

**Georgia Tech**  
**School of History and Sociology**  
**HTS 2080: Introduction to the History of Disease and Medicine**  
**Fall 2018**  
**Weber SST III**

Professor John L. Tone  
john.tone@iac.gatech.edu  
Office hours: T, Th 1:30-2:30  
Teaching Assistant Xincheng Shen  
xshen40@gatech.edu  
Office hours: W, 12-2

Course Description

This course interrogates the history of disease and medicine to illuminate the past and present globally. It is an introductory course suitable for any student and carries no prerequisites. The course is required for the Health, Medicine, and Society minor degree. It also fulfills the social science requirement.

Requirements and Grading

To succeed in this class, you should complete all assigned reading, take reading notes, attend class, participate in discussion, and take lecture notes that you can study before exams. The scheduled quizzes cover material from readings. They are designed to encourage completion of reading and to provide you with feedback. I will drop your one lowest quiz grade. Exams are short answer, mostly filling in blanks and some multiple choice. Make-up exams are allowed in cases of illness and emergencies supported by appropriate documentation. Grades are determined as follows:

1. Exam 1: 20 points
2. Exam 2: 20 points
3. Final Exam: 40 points
4. Quizzes: 20 points

A = 90 points

B = 80 points

C = 70 points

D = 60 points

F = fewer than 60 points

Reading

Reading is critical in any history class. Please complete readings in advance of class meetings, so that you can do well on quizzes and also participate in discussion. Most of the reading is freely accessible on line, on Canvas, or from a GT eJournal. You should print these selections

and bring them to class when they are being taught and discussed. This is because I do not allow anyone to have open any electronic devices in class. There is one required book: Sherwin Nuland, *Doctors*. You should purchase new or used, any edition, and bring it to class when it is being used.

### Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- demonstrate an understanding of the influence of disease on global history.
- demonstrate an understanding of key scholarly publications in the field.
- demonstrate an understanding of developments in medicine since the Renaissance.
- demonstrate knowledge of the interplay of social, political, and economic forces with the history of medicine and public health.
- demonstrate an understanding of the evolution of medical education.

### Course Policies

- Students are expected to abide by the Georgia Tech Honor Code: [www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18b.php](http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18b.php)
- Students are not allowed to use electronic devices in class
- Students can anticipate a respectful classroom environment. As a member of the Georgia Tech faculty, I aim to encourage learning and do my best to help each of you succeed. To review GT faculty and student expectations in this regard: [www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22.php](http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22.php)
- I am glad to grant accommodations for students with disabilities arranged in advance with the Office of Disability Services: [www.adapts.gatech.edu](http://www.adapts.gatech.edu)

## Weekly Schedule

### Week One

8/21: The Black Death

No reading

8/23: The Impact of the Black Death

Read: Boccaccio, *Decameron*, First Day, Introduction. Read selection at:

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/boccacio2.asp>

### Week Two

8/28: Smallpox and the Global Balance of Power

#### **Quiz 1**

Read: Alfred Crosby, "Conquistador y Pestilencia: The First New World Pandemic and the Fall of the Great Indian Empires," *The Hispanic American Historical Review* 47 (August 1967): 321-337, at: GT Library eJournals.

8/30: Variolation, Vaccination, Eradication

Read: Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, *Letter*, at:

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/montagu-smallpox.html>

### Week Three

9/4: Revolutionary and Counterrevolutionary Diseases

Read: J.R. McNeill, *Mosquito Empires: Ecology and War in the Greater Caribbean, 1620-1914*, Cambridge, 2010, ch. 6, 195-234, on Canvas.

9/6: **Exam 1**

### Week Four

9/11: Ancient Legacies of Hippocrates and Galen

Read: Nuland, chs. 1-2.

9/13: The New Anatomy of Vesalius

**Quiz 2**

Read: Nuland, ch. 3.

And: Andreas Vesalius, *De Humani Corporis Fabrica*, preface at:

<http://vesalius.northwestern.edu/>

(Read the part of Vesalius's preface beginning with "To the Divine Charles V..." and ending with the phrase "by whatever means I could.")

Week Five

9/18: Harvey and the Circulation of the Blood

**Quiz 3**

Read: Nuland, ch. 5

9/20: Microscopy

View: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2ezDdKyRUc>

Week Six

9/25: The French Revolution in Medicine, I

Read: Nuland, ch. 6.

9/27: The French Revolution in Medicine, II

**Quiz 4**

Read: Nuland, ch. 8

Week Seven

10/2: Surgery

**Quiz 5**

Read: Nuland, chs. 4, 7.

10/4: Anesthesia

Read: Nuland, ch. 10.

Week Eight

10/9: Fall break

10/11: Sanitation

**Quiz 6**

Read: Edwin Chadwick, *Inquiry into the Sanitary Conditions of the Labouring Population* at:

<http://www.victorianweb.org/history/chadwick2.html>

## Week Nine

10/16: Cholera and Public Health

### **Quiz 7**

Read: John Snow, *On the Mode of Communication of Cholera* (pages 1-89) at:

[http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=-](http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=-N0_AAAcAAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PA1&dq=john+snow+cholera&ots=mURhEjMsHW&sig=Y9df-XJfd72whwELQ2Oivov2MoU - v=onepage&q=john snow cholera&f=false)

[N0\\_AAAcAAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PA1&dq=john+snow+cholera&ots=mURhEjMsHW&sig=Y9df-XJfd72whwELQ2Oivov2MoU - v=onepage&q=john snow cholera&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=-N0_AAAcAAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PA1&dq=john+snow+cholera&ots=mURhEjMsHW&sig=Y9df-XJfd72whwELQ2Oivov2MoU - v=onepage&q=john snow cholera&f=false)

And view carefully his brilliant map:

[http://www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow/snowmap1\\_1854\\_lge.htm](http://www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow/snowmap1_1854_lge.htm)

10/18: Germ Theory I

Read: Nuland, chs. 9.

## Week Ten

10/23: Germ Theory II

Read: Nuland, ch. 12.

10/25: **Exam 2**

## Week Eleven

10/30: Malaria

### **Quiz 8**

Read: Margaret Humphreys, *Malaria*, 8-29, on Canvas.

Also click and read "biology" and "malaria worldwide" at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/about/index.html>

11/1: Yellow Fever

Film: The Great Fever

## Week Twelve

11/6: Yellow Fever II, Discussion of Film

11/8: The Cell as Seat of Disease

Read: Nuland, ch. 11.

### Week Thirteen

11/13: Antibiotics

Read: Alexander Fleming, "On the Antibacterial Action of Cultures of *Penicillium*, with Special Reference to Their Use in The Isolation of *B. Influenzae*," *The British Journal of Experimental Pathology* 10 (1929): 226-236 at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2048009/>

11/15: Medical Education I

Read: *The Flexner Report*, introduction and chs. 1-3, on Canvas.

#### **Quiz 9**

### Week Fourteen

11/20: Medical Education II

#### **Quiz 10**

Read: Nuland, ch. 13.

11/22: Thanksgiving

### Week Fifteen

11/27: Tuberculosis

Read: Howard Markel, *When Germs Travel*, New York: Vintage, 2005, ch. 1, on Canvas.

#### **Quiz 11**

11/29: The AIDS epidemic

Read: HIV "Basics" at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/>

### Week Sixteen

12/3: Review for Final Exam

**The final exam is scheduled for December 6, 2:40-5:30 pm.**