

MEDICINE AND WESTERN CIVILIZATION

W4911: FALL 2008

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COURSE ORGANIZATION

This seminar seeks to analyze the ways by which medicine and culture combine to shape our values and traditions. To this end, it will examine notable literary, medical, and social texts from classical antiquity to the present.

Requirements for the course include reading, intensive class discussions, and one seminar paper (due early December). Students will also be responsible for making short, opening presentations.

The text for the course is Medicine and Western Civilization, edited by David J. Rothman, S. Marcus, and S.A. Kiceluk. Students will be required to read four additional books: Mary Shelley, Frankenstein; William Defoe, Journal of the Plague Year; David Arnold, Colonizing the Body: State Medicine and Epidemic disease in Nineteenth-Century India; Michel Foucault, The Birth of the Clinic; and Leo Tolstoy, The Death of Ivan Ilych. All texts are available at the Columbia University Bookstore.

MEDICINE AND WESTERN CIVILIZATION

I. THE HUMAN FORM DIVINE

Medicine and Western Civilization, pp. 11-42

The Bible (6th Century B.C.)

Galen (130-201 A.D.), The Hand

Paracelsus (1493-1541), *Volumen Medicinae Paramirum*

Clerical Investigation into the Case of Benedetta Carlini (1619-1623)

Battista Piergilius, *The Life of Sister Chiara of Montefalco* (1663)

* *Mary Shelley*, Frankenstein

II. THE BODY SECULARIZED

Medicine and Western Civilization, pp. 43-78

Hippocrates (460-377 B.C.), The Nature of Man

Plato (426-347 B.C.), *Timaeus*

Andreas Vesalius, *The Fabric of the Human Body* (1543)

Baldasar Heselr, *Andreas Vesalius' First Public Anatomy at Bologna, 1540: An Eyewitness Report*

Felix Platter, *Journal* (1554)

William Harvey, *An Anatomical Study on the Motion of the Heart and the Blood in Animals* (1628)

III. ANATOMY AND DESTINY

Medicine and Western Civilization, pp. 79-138

Aristotle (384-322 B.C.), The Generation of Animals

Heinrich Kramer and *James Sprenger*, *Malleus Maleficarum* (c.a. 1486)

"W.," *Remarks on Masturbation* (1835)

Edward Hammond Clarke, *Sex in Education; or, A Fair Chance for Girls* (1874)

Mary Putnam Jacobi, *Do Women Require Mental and Bodily Rest During Menstruation?* (1886)

Sigmund Freud, *The Dissolution of the Oedipus Complex* (1924)

Alfred C. Kinsey, *Wardell B. Pomeroy*, *Clyde E. Martin*, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* (1948)

Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* (1949)

William H. Masters and *Virginia E. Johnson*, *Human Sexual Response* (1966)

Mary Jane Sherfey, *The Nature and Evolution of Female Sexuality* (1972)

W.D. Snodgrass, *An Envoi, Post-TURP* (1991)

IV. PSYCHE AND SOMA
Medicine and Western Civilization, pp. 139-208

Hippocrates (460-377 B.C.), *The Sacred Disease*
St. Augustine (354-430), *The Creation of the Man's Soul*
Michel de Montaigne, *On the Power of the Imagination* (1580)
Robert Burton, *The Anatomy of Melancholy* (1621)
William Wordsworth, *Goody Blake and Harry Gill: A True Story* (1798)
Philippe Pinel, *A Treatise on Insanity* (1801)
Josef Breuer and Sigmund Freud, *Studies on Hysteria* (1893-1895)
William Styron, *Darkness Visible: A Memoir of Madness* (1990)

V. THE CONTAMINATED AND THE PURE
Medicine and Western Civilization, pp. 209-260

Jordan of Turre (fl. 1313-1335), *The Symptoms of Lepers*
Ulrich von Hutten, *Of the Beginning of the French Pox* (1519)
Edwin Chadwick, *Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Population of Great Britain* (1842)
Ignaz Semmelweis, *The Etiology, Concept, and Prophylaxis of Childbed Fever* (1861)
Joseph Lister, *On the Antiseptic Principle in the Practice of Surgery* (1867)
Louis Pasteur, *On the Extension of the Germ Theory to the Etiology of Certain Common Diseases* (1880)

* *Daniel Defoe*, *Journal of the Plague Year*

VI. THE HEALER
Medicine and Western Civilization, pp. 261-298

Hippocrates, *The Hippocratic Oath*
The Bible (A.D. 1st Century)
Asaf Judaens (7th c.), *Admonition*
Arnald of Villanova (c.a. 1240-1311), *On the Precautions that Physicians Must Observe*
Heinrich Kramer and James Sprenger, *Malleus Maleficarum* (ca. 1486)
Benjamin Rush, *The Vices and Virtues of Physicians* (1801)
Elizabeth Blackwell (1821-1910), *The Influence of Women in the Profession of Medicine*
Zora Neale Hurston, *My Most Humiliating Jim Crow Experience* (1944)
Sara Lawrence Lightfoot, *Balm in Gilead: Journey of a Healer* (1988)

VII. THE EXPERIMENTER

Medicine and Western Civilization, pp. 299-342

Edward Jenner, *An Inquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Variolae Vaccinae, or Cow-Pox* (1798)

R. T. H. *Laennec*, *A Treatise on the Diseases of the Chest and on Mediate Auscultation* (1818)

Claude Bernard, *An Introduction to the Study of Experimental Medicine* (1865)

Robert Koch, *The Etiology of Tuberculosis* (1882)

Hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on Health: *Quality of Health Care – Human Experimentation*, 1973

* *David Arnold*, *Colonizing the Body: State Medicine and Epidemic Disease in Nineteenth-Century India*.

VIII. THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF DOCTORS AND PATIENTS

Medicine and Western Civilization, pp. 343-382

Philippe Pinel, *The Clinical Training of Doctors* (1793)

Dorothea Dix, *On Behalf of the Insane Poor* (1843)

Florence Nightingale, *Notes on Hospitals* (1859)

Massachusetts General Hospital, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, Acts and Resolves (1861)

George Orwell (1903-1950), *How the Poor Die*

* *Michel Foucault*, *The Birth of the Clinic*, chs. 3, 5-9.

IX. THE CONSTRUCTION OF PAIN, SUFFERING, AND DEATH

Medicine and Western Civilization, pp. 383-435

Frances Burney (Madame D'Arblay), *A Mastectomy* (1811)

William Couper, *Memoir of the Early Life* (1816)

James Young Simpson, *Answer to the Religious Objections Advanced Against the Employment of Anesthetic Agents in Midwifery and Surgery* (1849)

Ernest Hemingway, *Indian Camp* (1925)

Jean Stafford, *The Interior Castle* (1946)

Pius XII, *The Prolongation of Life* (1958)

A Definition of Irreversible Coma: Report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Harvard Medical School to Examine the Definition of Brain Death (1968)

Paul Monette, *Borrowed Time: An AIDS Memoir* (1988)

Philip Larkin, *Aubade* (1977)

* *Leo Tolstoy*, *The Death of Ivan Ilych*