

**History of Science 151**  
**Cultural Histories of Medicine**  
**Spring 2002**  
**Dr. Stephanie Kenen**

**PLEASE NOTE DAY CHANGE FROM COURSE CATALOG**

Class Meetings: WEDNESDAY 2-4, Room 28 Memorial Hall

Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 2-4, and by appt.

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**Introduction:**

Histories of medicine have been written in a variety of genres, from the grand narrative of medical progress to the social histories of colonial midwives. In this course, we will look at some of the recent approaches to writing histories of medicine. We will begin the course by reading several essays on historiographic trends and problems in the field. We will then shift to reading examples of four types of recent literature in the history of medicine: doctor narratives, patient narratives, medical imagery (especially radiography), and histories of the body. We will focus primarily (but not exclusively) on the period 1850-1970 in the US. The course is designed to stimulate thinking about what counts as appropriate topics and approaches in the history of modern medicine. Some familiarity with the field of the history of medicine is useful, but not necessary.

**Course Requirements:**

Students are expected to complete the required readings and participate actively and intelligently in class discussion. In addition, 3-4 students each week will be responsible for presenting materials and leading discussion (this will begin Week 5). Each student will co-lead class twice during the term. A short (2-3 pages) response paper is due each time a student co-leads class. Finally, students will write two formal papers (a 5-7 pp paper due mid-semester and a 12-15 pp paper due at the end of term).

**Grading:**

Attendance and Participation: 15%

Presentations/Discussion Leading: 15%

Response Papers: 10%

Short Paper (approx 2000 words, due Monday, Feb 25): 25%

Final Paper (approx 4000 words, due Friday, May 10): 35%

**Readings: PLEASE CHECK THIS LIST BEFORE PURCHASING BOOKS**

While readings in the following books required, you are not required to purchase them. You might want to look at how much of each book we are reading before you buy them. Unless otherwise noted, they are available for purchase at the COOP and are on reserve at Hilles and Lamont Libraries. Several are also available at a discount on [www.labyrinthbooks.com](http://www.labyrinthbooks.com). Additional readings (as marked with "\*" on the syllabus) will be available in a coursepack, distributed in class, or made available for individual copying. Some readings are available on-line.

Ackerknecht, . *A Short History of Medicine*. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1986)

Epstein, Julia. *Altered Conditions*. (NY: Routledge, 1994)

**(We are only reading two chapters from this book. According to the COOP, this book is out of print. Try Amazon.Com, the Routledge website, labyrinthbooks.com or other local bookstores. Let me know if you cannot find it)**

Foucault, Michel. *The Foucault Reader*. (New York: Pantheon, 1984)

Haiken, Elizabeth. *Venus Envy*. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997)

Kevles, Bettyann. *Naked to the Bone*. (NY: Addison Wesley Longman, 1998)

Kleinman, Arthur. *The Illness Narratives*. (NY: Basic Books, 1990)

Laqueur, Thomas and Catharine Gallagher, eds. *The Making of the Modern Body*. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987) **(all selections also available on line)**

Pernick, Martin S. *The Black Stork: Eugenics and the Death of 'Defective' Babies in American Medicine and Motion Pictures Since 1915*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999)

Rothman, Sheila. *Living in the Shadow of Death*. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Pr., 1994)

Wailoo, Keith. *Dying in the City of the Blues: Sickle Cell Anemia and the Politics of Race and Health*. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001)

The following books are recommended (they are relevant to the course, but there are no required readings in them)

Cartwright, Lisa. *Screening the Body*. (Minneapolis: University of Minn. Press, 1995)

Foucault, Michel. *Birth of the Clinic*. (NY: Vintage, 1994)

Foucault, Michel. *Discipline and Punish*. (NY: Vintage, 1995)

Gilman, Sander. *Making the Body Beautiful*. (Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 2001)

Hunter, Kathryn. *Doctors' Stories*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991)

Porter, Roy. *The Greatest Benefit to Mankind*. (NY: Norton, 1998)

Wailoo, Keith. *Drawing Blood*. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999)

Other readings will be made available for your use. If enough students enroll, I will consider making a sourcebook for the course. Otherwise, readings will be on reserve in the History of Science Department.

