <p>N. Sivin, "Science and Medicine in Chinese History," in Paul Ropp, ed., <i>Heritage of China</i> (Berkeley: Univ. of CA Press, 1990), pp. 164-196 (focus esp. on the section on "Chinese Sciences: Qualitative")</p> <p>V. Nutton, "Humoralism" in Bynum and Porter, <i>Companion Encyclopedia of the History of Medicine</i>, pp. 281-291</p>
5	Tu	Sep 11	Qi and "Systematic Correspondences"	<p>Discussion of assigned readings</p> <p>Film: "The Mystery of Qi"</p> <p>Class facilitators: Martin (Sivin) Kate (Helms)</p>	<p>Kaptchuk, ch. 2</p> <p>Unschuld, ch. 3, pp. 67-91 *****</p> <p>N. Sivin, <i>Traditional Medicine in Contemporary China</i> (Ann Arbor: Univ. of MI, 1987), pp. 43-94, especially the sections on Ch'i, Yin Yang, and the Five Phases</p> <p>Joseph Helms, <i>Acupuncture Energetics: A Clinical Approach for Physicians</i>, ch. 3 "An Overview of Acupuncture Paradigms" pp. 71-100</p>
6	Th	Sep 13	Visualizing the Chinese Body (Anatomy and Physiology of the healthy body)  [This class has been moved to 9/18]	<p>Discussion of assigned readings</p> <p>Class facilitator: Cheryl (Kuriyama)</p>	<p>Kaptchuk, chs. 3 (all) and 4 (pp. 77-83) *****</p> <p>Shigehisa Kuriyama, "Visual Knowledge in Classical Chinese Medicine," in Don Bates, ed., <i>Knowledge and the Scholarly Medical Traditions</i>, pp. 205-234</p>
7	Tu	Sep 18	The <i>Yellow Emperor's Inner Canon</i> : Medical Classics and the problem of translation  [This class has been deleted from the syllabus; see 9/13 for reading]		<p>Maoshing Ni, tr. <i>The Yellow Emperor's Classic of Internal Medicine</i> (Boston: Shambala, 1995), pp. 97-109</p> <p>Ilza Veith, tr. <i>The Yellow Emperor's Classic of Medicine</i> (Berkeley: UC Press, 1949), pp. 1-12 *****</p> <p>Choose one more chapter from the <i>Neijing</i> (Veith translation)</p>
8	Th	Sep 20	Dis-ease, the Roots of Disease, and Disease Prevention	<p>Guest Speaker: Dr. CT Holman. L.Ac.</p> <p>Demonstration of Qigong (wear loose-fitting clothing)</p> <p>Discussion of assigned reading</p> <p>Class facilitator: Eddie</p>	<p>Kaptchuk, ch. 5 *****</p> <p>Andrew Wear, "The History of Personal Hygiene" in Bynum and Porter, <i>Companion Encyclopedia of the History of Medicine</i>, pp. 1283-1308</p>
9	Tu	Sep 25	The Clinical Examination	<b>Research paper</b>	<p>Kaptchuk, ch. 6</p> <p>J. Farquhar, "The Clinical Encounter Observed," in <i>Knowing Practice: The Clinical Encounter</i></p>

				<b>proposal due</b> Guest Speaker: Dr. CT Holman	<i>of Chinese Medicine</i> (Boulder: Westview, 1994), pp. 41-59
10	Th	Sep 27	Disease Patterns in Chinese Medicine	<b>Meet in Hatfield Library 2nd floor instruction room</b> <b>Library session on researching the history of Chinese Medicine</b>	Kaptchuk, chs. 7 and 8
11	Tu	Oct 2	Acupuncture & Moxibustion	Guest Speaker: Dr. Louisa Silva, M.D.	Unschuld, pp. 92-100 Kaptchuk, ch. 4, pp. 84-107 (closely study the meridian diagrams and the corresponding explanatory text)
12	Th	Oct 4	Daoism, Alchemy, and the "Tao of Sex"	Class facilitators: Kate (Harper)	Unschuld, ch. 4 Ishihara and Levy, trs., <i>The Tao of Sex</i> (Yokohama, 1968) (excerpts) ***** D. Harper, "Sexual Arts of Ancient China" <i>Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies</i> 47:2 (1987), 539-593
