

Georgia Institute of Technology
School of History, Technology, and Society
HTS 3087: The History of Medicine, Fall 2012
Boggs B6: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:35-2:55

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Office hours: TBA

Requirements

I will provide a set of lectures on topics outlined in the weekly schedule. Your job is to read, attend class, take notes, ask questions, participate in discussion, study, and take exams. The exams are short-answer and are indicated on the weekly schedule. There are no make-up exams except in cases of emergencies supported by appropriate documentation. Grades are determined as follows:

1. Exam One -- 20%
2. Exam Two -- 20%
3. Exam Three -- 20%
4. Final Exam -- 40%

Reading

Readings indicated on the schedule are to be completed in advance of class meetings. The following required books are at Engineer's Bookstore:

Steven Johnson, *The Ghost Map*.
Sherwin Nuland, *Doctors*.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- demonstrate an understanding of the influence of diseases on global history.
- master a standard narrative of western medical progress since the Renaissance.
- demonstrate knowledge of the interplay of social, political, and economic forces with the history of medicine and public health in the West.
- grasp the outlines of the evolution of medical education in Europe and America.

Note: All students are expected to abide by the Georgia Tech Honor Code. I do not allow the use by students of any electronic devices in the classroom. One point will be deducted from the final grade for each instance of this rule violation.

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 up to note 49. At:

<http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/decameron/engDecShowText.php?myID=d01intro&expand=day01>.

Week Two

8/28: Smallpox and the Global Balance of Power

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. GT Library eJournals.

8/30: Variolation, Vaccination, Eradication of Small Pox

Read: Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, *Letter*. At:

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

And: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/smallpox/>

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, at: T-Square.

9/6: **Exam One**

Week Four

9/11: Ancient Legacies of Hippocrates and Galen

Read: Nuland, chs. 1-2.

9/13: The New Anatomy of Vesalius

Read: Nuland, ch. 3.

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

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

(section beginning "To the Divine Charles V..." and ending with the date August 1, A.D. 1542)

Week Five

9/18: Harvey and the Circulation of the Blood

Read: William Harvey, *De Motu Cordis*, Frankfurt, 1628, at:

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1628harvey-blood.html> (chapters 2, 8, 9)

And: Nuland, ch. 5

9/20: Microscopy and the Debate over Spontaneous Generation

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

Week Six

9/25: French Revolution in Medicine

Read: Nuland, chs. 6, 8.

9/27: **Exam Two**

Week Seven

10/2: Surgery

Read: Nuland, chs. 4, 7.

10/4: Anesthesia

Read: Nuland, ch. 10.

Week Eight

10/9: Sanitation

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

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

10/11: Cholera and Public Health

Read: Steven Johnson, *The Ghost Map*.

Week Nine

10/18: The Origin of Germ Theory

Read: Nuland, ch. 9.

Week Ten

10/23: Pasteur, Koch, and Lister

Read: Emile Roux, "The Medical Work of Pasteur," *The Scientific Monthly* 21 (October 1925):

364-389. GT Library eJournals.

And: Nuland, ch. 12.

10/25: **Exam Three**

Week Eleven

10/30: Malaria

No reading.

11/1: Yellow Fever

Film: *The Great Fever*

No reading.

Week Twelve

11/6: 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.asm.org/ccLibraryFiles/FILENAME/0000000264/1929p185.pdf>

11/8: Medical Education in America, part one

Read: *The Flexner Report*, selections, at:

http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/sites/default/files/elibrary/Carnegie_Flexner_Report.pdf

Week Thirteen

11/13: Medical Education in America, part two

Read: Nuland, chs. 13, 14.

11/15: Medical Education Today

Read: Melvin Konner, *Becoming a Doctor: A Journey of Initiation in Medical School*, New York, Penguin, 1988, ch. 3. On T-Square.

Week Fourteen

11/20: Being a Doctor

Guest speaker: Dr. Steven Shore (pediatrician)

Week Fifteen

11/27: Public Health in America

Read: Howard Markel, *When Germs Travel*, chs. 1. On T-Square.

11/29: AIDS

Read: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/basic/index.htm>

Week Sixteen

12/4: AIDS and global health

Guest speaker: Dan Kidder (from CDC)

12/6: Review for exam

FINAL EXAM is on 12/11, 2:50-5:40