## Topics and Readings

Please note that readings marked with an asterisk (\*) will be made available either in a course reader or for individual use.

### Week 1 (Jan 30)      Shopping Period

No reading

### Week 2 (Feb 6)      From Humors to Germs: A Quick Tour of the History of Medicine.

Ackerknecht. Chs. 11-20

### Week 3 (Feb 17)      Introduction to the Historiography of Modern Medicine

- \* Brieger, Gert. "The Historiography of Medicine." In W.F. Bynum and Roy Porter, eds. *Companion Encyclopedia of the History of Medicine*. Vol. I. London: Routledge, 1997. 24-44.
- \* John Harley Warner. "The History of Science and the Sciences of Medicine" *Osiris (second series)*, 10 (1995), 164-193.
- \* Judith Walzer Leavitt. "Medicine in Context: A Review Essay of the History of Medicine." *American Historical Review*, 95 (1990), 1471-1484.
- \* Rosenberg, Charles. "Framing Disease: Illness, Society, and History." In, Charles Rosenberg and Janet Golden, eds. *Framing Disease. Studies in Cultural History*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1992), xiii-xxvi.
- \* Hunter, Kathryn Montgomery. "Toward the Cultural Interpretation of Medicine." *Literature and Medicine*, 10 (1991), 1-17.

### Week 4 (Feb 20)      Foucault and the History of Medicine

(Review Ackerknecht, Ch. 12)

Foucault. *The Foucault Reader*. (ORDER)

"The Politics of Health in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century." (273-290)

"The Body of the Condemned" (170-178)

"Docile Bodies" (179-187)

"The Means of Correct Training (188-205)

"Panopticism" (206-213)

- \* Nikolas Rose. "Medicine, History and the Present." In Colin Jones and Roy Porter, eds. *Reassessing Foucault. Power, Medicine and the Body*. (NY: Routledge, 1994), 48-72.

**SHORT PAPER DUE MONDAY, FEB 25**

**Week 5 (Feb 27) Doctor Narratives**

Epstein. *Altered Conditions*. Chs. 2, 3

\* Hunter, Kathryn Montgomery. "Remaking the Case." *Literature and Medicine*, 11:1 (Spring 1992) 163-179.

\* Guenter B. Risse and John Harley Warner. "Reconstructing Clinical Activities: Patient Records in Medical History." *Social History of Medicine*, 5 (1992), 183-205.

\* Herschbach, Lisa. "'True Clinical Fictions': Medical and Literary Narratives from the Civil War Hospital." *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry*, 19:2 (June 1995), 183-205.

[RECOMMENDED: Thomas Laqueur. "Bodies, Details, and the Humanitarian Narrative." In Lynn Hunt, ed. *The New Cultural History*. (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1989), 176-204.]

**Week 6 (Mar 6) Patient Perspective I**

Kleinman. *Illness Narratives*. Chs. 1-4, 6-7, 11-12

\* Roy Porter. "The Patient's View. Doing Medical History from Below." *Theory and Society*, 14 (1985), 167-174.

**Week 7 (March 13) Patient Perspective II**

Rothman. *Living in the Shadow of Death.*, Intro, Chs. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, (skim 12-13), 14, 15

\* Herndl, Diane Price. "The Invisible (Invalid) Woman: African-American Women, Illness, and Nineteenth-Century Narrative." *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 24:6 (1995), 553-572.

**Week 8 (March 20) Visual Culture I**

Kevles. *Naked to the Bone*. Intro, Chs. 1, 2, 6, 7, 10

\* Lerner, Barron H. "The Perils of 'X-Ray Vision.': How Radiographic Images have Historically Influenced Perception." *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine*, 35 (1992), 382-397;

[RECOMMENDED: Edward Yoxen. "Seeing with Sound. A Study of the Development of Medical Images." In W.E. Bijker, et al., eds. *The Social Construction of Technological Systems*. (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1989), 281-303; Weldby, Catherine. "Virtual Anatomy: From the Body in the Text to the Body on the Screen." *Journal of Medical Humanities*, 21:2 (Summer 2000), 85-107.

