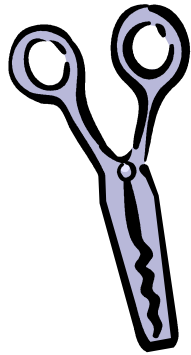


SNIP



TUCK:
A HISTORY OF SURGERY

A FRESHMAN SEMINAR
HSOC-042
THURS 1:30-4:30PM
COHEN HALL 337

PROF. BETH LINKER
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OFFICE: 322 COHEN HALL
OFFICE HOURS: MON. 2-3:30PM

Course Description: Before the discovery of anesthesia in the nineteenth century, surgery was often a grizzly and horrific affair, inevitably involving extreme pain. Surgeons had a reputation as dirty, blood-thirsty “barbarians,” and patients rarely sought out their services. But all of this changed. Today surgery is one of the most prestigious medical specialties, and patients—especially those who long to look younger, thinner, and trimmer—voluntarily submit to multiple procedures. This course will investigate the cultural and scientific sources of these dramatic changes, with readings ranging from graphic descriptions of “bonesetting” and suturing in colonial America to contemporary accounts of childbirth and plastic surgery in antiseptic hospitals and clinics.

Course Objectives: The guiding theme of our course is surgery. We will be studying the history of various kinds surgeries, including amputations, mastectomies, organ transplantations, and enhancement (aka plastic) surgery. Another focus of this course will be the history of surgery in Philadelphia. Over the course of the semester, we will be visiting various landmarks located in the city.

Our disciplinary tool for coming to understand better the theme of surgery will be history. Historians seek to understand how and why change occurs over time within any given society and culture. Some guiding questions for this course include:

- How has the meaning and definition of surgery changed over time?
- How and why has the reputation of surgeons changed over time?
- How has the patient experience of surgery changed over time?
- How has the surgeon’s workplace changed over time?
- How has the dress of surgeons changed over time? Why has it changed?
- What has been the place of women and African-Americans in the history of U.S. surgery?

Other objectives in this class are pedagogically-driven and include:

- Become acquainted with the difference between primary and secondary source material
- Learn how to identify the argument(s) of any given text written by a historian
- Learn how to read actively and critically
- Improve speaking and discussion skills in a small seminar setting
- Gain a sense for how history is a form of interpretation

Course Assignments* and Grading:

Participation (25%): Since this is a seminar, participation is required. Participation will take many forms. Every class session will include discussion of the readings, so you need to be prepared, both by having done the reading and by coming up with questions or observations on which you would like to focus our discussions. Some class sessions will include in-class writing or group work. Occasionally, you will be responsible for an oral presentation in class, either individually or as part of a group.

Midterm Exam (15%): In-class exam. Format of exam: identification and essays, both long and short.

Thursday, October 22, regular class hours.

Short Essay and Presentation on a Medical Thesis (30%): Approx. 2,500 word essay that interprets a 19th century University of Pennsylvania Medical School thesis that addresses the practice of surgery.

Instructions and due date(s) to follow.

Final exam (30%). Format of exam: cumulative, identification and essays, both long and short. **Monday, December 14th, noon-2:00PM. Location to be announced.**

Academic integrity policy: Using the ideas, data, or language of another without specific and proper acknowledgement constitutes plagiarism. If you are at all unsure about the appropriate form of

acknowledgement in a particular situation, it is your responsibility, as stated in Penn's Code of Academic Integrity, to consult with me to clarify any ambiguities. Plagiarism in any assignment will result in a failing grade for that assignment, and may result in further disciplinary action, which may include receiving a failing grade for the course. The full text of the University's Code of Academic Integrity is available online at <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/osl/acadint.html>.

Expectations: Laptops and all other electronic devices are NOT permitted in class. I have posted many readings on Canvas. You should get in the habit of PRINTING these readings and bringing them to class for discussion, as we will be referencing assigned passages during our discussion. Another option would be to take *extensive* notes on the readings and bring those to class. You will not be permitted to use your laptops (ipads, etc.) during class to access readings for the week. Exceptions will be made for students with disabilities. Please speak to the instructor, and supply the necessary paperwork from SDS.

Course Materials:

The following books* and course materials are **required**:

1. Atul Gawande, *Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science* (Picador, 2002).
2. Elizabeth Haiken, *Venus Envy: A History of Cosmetic Surgery* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997).
3. Barron Lerner, *The Breast Cancer Wars: Fear, Hope, and the Pursuit of a Cure in Twentieth-Century America* (Oxford, 2001).
4. Coursepack readings posted on Canvas: <https://courseweb.library.upenn.edu/>

*Books can be found at Penn Book Center, 130 S. 34th Street, 215-222-7600. All required books owned by the Penn library will be on reserve at Rosengarten Reserve Service in Van Pelt Library. If you choose to buy one or more books, please consider supporting the vital service that independent bookstores provide by buying them at the Penn Book Center.

Readings and Assignment Schedule:

Th Aug 27 Introduction

Th Sept 3 A Lesson in Historical Interpretation: Is Dr. J. Marion Sims a Hero or a Villain? (Week 1)

- Barron Lerner, "Scholars Argue Over Legacy of Surgeon" *The New York Times*, Oct 28, 2003, p. F7
- J. Marion Sims, "Operation for Vesico-Vaginal Fistula" in *Surgery in America*, ed. A. Scott Earle (Preager, 1983): 212-227.
- Diana E. Axelsen, "Women as Victims of Medical Experimentation: J. Marion Sims's Surgery on Slave Women, 1845-1850," *Sage 2* (Fall 1985): 10-12.
- LL Wall, "The Medical Ethics of Dr. J. Marion Sims: a Fresh Look at the Historical Record," *Journal of Medical Ethics*, August 2006, pp. 346-350.

