



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

HISTORY OF MEDICINE - 87670

Last update 24-09-2015

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: hist.phil.socio. of sciences

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Hagar Kahana-Smilansky

Coordinator Email: Hagar.KS@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday, 15.30

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Hagar Kahana-Smilansky

Course/Module description:

Introductory course in social-cultural history of medicine, with turning points in the history of science. The timespan covered is from Hippocrates to the modern concept of medicine (ca. 1900). It is divided into four subjects, each representing a specific period.

Course/Module aims:

Critical reading of medical and scientific history; assessing conventional myths; studying social changes in the context of medical developments.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Analyze a historical event in its cultural setting; assess the reliability of historical information; identify relevant past events to present social aspects of medicine in order to evaluate the latter.

Attendance requirements(%):
80

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures with PowerPoint slide shows
assignments

Course/Module Content:

A: Rational Medicine in Greece:

1. Hippocrates, "the Oath". Greek culture of disputes: biological and medical debates; systematic anatomy.
2. Empirical anatomy in Alexandria 300-260 B.C.E. and the great discoveries. Why did it stop?
3. Galen (2nd century C.E.), the disciple of the Alexandrians; animal vivisection and applying its results to humans. Galen's theory of mental function, based on brain anatomy.

B: Public Medicine in the Middle Ages:

4. Transmission of knowledge from Greece to Islam: medical and scientific translations; continuity of material culture from antiquity.

5. *Hospitals in the Islamic empire versus European “hospitals”; the debate among historians about the invention of hospitals. Crusaders medicine.*

6. *The 12th century: medical education, regulation and control in the Islamic empire and Europe; examination and licensing in each culture.*

C: New Anatomy in the Age of Experiments

7. *Medieval 'Sacred Anatomy'; animal dissection in Salerno and Europe; public performance in anatomy theatres (15th-17th centuries).*

8. *Blood: the discovery of the minor blood circulation (1270) and general circulation (1628): what happened between them? Empiricism, and transfusions; ‘The royal society’ and scientific societies in Europe.*

9. *The microscope and discovering bacteria – what did it change?*

D: Models of Contagion

10. *Models of contagion from the Middle Ages to the 19th century: Leprosy, The Plague, Syphilis.*

11. *The small-pox vaccination from the Far East to the West.*

12. *Two myths of 19th century hospital hygiene: Ignaz Semmelwise in the Vienna hospital; Florence Nightingale in the Crimea war.*

13. *The 19th century controversy on the origin of contagious disease: socio-economic or micro-organismic? Robert Koch, Louis Pasteur, demonstrating the “germ-theory.”*

Required Reading:

1. *Hippocrates: Biography and "The Hippocratic Oath."*

2. *H. von Staden, “The Discovery of the Body: Human Dissection and its Cultural Context in Ancient Greece, Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine 65 (1992): 223-241.*

3. *Z.Amar and E.Lev, Medicine and Physicians in Jerusalem, 2000, pp. 22-61.*

4. *The Book of the Islamic Market Inspector: Nihayat al-rutba fi talab al-hisba by `Abd al-Rahman b. Nasr al-Shayzari, ed. and trans. R.P. Buckley, Oxford University Press, University of Manchester, 1999, chapter 37.*

5. *Allen Shotwell, “Living Animals and Dead Humans,”*
<https://performinghumanity.wordpress.com/tag/vivisection>

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6. Katharine Park, "The Criminal and Saintly Body: Autopsy and Dissection in Renaissance Italy," *Renaissance Quarterly* 47 (1994): 1-33.
 7. Source: "Baldasar Heseler: Andreas Vesalius' First Public Anatomy at Bologna, 1540: An Eyewitness Report," in David Rothman et al., *Medicine and Western Civilization*, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1995, pp. 64-71
 8. Website: The new anatomy; Andreas Vesalius: *De humani corporis fabrica* (Truth and Myth).
 9. Philip Learoyd, "A Short History of Blood Transfusion," National Blood Service, UK.
 10. Sources: Black Death
 11. Monica Green, (ed.), *The Medieval Globe 1: Pandemic Disease in the Medieval World: Rethinking the Black Death*, 2014, "Editor's Introduction."
 12. Stefan Riedel, "Edward Jenner and the history of smallpox and vaccination," *Proceedings of Baylor University Medical Center*, 2005 January; 18(1): 21-25.
 13. Biography of Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 80 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 20 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:

Final exam is a home exam.

Alternative: submit three assignments
- 80%