

History 066
Disease, Culture and Society in the Modern World: Comparative Perspectives

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Emphasizing on Latin America, but also discussing European, African, Asian, and North American cases, this course will deal with the diverse ways historians and scholars from other disciplines have been discussing the sociocultural dimensions of certain diseases in specific places and periods. Topics include strategies of public health in colonial and neocolonial contexts; changing ideas about contamination, hygiene, segregation, and contagion; specific epidemic outbreaks and the cultural politics of blame and responsibility; the individual and collective experience of illness; the class, ethnic and racial dimensions that accompanied the efforts to understand certain diseases; metaphors and representations of certain diseases in the media, cinema and in literature; the emergence of health care professions and institutions and the persistent presence of alternative healing cultures.

Requirements

1. Readings:

Required readings are listed in the course schedule below. A list of books available for purchase follows. All required readings are on Blackboard and marked in this syllabus with an asterisk (*). Blackboard materials are chapters, articles or excerpts of books, most of them available at McCabe library.

2. Writing:

First paper will take the form of a book review of about 1,500-1,800 words of one or several books. It is advisable to discuss with me in advance your selection. Due March 10

Second paper of about 2,500 words can take a variety of forms, such as: 1. a critical review of a problem as it was discussed by the secondary literature; 2. a paper on a specific topic or disease involving the use of primary sources; 3. an exercise in historical fiction in which you deal with an imaginary disease in a specific space, time, and biomedical context and explore the individual and collective experiences –at the material and symbolic levels- associated with it. It is advisable to discuss with me an outline and bibliography for this assignment. Paper is due May 7.

A more detailed information about these two written assignments will be provided in class. For those who are not familiar with modes of historical writing, writing conventions, and source documentation I recommend to read Richard Marius and Melvin Page, *A Short Guide to Writing about History*. Students must complete all writing assignments to pass the course.

3. Class participation:

Each meeting one or two students will be in charge of commenting on the readings (up to 10 minutes), raising questions and leading the discussion. It is my intention to run this course in colloquium format. Consequently readings must be completed prior to class. You should come to every class, be prepared with questions and thoughts about the readings and participate fully in the discussions. I strongly recommend writing a commentary, paragraph, several questions or a brief outline stating your initial reaction to the assigned reading in order to facilitate your

participation in class discussions. Active participation is vital to receiving a good final grade. Unexcused absences will result in a lower grade.

Books

Diego Armus, ed., *From Malaria to AIDS. Disease in the History of Modern Latin America* (Duke University Press, 2003)

Nancy Tomes, *The Gospel of Germs: Men, Women and the Microbe in American Life* (Harvard, 1998)

Course Schedule.

Readings with (*) are available on Blackboard.

Week 1

January 20

Introduction

January 22

History, Disease, Historiography I

Mark Harrison, "Introduction", in Mark Harrison, *Disease and the Modern World. 1500 to the Present Day* (*)

Roy Porter, "What is Disease", in Roy Porter, ed. *The Cambridge Illustrated History of Medicine* (Cambridge University Press) (*)

Alfons Labisch, "Transcending the Two Cultures in Biomedicine. The History of Medicine and the History in Medicine," in Huisman and Warner, *Locating Medical History* (*)

Robert Nye, "The Evolution of the Concept of Medicalization in the Late Twentieth Century," *Journal of History of the Behavioral Sciences*, 2003, 39, 2: 115-129 (*)

Susan Reverby and David Rosner, "Beyond the Great Doctors" Revisited: A Generation of the "New" Social History of Medicine", in Huisman and Warner, *Locating Medical History* (*)

Week 2

January 27

History, Disease, Historiography II

Charles Rosenberg, "Framing Disease: Illness, Society and History" (*)

Charles Rosenberg, "What is Disease? In Memory of Owsei Temkin," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 2003, 77: 491-505.

Charles Rosenberg, "Anticipated Consequences. Historians, History, and Health policy," in Rosemary Stevens, ed., *Putting the Past Back In: History and Health Policy in the United States* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2006. (*)

Naomi Rogers, "Explaining Everything? The Power and Perils of Reading Rosenberg," *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, 2008, 63, 4, 423:434. (*)

January 29

Meeting with McCabe librarian Melanie Maksin

Week 3

February 2

Tuberculosis: From Romantic Disease to Public Health Issue I

Sheila Rothman, *Living in the Shadow of Death. Tuberculosis and the Social Experience of Illness in American History*, part 3 (*)

Alison Bashford, "Cultures of Confinement: Tuberculosis, Isolation and the Sanatorium," in Carolyn Strange and Alison Bashford, eds. *Isolation. Places and Practices of Exclusion* (*)

David Barnes, *The Making of a Social Disease. Tuberculosis in Nineteenth-Century France*, (*)

Randall Packard, *White Plague, Black Labor. Tuberculosis and the Political Economy of Health and Disease in South Africa*, ch. VII (*)