Th Sept 10 Early Republic Surgeons and Midwives (Week 2)

- Whitfield J. Bell, Jr., "Medicine in Boston and Philadelphia: Comparisons and Contrasts, 1750-1820," in *Medicine in Colonial Massachusetts, 1620-1820* (Boston, 1980): 159-183.
- William G. Wigglesworth, "Surgery in Massachusetts," in *Medicine in Colonial Massachusetts, 1620-1820* (Boston, 1980): 215-226.
- Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, "Martha Moore Ballard and the Medical Challenge to Midwifery," *Maine in the Early Republic: From Revolution to Statehood*, ed. Charles E. Clark, et. al. (London, 1988): 165-183.

- Robert Aronowitz, “Cancer in the Breast, 1813,” in *Unnatural History: Breast Cancer and American Society* (Cambridge University Press, 2007): 21-50.

*At 3:00pm, we will walk over to the Penn Museum as a group to view a collection of interest. Class will be dismissed from the Penn Museum.

Th Sept 17 A Surgeon’s Workshop: Surgery and Place (Week 3)*

- Ephraim McDowell, “Extirpation of Disease Ovaria,” in *Surgery in America*, ed. A. Scott Earle (Preager, 1983): 93-97.
- Christoph Mörgeli, “Bedchamber, Cutting Room and Operating Theatre,” in *The Surgeon’s Stage: A History of the Operating Room* (Roche, 1999): 159-183.
- Martin S. Pernick, *A Calculus of Suffering: Pain, Professionalization, and Anesthesia in Nineteenth-Century America* (Columbia University Press, 1985): Chapters 1 & 3.

*Introduction to Penn Research Tools, Nick Okrent, Van Pelt Library, Room 223, 3-4:20. We will walk over to Van Pelt together. Class will be dismissed from there.

Th Sept 24 The Uses and Abuses of Anesthesia (Week 4)*

- Martin S. Pernick, *A Calculus of Suffering: Pain, Professionalization, and Anesthesia in Nineteenth-Century America* (Columbia University Press, 1985): Chapters 4, 7, and 9.

*Meeting with John Pollack, Rare Books, Van Pelt Library, Lea Library, 1:30-2:30. MEET at VAN PELT library lobby, just past security.

Th Oct 1 DAY TRIP: Pennsylvania Hospital, amphitheatre and surgical casebooks (Week 5)

- Charles E. Rosenberg, “And Heal the Sick: The Hospital and the Patient in the 19th Century America,” *Journal of Social History*, Summer 1977, pp. 428-447.

Th Oct 8 NO Class: Fall Break (Week 6)

Th Oct 15 Making a Clean Cut: Antisepsis and Asepsis (Week 7)

- Christoph Mörgeli, “Antisepsis” and “Asepsis,” in *The Surgeon’s Stage: A History of the Operating Room* (Roche, 1999): 203-232.
- Thomas P. Gariepy, “The Introduction and Acceptance of Listerian Antisepsis in the United States,” *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* (1994), pp. 167-2006.
- Elaine Larson, “Innovation in Health Care: Antisepsis as a Case Study,” *American Journal of Public Health* (January 1999), pp. 92-99.
- Thomas Schlich, “Negotiating Technologies in Surgery: the Controversy about Surgical Gloves in 1890s,” *Bulletin for the History of Medicine* 87 (2013) pp.170-97.

Th Oct 22 DAY TRIP: Philadelphia Museum of Arts to view “The Gross Clinic” (Week 8)

- Gert H. Brieger, “A Portrait of Surgery: Surgery in America 1875-1889,” *Surgical Clinics of North America* (December 1987), pp. 1181-1215.

* Kathy Foster, The Robert L. McNeil, Jr., Senior Curator of American Art, and Director, Center for American Art, PMA, 215-684-7521, kfoster@philamuseum.org.

Th Oct 29 Midterm Examination (Week 9)

Th Nov 5 The Surgeon as Hero (Week 10)

- W.W. Keen, "Recent Progress in Surgery," *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, October, 1889, pp. 703-713.
- Judith Walzer Leavitt, "Birthing and Anesthesia: The Debate over Twilight Sleep," *Signs* (Autumn 1980), pp. 147-164.
- Sally Wilde, "Truth, Trust, and Confidence in Surgery, 1890–1910: Patient Autonomy, Communication, and Consent" *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 83.2 (2009): 302-330.
- Barron H. Lerner, *The Breast Cancer Wars*, chapters 1 & 2.

Th Nov 12 Fighting with a Scalpel: Surgery and War (Week 11)

- Lerner, *The Breast Cancer Wars*, chapter 3.
- Elizabeth Haiken, *Venus Envy*, pp. 1-55.

Th Nov 19 "Real Men" Get Face Lifts (Week 12) Instructor: Tabea Cornel

- Lerner, chapters 4 & 5.
- Haiken, chapters 3 & 4.
- Atul Gawande, *Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science* (Picador, 2002): "Introduction," "Education of a Knife," "When Doctors Make Mistakes,"

Tue Nov 24 Beauty and the Breast (Week 13)

- Lerner, chapters 6 & 7.
- Haiken, chapter 6.
- Gawande, "Final Cut," and "Whose Body is It, Anyway?"

Th Dec 3 A "Macho" Field?: Surgery Today (Week 14)

- Debra A. Gargiulo, "Women in Surgery: Do we Really Understand the Deterrents?" *Archives of Surgery* (April 2006), pp. 405-408.
- Jo Buyske, "Women in Surgery: The Same, Yet Different," *Archives of Surgery* (March 2005), pp. 241-244.
- Atul Gawande, TBA

Final Examination: Monday, December 14th, noon-2pm

