Welcome to the History of Medicine, Antiquity to the Scientific Revolution. We will be meeting Monday-Wednesday-Friday 10-10:50 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays will be lectures; on Fridays, you will meet with your section leaders for discussion of readings and assignments.

We will review the long-term development of Western medicine in the pre-modern period, including its contact and exchange with other medical cultures. We will examine the social and intellectual contexts of medical personnel, institutions, practices and ideas, addressing in particular these issues:

- a) Notions of body, health and illness in a comparative and cross-cultural perspective.
- b) 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 starting in the European Middle Ages. We will review the varying criteria of inclusion and exclusion from medical practice (such as gender, class and education). We will also look at important changes in the relationship between healers and patients, as regulated by social custom and by the law.
- c) Medicine as a system of knowledge. We will examine the interplay of theoretical models with the practices of observation and recording of data. We will also consider the intellectual exchange between medicine and other disciplines, such as natural philosophy and natural history.
- d) The varying relationship between medicine and religious belief.

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Requirements and grading

The course is organized into two lectures and one discussion section per week. Doing well in this course requires regularly attending lectures, participating in discussions and keeping up with the readings. For each week, readings are listed that will help you understand the lectures and will form the basis of the Friday discussion. It is strongly recommended that you start the readings for each week well in advance, in order to be ready for the discussion section. More in general, it is strongly recommended that you take notes of both lectures and readings. Note-taking will greatly facilitate your active participation in class discussion and in exam preparation.

Your grade will be based on the following: participation in discussion section (20%); written assignments (30%); mid-term exam (20%); final exam (30%).

Academic Ethics

Doing history is a social process. We rely upon other scholars for finding sources, translating them, and offering us fresh interpretations based upon them. Therefore it is very important to credit others for such work, usually by means of footnotes or other forms of citation. Please see the helpful guide to citation practices on the library’s research help website: [http://library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/](http://library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/). If you have any questions, please raise them with your instructor or TA. It is also important to listen respectfully to the views of others; history is a conversation, and everyone is entitled to their own point of view, provided they can offer evidence for it. When you disagree with another student’s interpretation, say so courteously and explain why you see it differently.

The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, re-use of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. Report any violations you witness to the instructor. You may consult the associate dean of student affairs and/or the chairman of the Ethics Board beforehand. For more information, you may refer to the guide on “Academic Ethics for Undergraduates” and the Ethics Board Web site at [http://www.jhu.edu/design/oliver/academic_manual/ethics.html](http://www.jhu.edu/design/oliver/academic_manual/ethics.html)

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

You will write two short papers analyzing primary sources.

1) First paper, due October 9:
In a short text (4-6 pages) compare the case histories in the excerpts from the Hippocratic *Epidemics* and from al-Rhazi’s (=Rhazes’s) casebook (see readings for September 11 and October 2). Guidelines for the writing of the paper will be distributed in class.

2) **Second paper, due November 22:**

In a short text (4-6 pages) compare the vision of the role of the physician as expressed in Vesalius’ Preface to *The Fabric of the Human Body* and in Paracelsus’ *Seven Defensiones* (see readings for October 23 and November 6). Guidelines for the writing of the paper will be distributed in class.

**Text** (available new or used from online retailers):


All other readings for the course are on reserve at the Eisenhower Library and on the library website. Look for “reserve readings” under the course number or the instructor’s name: [http://www.library.jhu.edu/](http://www.library.jhu.edu/) Look for “electronic reserves” in the middle column under “Tools and Tips”. You’ll be asked to login with your JHED ID.

The Blackboard website has the syllabus, guidelines for the written assignments, and a link to the reserve readings, plus other material for the course. To access the website, go to: [http://blackboard.jhu.edu](http://blackboard.jhu.edu). Log in using your JHED ID and select the course. If you are not yet registered for the course, or you do not yet have a JHED ID, you can log in as a guest. Use test_140.105 as your login and student as your password.

**WEEK ONE: August 31-September 4**

August 31: Lecture 1. The history of medicine across cultures: an introduction.

September 2: Lecture 2. Comparative histories of medicine: ancient Greek and Chinese views of the body.

September 4: Discussion.

**Reading:**


**WEEK TWO: September 7-10. Hippocratic medicine.**

September 7: Labor Day. Classes suspended.
September 11: Discussion.

**Readings:**

Vivian Nutton, “Medicine in the Greek World”, in The Western Medical Tradition, pp. 11-38.


**WEEK THREE: September 14-18. Medicine in late Antiquity.**

September 14: Lecture 4. Healers and patients in ancient Mediterranean cultures.
September 16: Lecture 5. Hellenistic medicine and Alexandrian anatomy.
September 18: Discussion.

**Reading:**


**WEEK FOUR: September 21-25. Ancient medicine from Paganism to Christianity.**

September 23: Lecture 7. Christianity and medicine.
September 25: Discussion.
Readings:

Vivian Nutton, “Roman medicine, 250 BC to AD 200” in The Western Medical Tradition, pp. 39-70.

Source:


WEEK FIVE: September 28-October 2. Arab-Islamic medicine.

September 28: Lecture 8. Transmission, translation and reinterpretation of the ancient texts.


October 2. Discussion.

Readings:


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October 5: Lecture 10. Avicenna’s medical synthesis.

October 7: Lecture 11. Hospitals, universities and the emergence of medical licensing.

October 9: Discussion.

Readings:

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


First written assignment due on October 9:
In a short text (4-6 pages) compare the case histories in the excerpts from the Hippocratic Epidemics and from al-Rhazi’s (=Rhazes’s) casebook (see readings for September 11 and October 2). Guidelines for the writing of the paper will be distributed in class.

October 14: MIDTERM EXAM.
October 16. Fall Break: classes suspended

Reading:
Nancy Siraisi, Medieval and Early Renaissance Medicine, ch. 2, “Practitioners and Conditions of practice”, pp. 17-47.

WEEK EIGHT: October 19-23. The Medical Renaissance.
October 23: Discussion.

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


October 26: Lecture 15. Medical Colleges, professionalization, and the medical marketplace.
October 30: Discussion.

Readings:


WEEK TEN: November 2-6: Challenges to the medical orthodoxy.

November 2: Lecture 17. Paracelsianism and “chymical” medicine.


November 6: Discussion.

Readings:

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


WEEK ELEVEN: November 9-13: Breakthrough in Anatomy: the Age of Discovery.


November 13: Discussion.

Reading:


November 16: Lecture 21. Mechanical medicine and natural philosophy.


November 20: Discussion.
Reading:


**Second written assignment due on November 20:**

In a short text (4-6 pages) compare the vision of the role of the physician as expressed in Vesalius’ Preface to *The Fabric of the Human Body* and in Paracelsus’ *Seven Defensiones* (see readings for October 23 and November 6). Guidelines for the writing of the paper will be distributed in class.

**NOVEMBER 23-29: Thanksgiving holiday**

**WEEK THIRTEEN: November 30-December 4. Medicine in the first global age: comparative and connected histories.**

November 30: Lecture 23. Western medicine and the European expansion: the encounter with other medical traditions.


December 4: Discussion.

**Readings:**
