



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *HISTORY OF MEDICINE - 87670*

*Last update 26-08-2016*

*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](mailto:Hagar.KS@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday, 15.30*

*Teaching Staff:*

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Dr. Hagar Kahana-Smilansky

Course/Module description:

Introductory course in social-cultural history of medicine, with turning points in the history of science; covers the time from Hippocrates up to the modern concept of medicine (ca. 1900). Divided into four subjects, each representing a historical period.

Course/Module aims:

Critical reading of medical and scientific history; re-evaluating 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, analyze and evaluate the relevance of past social events to the present day scene of medicine.

Attendance requirements(%):  
80

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

Course/Module Content:

A: Rational Medicine in Greece:

1. Hippocrates, "the Oath". Greek culture of debate: biological and medical controversies; 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.), disciple of the Alexandrians; animal vivisection and applying 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.

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5. *Hospitals in the Islamic empire versus European “hospitals”; 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 Anatomy Theaters (15th-17th centuries).*

8. *Blood: the discovery of the minor blood circulation (1270) and general circulation (1628): connected?? Empiricism and transfusion; ‘The royal society’ and scientific societies in Europe.*

9. *The microscope; discovering bacteria – what has changed?*

*D: Models of Contagion*

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

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

12. *Two myths of 19th century hospital hygiene: Ignaz Semmelwise in Vienna; 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. *P.Pormann and E. Savage-Smith, Medieval Islamic Medicine, Washington DC: Georgetown University Press, 2007, chapter 3: “Physicians and Society.”*

5. *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.*

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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%