February 4

Tuberculosis: From Romantic Disease to Public Health Issue II

Susan Sontag. *Illness as Metaphor* 1-87 (*)

Clark Lawlor, *Consumption and Literature: The Making of a Romantic Disease* (New York: Palgrave, 2006), Intro, 153-170 (*)

Diego Armus, "Tango, Gender and Tuberculosis. Buenos Aires 1910-1940," in Armus, *From Malaria to AIDS*

Week 4

February 9

Tropical Diseases in the World Periphery. Malaria

Warwick Anderson, "Postcolonial Histories of Medicine", in Huisman and Warner, *Locating Medical History* (*)

Nancy Stepan, "'The Only Serious Terror in these Regions': Malaria Control in the Amazonas," Armus, *From Malaria to AIDS*

Randall Packard, "Malaria Dreams: Postwar Visions of Health and Development in the Third World," *Medical Anthropology*, 17, 3: 279-296 (*)

February 11

Tropical Diseases in the World Periphery. Yellow Fever and Chagas

Sidney Chaloub, "The Politics of Disease Control: Yellow Fever and Race in Nineteenth Century Rio de Janeiro", *Journal of Latin American Studies* 25:5 (1993): 441-463 (*)

Ilana Lowy, "What / Who Should Be Controlled? Opposition to Yellow Fever Campaigns in Brazil, 1900-1939," in Andrew Cunningham, *Western Medicine as Contested Knowledge*. (*)

Ilana Lowy, "Yellow Fever in Rio de Janeiro and the Pasteur Institute Mission (1901-1905): The Transfer of Science to the Periphery", *Medical History* (1990) 34. (*)

Marilia Coutinho, "Tropical Medicine in Brazil: The Case of Chagas' Disease", Armus, *From Malaria to AIDS*

Simone Petraglia Kropf et al, "Biomedical Research and Public Health in Brazil: the Case of Chagas Disease", *Social History of Medicine*, 16, April 2003, pp. 11-129 (*)

Week 5

February 16

Tropical Diseases and the Rockefeller Foundation

Marcos Cueto, "The Cycles of Eradication: The Rockefeller Foundation and Latin American Public Health, 1918-1940", in Paul Weindling, ed, *International Health Organizations and Movements* (*)

S. Franco Agudelo, "The Rockefeller Foundation's Antimalarial Program in Latin America: Donating or Dominating?", *International Journal of Health Services*, 13 (1983), 51-67. (*)

Steve Palmer, "Central American Encounters with Rockefeller Public Health, 1914-1921" (*)

Anne-Emanuelle Birn, "Revolution the Scatological Way: The Rockefeller Foundation's Hookworm Campaign in 1920s Mexico", in Armus, *From Malaria to AIDS*

Marcos Cueto, "Local Responses", in *Cold War, Deadly Fevers. Malaria Eradication in Mexico, 1955-1975* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007) (*)

February 18

Leprosy and Exclusion

Diana Obregón, "The State, Physicians and Leprosy in Modern Colombia", in Armus, *From Malaria to AIDS*

Susan Burns, "From 'Leper Villages' to Leprosaria: Public Health, Nationalism and the Culture of Exclusion in Japan", in Strange and Bashford, eds. *Isolation* (*)

Michael Worboys, "The Colonial World as Mission and Mandate: Leprosy and Empire 1900-1940" *Osiris*, 15 (2001) 207-218 (*)

Warwick Anderson, "Leprosy and Citizenship", *Positions*, 6 (1998): 707-29 (*)

Week 6

February 23

Smallpox and the Politics of Vaccination

Jeffrey Needell, "The *Revolta contra Vacina* of 1904: The Revolt against 'Modernization' in *Belle Époque* Rio de Janeiro", *Hispanic American Historical Review*, 67, 2, May 1987: 233-269 (*)

Nadja Durbach, "'They Might as Well Brand Us': Working Class Resistance to Compulsory Vaccination in Victorian England", *Social History of Medicine*, 13, 1 (April 2000) (*)

Gilberto Hochman, "The Culture of Immunization: Smallpox and the Brazilian Public Health Agenda" (mimeo) (*)

February 25

Public Health, Morality and Venereal Diseases I Syphilis

Katherine Bliss, "Between Risk and Confession. State and Popular Perspectives of Syphilis Infection in Revolutionary Mexico" in Armus, *From Malaria to AIDS*

Allan Brandt, *No Magic Bullet. A Social History of Venereal Disease in the United States since 1880* (*)

Susan Reverby, ed. *Tuskegee's Truths: Rethinking the Tuskegee Syphilis Study* (*)

Week 7

March 3

Public Health, Morality and Venereal Diseases II

AIDS

Jeffrey Weeks, "AIDS and the Regulation of Sexuality", in Virginia Berridge and Philip Strong, eds. *AIDS in Contemporary History* (*)

Patrick Larvie, "Nation, Science, and Sex: AIDS and the New Brazilian Sexuality", in Armus, *From Malaria to AIDS*