[AVAILABLE ON-LINE]

**Week 9 (March 27) Spring Break – NO CLASS****Week 10 (April 3) Visual Culture II**

Pernick, Martin. *The Black Stork*. Chs. 1, 6, 7, 8, 9

\* Amirault, Chris. "Posing the Subject of Early Medical Photography." *Discourse - Berkeley Journal for Theoretical Studies in Media and Culture*. 16:2 (1993-1994), 51-76.

\* O'Connor, Erin. "Pictures of Health: Medical Photography and the Emergence of Anorexia Nervosa." *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, 5 (1994-95) 535-572.

[RECOMMENDED: Ludmilla Jordanova. "Medicine and the Genres of Display." In Lynne Cooke and Peter Wollen, eds. *Visual Display. Culture Beyond Appearances*. (Seattle: Bay Press, 1995), 203-235; Stepan, Nancy Leys. "Portraits of a Possible Nation: Photographing Medicine in Brazil." *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 68 (1994), 136-149; Silverman, Robert J. "The Stereoscope and Photographic Depiction in the 19th Century." *Technology and Culture*, 34 (1993), 729-56; Cartwright, Lisa. "'Experiments of Destruction': Cinematic Inscriptions of Physiology." *Representations*, 40 (1992), 129-152. [AVAILABLE ON-LINE]]

**Week 11 (April 10) Bodies I (Gender)**

(these essays also available on-line as articles in *Representations*, 14, Spring 1986)

Thomas Laqueur . "Orgasm, Generation, and the Politics of Reproductive Biology." In *Making of the Modern Body*, 1-41.

Londa Schiebinger. "Skeletons in the Closet: The First Illustrations of the Female Skeleton in Eighteenth-Century Anatomy." In *Making of the Modern Body*, 42-82.

Mary Poovey, "'Scenes of an Indelicate Character': The Medical 'Treatment' of Victorian Women." In *Making of the Modern Body*, 137-168.

\* Roy Porter. "History of the Body." In Peter Burke, ed. *New Perspectives on Historical Writing*. (University Park, PA: Penn State Univ. Press, 1992), pp. 206-232.

[RECOMMENDED: Laura Englestein, "Morality and the Wooden Spoon: Russian Doctors View Syphilis, Social Class, and Sexual Behavior, 1890-1905." In *Making of the Modern Body*, 169-208; Epstein. *Altered Conditions*. Ch. 4.]

**Week 12 (April 17) Bodies II (Race)**

Wailoo, Keith. *Dying in the City of the Blues: Sickle Cell Anemia and the Politics of Race and Health*. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001), Intro, ch. 2-5, conclusion

\* Arnold, David. "'An Ancient Race Outworn': Malaria and Race in Colonial India, 1860-1930" in Waltraud Ernst and Bernard Harris, eds. *Race, Science, and Medicine, 1700-1960*. NY: Routledge, 1999), pp. 123-143.

[RECOMMENDED: Wailoo, Keith. *Drawing Blood*. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999), especially Ch. 5 "Detecting Negro Blood."; Sappol, Michael. "Sammy Tubbs and Dr. Hubbs: Anatomical Dissection, Minstrelry, and the Technology of Self-Making in Postbellum America. *Configurations 4.2* (1996), 131-84. (also available in not-so-easy-to-read format on-line)]

**Week 13 (April 24) Bodies III (Plastic Surgery)**

Haiken, Elizabeth. *Venus Envy*. Intro, Chs. 1, 3, 5, 6

\* Sander Gilman. "The Jewish Nose: Are Jews White? Or, The History of the Nose Job." In *The Jew's Body*. (NY: Routledge, 1991), pp. 169-193.

\* Anne Balsamo. "On the Cutting Edge: Cosmetic Surgery and New imaging Technologies." In *Technologies of the Gendered Body: Reading Cyborg Women*. (Durham: Duke University Press, 1996), pp. 56-79

[RECOMMENDED: Sander Gilman. *Creating Beauty to Cure the Soul. Race and Psychology in the Shaping of Aesthetic Surgery*. (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1998.); Gilman, Sander. *Making the Body Beautiful*. (Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 2001)]

**Week 14 (May 4) A Cultural History of Medicine?**

No reading -- discussion of student projects

**FINAL PAPER DUE: FRIDAY MAY 10**