

CLA 230
Medicine in the Ancient World
Spring 2004
MW 9:30-11:18
University Hall 47

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Office hrs: MW 11:30-12:30
UH 414C ☎ 292-1355

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of medicine in ancient Greece and Rome. To our minds, the medical practices of these ancient cultures seem primitive, often bizarre, sometimes downright gross. But to its practitioners and patients, ancient medicine had a coherent logic. By studying this logic, we can gain insight into the world in which this medicine flourished. For example, when the medical writer Galen represents female anatomy as a perfect inversion of male anatomy, he reflects (and also reinforces) ancient views of the relation between men and women. When Hippocrates warns about the emasculating effect of drinking water from certain rivers in Persia, he reflects racial and national stereotypes prevalent in ancient Greece. As we read the texts of the ancient medical writers, we will seek not only to find the origins of our own medicine but also to understand the ways in which medicine participates in its culture, reflecting, reinforcing, and occasionally debunking deeply-held cultural beliefs and assumptions. All readings are in translation, and students are not expected to have any background either in Classics or in medicine.

Course Objectives

This course has two interrelated objectives. First, it aims to introduce students to the texts of the ancient medical writers and through these texts to the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome. Second, the course aims to stimulate students to think critically about the relation between medicine and the culture in which it is embedded.

Required Texts (available at SBX)

G. E. R. Lloyd, trans. *Hippocratic Writings* (Penguin)

Sontag *AIDS and its Metaphors / Illness as Metaphor*

*readings with an asterisk are on electronic reserve (<http://library.ohio-state.edu/search/r>)

Requirements

final	40%
two 5-7 page papers	50%
class participation	10%

The final will cover all reading and lecture material and will be a combination of short-answer and essay questions. The two papers, due April 26 and May 17, will be analyses of a specific medical text or question; topics will be handed out in class. Class participation credit will reflect your attendance at and contribution to class discussion.

Readings on Electronic Reserve

Foucault "Dietetics"
Freud "Repression"
Galen "The Affections and Errors of the Soul"
Galen "The Best Constitution," etc.
Hansen "The Medical Writers' Woman"
Laqueur *Making Sex*, ch. 2
Lloyd "Secularization and Sacralization"
Padel *In and Out of the Mind*, ch.2
Sophocles *Ajax*
Soranus *Gynecology*, Book I
Thucydides 1.20-22, 2.34-55, 3.69-85

Web Resources

Ancient Medicine/Medicina Antiqua: <http://www.ea.pvt.k12.pa.us/medant/>
Asclepius (Ancient Medicine): <http://www.indiana.edu/~ancmed/intro.HTM>
Diotima (Women in Antiquity): <http://www.stoa.org/dio-bin/diobib?gynecology>
Perseus (Web-resources for Greece and Rome): <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/>
AntiquaMedicina: <http://www.hsc.virginia.edu/hs-library/historical/antiqua/anthome.html>

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct is a violation of the code of Student Conduct and will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. The University defines academic misconduct as any activity which tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution, or subvert the educational process. Some examples are plagiarism, cheating on examinations, and violation of course rules as contained in the course syllabus. See <http://www.osu.edu/offices/oaa/procedures/index.htm>.

Disability Accommodation

Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss his or her specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at (614) 292-3307, or visit 150 Pomerene Hall, to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Week 1 Introduction

- M. Mar. 29 Introduction
W. Mar. 31 medicine and society
reading: Sontag *AIDS and Its Metaphors*

Week 2 The Theory and Practice of Ancient Medicine

- M. April 5 The Hippocratic theory of medicine
reading: Hippocrates *Oath, Canon, Tradition in Medicine, Science of Medicine*
W. April 7 The Hippocratic practice of medicine
reading: Hippocrates *Epidemics*, Book 1 & 3

Week 3 Medicine, Religion, Science

- M. April 12 medicine and religion: guest lecture by Prof. Sarah Iles Johnston
no reading
W. April 14 medicine and science
reading: *Lloyd "Secularization and Sacralization"
Hippocrates *On the Sacred Disease*

Week 4 Good Health

- M. April 19 Regimens of health
reading: *Foucault "Dietetics"; *Galen "The Best Constitution, etc."
W. April 21 Healthy mind, healthy body
reading: *Galen "The Affections and Errors of the Soul"

Week 5 Race and Medicine

- M. April 26 Medicine in black and white
film: "The Deadly Deception"
first paper due
W. April 28 Greek and barbarian
reading: Hippocrates *Airs, Waters, Places*

Week 6 The Female Malady

- M. May 3 anatomy of a woman
reading: Fant & Lefkowitz #339, 343-46, 351-2, 358, 362, 362a
<http://www.stoa.org/diotima/anthology/wlgr/wlgr-medicine.shtml>
*Laqueur *Making Sex*, ch. 2
W. May 5 gynecology
reading: *Soranus *Gynecology*, Book I

Week 7 Sex Ed.

M. May 10 the problem with virginity

reading: *Hansen "The Medical Writers' Woman"

Fant & Lefkowitz #349 (= Hippocrates *On Virgins*)

<http://www.stoa.org/diotima/anthology/wlgr/wlgr->

medicine.shtml

W. May 12 sex and reproduction

reading: Hippocrates *The Seed and The Nature of the Child*

Week 8 Plague: a Tale of Two Cities

M. May 17 a modern plague/the plague of modernity

film: "28 Days Later"

second paper due

W. May 19 Athens' plague: moral breakdown

reading: *Thucydides 1.20-22, 2.34-55, 3.69-85

Week 9 Madness and Civilization

M. May 24 mind and madness

reading: *Padel *In and Out of the Mind*, ch.2; Freud "Repression"

W. May 26 a tragic case

reading: *Sophocles *Ajax*

Week 10 Wrap-up

M. May 31 Memorial Day: no class

W. June 2 conclusions: diagnosis and prognosis?