Shawn Sallman, *The AIDS Pandemic in Latin America* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2007) (*)

Steven Epstein, *Impure Science: AIDS, Activism and the Politics of Knowledge* (*)

Jonny Steinberg, *Sizwe's Test: A Young's Journey Through Africa's AIDS Epidemic* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2008) (*)

Elizabeth Pisani, *The Wisdom of Whores: Bureaucrats, Brothels, and the Business of AIDS* (New York: Norton, 2008) (*)

Stephanie Nolen, *28 Stories of AIDS in Africa* (New York: Walker, 2007) (*)

March 5

Cholera and Social Order

Charles Rosenberg, *The Cholera Years: America in 1832, 1849 and 1866* (*)

Greg Grandin, "A Pestilent Nationalism: The 1837 Cholera Epidemic Reconsidered" in *The Blood of Guatemala: A History of Race and Nation*, (*)

Richard Evans, "Epidemics and Revolutions: Cholera in Nineteenth Century Europe", *Past and Present*, 120 (1988) 123:146 (*)

Nancy Gallagher, "Cholera Goes out of Control", in *Egypt's Other Wars. Epidemics and the Politics of Public Health* (*)

Marcos Cueto, "Stigma and Blame during an Epidemic. Cholera in Peru 1991", in Armus, *From Malaria to AIDS*

Week 8

Spring Break

Week 9

March 17

First Paper Due

The Public and Private Sides of Hygiene I

Nancy Tomes, *The Gospel of Germs*, chaps. I and II

March 19

The Public and Private Sides of Hygiene II

Nancy Tomes, *The Gospel of Germs*, chaps. III and IV

Week 10

March 24

Bacteriology and Ideology

Bruno Latour, *The Pasteurization of France* (*)

March 26

No class. Make up TBA

Week 11

March 31

Migration and Disease

Lara Marks and Michael Worboys, "Introduction to Migrants, Minorities and Health" (*)

Alan Kraut, "A Plague of Nativism: the Cases of Chick Gin and 'Typhoid Mary'" (*) and "'Viruses and Bacteria Don't Ask for a Green card': New Immigrants and Old Fears" (*)

Alexandra Stern and Howard Markel, "Which Face? Whose Nation? Immigration, Public Health, and the Construction of Disease at America's Ports and Borders, 1891-1928", *American Behavioral Scientist*, Vol. 42, No. 9, 1314-1331 (1999) (*)

Alison Bashford, "Quarantine and the Imagining of the Australian Nation", in *Health*, 2, 4, (1998): 387-402 (*)

Diego Armus, "Immigration, Race and Tuberculosis" in *The Ailing City. Health, Culture and Tuberculosis in Buenos Aires 1870-1950* (Durham: Duke University Press, forthcoming) (*)

April 2

Disease, Nation and Eugenics

Frank Dikötter, "Race and Culture: Recent Perspectives on the History of Eugenics", *American Historical Review*, vol. 77, No. 4, pp. 619-635 (*)

Nancy Stepan, *The Hour of Eugenics. Race, Gender and Nation in Latin America*, Introduction, chaps. 1, 2 (*)

Week 12

April 7

Healings and Healers I

Steve Palmer, *From Popular Medicine to Medical Populism: Doctors, Healers, and Public Power in Costa Rica* (*)

David Sowell, *The Tale of Healer Miguel Perdomo Neira : Medicine, Ideologies, and Power in the Nineteenth-Century Andes* (*)

Margarite Fernández Olmos and Lizabeth Paravisini-Gebert, eds., *Healing Cultures: Art and*

Religion as Curative Practices in the Caribbean and its Diaspora (*)

April 9
Healings and Healers II

James Whorton, *Nature Cures. The History of Alternative Medicine America* (*)

Week 13
April 14
Patients

Nancy Tomes, "Patients or Health-Care Consumers? Why the History of Contested Terms Matters," in Rosemary Stevens, ed., *Putting the Past Back In: History and Health Policy in the United States*. (*)

Diego Armus, "Unruly and Well-Adjusted Patients", in *The Ailing City. Health, Culture and Tuberculosis in Buenos Aires 1870-1950*. (*)

April 16
Medications

Diego Armus, "Domestic Care: Home Remedies and Over-the-Counter Medication," in *The Ailing City*. (*)

Andre Tome, *Medicating Modern America* (*)

Nancy Tomes, "The Great American Medicine Show Revisited," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 2005, 79: 627-663. (*)

Week 14
April 21
Diseases and Media I

Walt Disney, *On the Front Line*

April 23
Diseases and Media II

Leslie Reagan, *Medicine's Moving Pictures* (*)

Week 15

April 28
Smoking between Habit and Disease I

Allan Brandt, *The American Cigarette*. (*)

Richard Klein, *Cigarettes are Sublime* (*)

April 30
Smoking between Habit and Disease II

Matthew Hilton, *Smoking in English Popular Culture, 1800-200. Perfect Pleasures* (*)

May 7

Second Paper Due