HEALTH AND SOCIETY IN MODERN LATIN AMERICA: A HISTORY

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This graduate seminar will examine the origin and development of public health in Latin American and the Caribbean during the Modern (19th and 20th centuries) period. The readings trace and give some order to a number of studies, mostly in English, on the social, cultural and institutional history of medicine and health in the region, that have appeared in the past few years. The valuable historical studies on medicine and public health during the pre-Columbian and colonial period, that could be the basis for another course or a seminar, are only covered by one session in this syllabus. The course is directed to advances undergraduate students not fully familiar with Spanish and Portuguese. In some classes documents or films are included in the discussion.

For further works in Spanish and Portuguese see the databank HISA of the Casa Oswaldo Cruz. Scielo offers the opportunity to download some of these articles:

http://www.coc.fiocruz.br/areas/dad/hisa/index.htm

The main journal in the field published in Portuguese in Rio de Janeiro is História, Ciências, Saúde: Manguinhos. See also journals such as The Americas, Hispanic American Research Review, Latin American Research Review and the Journal of Latin American Studies that usually include articles on the history of health and medicine.

A general overview of Latin America during the 19th and 20th century is:


Two overviews of public health history in English are:


For those interested in the colonial period two remarkable works on the role played by epidemic disease during the Spanish conquest and colonial period are:


**ASSESSMENT**

Evaluation will be as follows: (1) review reading assignments in brief but critical (1-page) weekly papers, which will provide the basis for your contributions to discussions (2) make at least one presentation, based on the “further reading” with a 10-page paper to be handed in during the term (3) submit a 20-page paper by the end of the term.

Students must choose a research subject for their semester work that can either be an in-depth study in the history of health and medicine in a certain country or a cross-country discussion in a relevant issue. Students must hand in and discuss with the teacher an outline of the paper before the break.

**PRESCRIBED BOOKS AND READINGS**


The readings for each week should also be consulted. The attached bibliography contains references that should assist you in your research work for this course.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

**Required reading:**


**Further reading:**


2. THE LEGACY OF PRECOLUMBIAN AND COLONIAL TRADITIONS

**FILM:** “Evil wind, evil air,” Museo del Banco Central del Ecuador. 22 minutes. 1985.
Publisher Lauris McKee.

**Required reading:**


**Further reading:**


Donald B. Cooper, Epidemic Disease in Mexico City, 1716-1813: An Administrative, Social, and Medical Study. Austin: Univ. of Texas Press, 1965.


3. LOCAL LEGACIES

**Required reading:**


Further reading:


Sydney Chalhoub, Cidade febril: cortiços e epidemias na Corte imperial Sao Paulo: Companhia das Letras, 1996.

4. HEALTH, MEDICINE AND EMPIRE


Required reading:


Further reading:


5. ROCKEFELLER AND U.S INFLUENCES

Required reading


Further reading:


Ilana Lowy. “What/who should be controlled? Opposition to yellow fever campaigns in Brazil, 1900-1939,” in Western medicine as contested knowledge, 124-126.


6. NATIONAL/REGIONAL TRADITIONS

Required reading:


Further reading:


7. RACE, SEGREGATION AND RESISTANCE

Required reading:


Further reading:


Marcos Cueto. “Social Medicine and ”Leprosy” in the Peruvian Amazon,” The Americas 2004 [forthcoming].


8. MALARIA, WORLD WAR II AND THE COLD WAR

**Required reading:**


**Further reading:**


9. **SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES**

**Required reading:**


**Further reading:**


### 10. POPULATION CONTROL


**Required reading:**


**Further reading:**


### 11. AIDS

**FILM:** “Brazil: winning against Aids,” Oley, PA : Bullfrog Films. 27 min. 2001.

**Required reading:**


**Further readings:**


**12. THE RETURN OF EPIDEMICS**


**Required reading:**


**Further reading:**


