Welcome to the Graduate Section of *History of Medicine, Antiquity to the Scientific Revolution*. We will meet on Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00 PM in the Seminar Room, Welch 303, East Baltimore Campus. We will review the social, intellectual and cultural history of Western medicine from ancient times to the seventeenth century, addressing, in particular, the following issues:

a) The social definition of the physician’s role. We will examine the tension between the medical marketplace, populated by a variety of competing healers, and the medical licensing system, as it was gradually introduced in the late Middle Ages. We will consider the varying criteria of inclusion and exclusion from medical practice (such as, most importantly, gender). We will also look at significant changes in the relationship between healers and patients, as regulated by social custom and by the law.

b) Cultural perceptions of the body and definitions of health and illness, in their relationship to preferred forms of treatment.

c) The epistemology of medicine. We will examine the interplay of theoretical models with the practices of observation and recording of data. We will focus especially on the intellectual exchange between medicine and other disciplines, such as natural philosophy and natural history.

d) The varying relationship between medicine and religious belief.

The course is organized as a seminar. In each session we will discuss the historiography on a specific issue, and, in most cases, we will also analyze a relevant source (or sources). You will actively participate in the discussion of both historiography and sources. For each session I have marked with an asterisk the readings that are primary and MUST be read; the items with no asterisk are worth consulting and using as material for the essays you’ll be writing. I do not provide a bibliography on each week’s topic, but I’ll be happy to do so if you would like to further pursue some issues according to your individual interests.

Assessment will be based on class participation, on your written work, which will consist of two essays, the first (7 to 8 pages) due on **OCTOBER 8** and the second (8 to 10 pages) due on **NOVEMBER 12**, and a final exam, in common with the Methods class.

**Instructor:** Prof. Gianna Pomata  
**Email:** gpomata1@jhmi.edu  
**Phone:** 410-955-3037  
**Secretary:** Ms. Coraleeze Thompson: 410-955-3178  
**Office Hours:** Monday, 11-12, 3505 N. Charles, Room 111 and by appointment.

**Texts:**  
We will read large parts (but not all) of the following books:
Readings for the course are on reserve at the Institute of the History of Medicine and in “Electronic Reserves” on the Welch Medical Library website (under course number) or are available on the WWW. URL’s are given for articles and books that you can reach directly on the WWW; others available only through JHU subscription websites (usually through the library catalogue) are indicated by “JHU online.”


Reading:

September 17: Ancient Greek Medicine.
Medicine, religion and philosophy in the Greek world. The Corpus Hippocraticum. The medical sects: Empiricists and Rationalists. Aristotelian biology.

Readings:
* Kuriyama, “Wind and Self”, in The Expressiveness of the Body, ch. 6, pp. 233-70. (e-text at JHU online NetLibrary)

Sources:

September 24: Hellenistic and Roman Medicine.

Readings:
* Vivian Nutton, Ancient Medicine, chs. 9-17, pp. 128-271.

Sources:
* Celsus, De medicina, proemium, vol. 1, Loeb Library, pp. 3-35.
Galen, “The Best Doctor is also a Philosopher”, in Galen, Selected Works, tr. P.N. Singer, Oxford Up, 1997, pp. 30-34.

October 1: Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages.
Christianity and medicine. The transmission of the ancient texts.

Readings:
* Vivian Nutton, “Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages”, in The Western Medical Tradition, pp. 71-87; “Salerno and the impact of translation”, pp. 139-146.
* Nancy Siraisi, Medieval and Early Renaissance Medicine: ch. 1, pp. 1-16.
October 8: Arab-Islamic Medicine.
The assimilation of Greek humoral medicine. Avicenna’s medical system and its lasting influence in the West.

Readings:
* Cristina Álvarez Millán, “Graeco-Roman Case Histories and Their Influence on Medieval Islamic Clinical Accounts, in Social History of Medicine, 12, 1, 1999, pp. 19-43. JHU Online: <http://shm.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/12/1/19>

Source:
* Max Meyerhof, “Thirty-three clinical observations by Rhazes (circa 900 AD)”, in Isis, 23, 2, 1935, pp. 321-72. JHU Online: JSTOR.

FIRST PAPER DUE, October 8: Write a short essay (max. 10 pp.) on one of the following topics:
a) Compare the case histories in the excerpts from the Hippocratic Epidemics, Galen’s On Prognosis, and Rhazes.
b) Compare the Hippocratic and Aristotelian approaches to natural knowledge, based on the excerpts from Epidemics, Airs, Waters, Places and Generation of Animals.
In writing the paper you should supplement your own analysis of the source with insights from the relevant course readings.

October 15: Medieval Medicine I.

Readings:
* Vivian Nutton, “Medicine in Medieval Western Europe”, 1000-1500”, in The Western Medical Tradition, pp. 139-153.

**Source:**

**October 22: Medieval Medicine II.**
Communities of knowledge: monastic to scholastic. Medicine as an academic discipline. Scholastic medical genres. Medicine, alchemy and theology.

**Readings:**

**Source:**

**October 29: The Medical Renaissance.**
Medical humanism and the new forms of medical writing. The renaissance of anatomy. Anatomical illustrations.

**Readings:**
* Andrew Wear, “Medicine in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1700” in *The Western Medical Tradition*, pp. 250-280; 298-310.


November 5: The Early Modern Medical Profession.
Medical Colleges and professionalization. The effort to control irregular practice. Physicians, apothecaries and barber-surgeons: cooperation and rivalry.

Readings:


Source:

November 12: Challenges to the Medical Orthodoxy.
Paracelsianism and chemical medicine. Neo-Hippocratism and the decline of Galenism.

Readings:
* Andrew Wear, “Medicine in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1700” in The Western Medical Tradition, pp. 310-325.

Andrew Wear, *Knowledge and Practice in English Medicine, 1550-1680*, chs. 8 and 9, pp. 353-433.


**Source:**


**SECOND PAPER DUE, November 12:**

Write a short essay (max. 10 pp.) on one of the following topics, using the relevant readings from the course syllabus (plus, if you want, additional bibliography of your own finding):

a) Early modern medical authorities and the effort to control irregular practice: compare the English and the Italian cases, as exemplified by the London and the Bologna Medical Colleges.

b) Medicine and religion: friends or foes? Review the issue from late Antiquity to the late Middle Ages.

c) Compare and contrast the views of the female body from the Hippocratic Corpus to Renaissance anatomy, including the Trotula source.

**November 19: Breakthrough in Anatomy: the Age of Discovery.**

Post-Vesalian anatomy. The discovery of the circulation of the blood and other novelties of seventeenth century anatomical research.

**Readings:**


Source:
* William Harvey, *On the Motion of the Heart and Blood in Animals*: Letter to the King and Dedication, Prefatory Remarks, chapters 1-5, text on line at Internet Modern History Sourcebook: http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1628harvey-blood.html

November 26: **Medicine and the Scientific Revolution.**
Mechanical medicine and natural philosophy. Natural history and materia medica. The debate on the “uncertainty of medicine”.

Readings:

Source:
* Leonardo di Capua, *The Uncertainty of the Art of Physick, Together with an Account of the Innumerable Abuses practised by the Professors of the Art*, tr. John Lancaster, London, 1684, excerpts to be indicated in class. (Online through JHU online - EEBO)

December 3: **The Early Modern Medical Community.**
The Medical Republic of Letters: networks of communication. The learned academies and the origins of medical journals. Western medicine and the European expansion: the encounter with other medical traditions.

Readings:

Sources:

* The Erlangen Trew Letter Collection online database.