13	Tu	Oct 9	Cultural Constructions of Madness and Mental Illness	Class facilitators: Adam (Shapiro) Eddie (Diamant)	Vivien Ng, "Madness in Chinese Culture," in <i>Madness in Late Imperial China</i> , (Norman, OK: University of OK Press, 1990), pp. 25-62  Xu Dachun (Hsu Ta-ch'un), "On the Causation of Illness by Demon-Spirits" in P. Unschuld, tr. <i>Forgotten Traditions of Ancient Chinese Medicine</i> (Brookline, MA: Paradigm, 1998), pp. 130-131 [from a medical treatise by a scholarly physician writing in the mid-1700s] ***** Hugh Shapiro, "The View from a Chinese Asylum: Defining Madness in 1930s Peking" (Harvard Ph.D. diss., 1995), ch. 4 "Manufacturing Insanity"  N. Diamant, "Of Asylums, Hospitals and Prisons: The Transformation of Mental Institutions in China, 1895-1935" (unpubl. ms)
14	Th	Oct 11	Taiji and Health	Guest Speaker: Fuzhong Li	Click here for the <a href="#">short essay topic</a> .
15	Tu	Oct 16	Epidemics and the Social Responses to Medical Crises in China	<b>Class facilitators: Eddie (Hanson)</b>	P. Katz, "Epidemics and Responses to them" in <i>Demon Hordes and Burning Boats</i> (SUNY Press, 1995), pp. 39-76 ***** M. Hanson, "External Chaos, Internal Disorder: Chinese Medical Conceptions of Epidemics" (unpubl. ms)
16	Th	Oct 18	NO CLASS		
17	Tu	Oct 23	Chinese medicine on the web: sorting out the good, the bad, and the ugly	<b>Essay due today</b> <b>Meet in Hatfield Library 2nd floor instruction room</b> <b>Research paper outline and bibliography due today</b>	Internet assignment: Browse the web and find one good website and one bad one relating to Chinese medicine. Come to class with reasons why you chose each.

18	Th	Oct 25	NO CLASS		
19	Tu	Oct 30	Female bodies and women's medicine in Chinese culture	Class facilitators: Hayley (Furth) Cheryl (Bray)	C. Furth, "Blood, Body and Gender: Medical Images of the Female Condition in China, 1600-1850," <i>Chinese Science</i> 7 (1986), 43-66 ***** C. Furth, "The Development of Fuke in the Song Dynasty," in <i>A Flourishing Yin: Gender in China's Medical History, 960-1665</i> (Berkeley: UC Press, 1999), pp. 59-93  F. Bray, "Meanings of Motherhood" in <i>Technology and Gender</i> (UC Press, 1997), (read <u>either</u> ch. 7 "Medical History and Gender History" <u>or</u> ch. 8 "Reproductive Medicine and the Dual Nature of Fertility")
20	Th	Nov 1	Medical pluralism in Traditional China	Class facilitator Martin	N. Sivin, "Social Relations of Curing in Traditional China: Preliminary Considerations" <i>Nihon ishigaku zasshi</i> 23 (1977), 505-532 ***** Norman Gevitz, "Unorthodox Medical Theories" in Bynum and Porter, <i>Companion Encyclopedia of the History of Medicine</i> , pp. 603-629
21	Tu	Nov 6	Medical pluralism II: "Unorthodox Medicine"	Class facilitator Hayley	Yi-li wu, "The Bamboo Grove Monastery and Popular Gynecology in Qing China", <i>Late Imperial China</i> 21:1 (June 2000), pp. 41-76 ***** C. Cullen, "Patients and Healers in Late Imperial China: Evidence from the Jinpingmei" <i>History of Science</i> 31 (1993), 99-150
22	Th	Nov 8	Medical pluralism III: "Family and Folk Medicine"	Class facilitator Kate	A. Kleinmann, "Family-Based Popular Health Care" in <i>Patients and Healers in the Context of Culture</i> (Berkeley: UC Press, 1980), pp. 179-202 ***** Francoise Loux, "Folk Medicine" in Bynum and Porter, <i>Companion Encyclopedia of the History of Medicine</i> , pp. 661-673
23	Tu	Nov 13	Medical pluralism IV: Spiritual healing, from within and without	Film: "Healing from Within" (excerpt)  Class facilitator Adam	A. Kleinmann, "Patients and Healers: Transactions Between Explanatory Models and Clinical Realities; Part 1: Sacred Folk Healer-Client Relationships" in <i>Patients and Healers in the Context of Culture</i> , pp. 203-258 ***** Roy Porter, "Religion and Medicine" in Bynum and Porter, <i>Companion Encyclopedia of the History of Medicine</i> , pp. 1449-1465
24	Th	Nov 15	Christian medical missionaries and the cross-cultural transmission of medicine	Class facilitator Cheryl	Paul Howard, "Curing the Addict: Medical Missionaries and the Fight against Opium, 1836-1906" in "Opium Smoking in Qing China: Responses to a Social Problem, 1729-1906"  Unschuld, ch. 9 ***** Bridie Andrews, "Tuberculosis and the Assimilation of Germ Theory in China, 1895-1937" <i>Journal for the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences</i> 52.1 (1997), 114-157
25	Tu	Nov 20	Politics of Medicine in 20th c. China	<b>Research progress reports today</b>  Class facilitator Martin	G. Henderson, "Issues in the Modernization of Medicine in China" in Denis Simon and Merle Goldman, <i>Science and Technology in Post-Mao China</i> (Cambridge, MA: Council on East Asian Studies, 1989), 199-222 ***** H. Shapiro, "The Puzzle of Spermatorrhea in Republican China" <i>positions</i> 6:3 (1998), 551-596
26	Th	Nov 22	NO CLASS	THANKSGIVING	
27	Tu	Nov 27	Medicine in the PRC today	Film: "To Taste a Thousand Herbs"	J. Farquhar, "Re-Writing Traditional Medicine in Post-Maoist China" in D. Bates, <i>Knowledge and the Scholarly Medical Traditions</i> (Cambridge Press, 1995), pp. 251-276
28	Th	Nov 29	Qigong: the art and science of using the vital force	Film: "Qigong: Ancient Chinese Healing for the 21st Century"	Kunio Miura, "The Revival of Qi: Qigong in Contemporary China" in L. Kohn, ed., <i>Taoist Meditation and Longevity Techniques</i> (Ann Arbor: Center for Chinese Studies, 1989), pp. 331-362  Falungong website <a href="http://www.falundafa.org/">http://www.falundafa.org/</a>

					<p>See also <a href="http://www.religioustolerance.org/falungong.htm">http://www.religioustolerance.org/falungong.htm</a> 29</p> <p><a href="http://www2.kenyon.edu/depts/religion/fac/Adler/reln270/falungong/FaLunGong.htm">http://www2.kenyon.edu/depts/religion/fac/Adler/reln270/falungong/FaLunGong.htm</a> *****</p> <p>Jian Xu, "Body, Discourse, and the Cultural Politics of Contemporary Chinese Qigong" <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i> 58:4 (1999), 961-991</p> <p>NYT articles on Falungong</p>
29	Tu	Dec 4	Presentations	<p>Eduard Baba</p> <p>Adam Wymer</p> <p>Cheryl Taylor</p>	
30	Th	Dec 6	Presentations	<p>Kate Grenier</p> <p>Hayley Boston</p> <p>Martin Tuttle</p>	

**Final Paper due December 14th, 10:00 AM or earlier.** See course requirements for late paper policy.