HH2023: Reading in the History of Health and Medicine (SEM2, 2017-2018)

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Office Hours: Thursday 10:30 am-12:30 pm
Seminar Time: Tuesday 15:30-18:30 / Seminar Venue: HSS-TR+1

Course Description: This course aims at offering you an opportunity to investigate primary sources in Western medical history. Historians stress the significance of skill of reading and analyzing primary sources, as it is the key asset in their profession. In the history of health and medicine, this is especially important, as medical knowledge in the past is strikingly different from that of today. How can we make sense of this difference in historical contexts? You will learn how to approach primary sources, which must be read more analytically within their own contexts. This reading will deepen your understanding of cultural and political dimensions of health and illness in their multiple manifestations.

Evaluation:

1) Midterm Skit Scenario: (30%, due by 9 March)
2) Final Research Paper: (35%, due by 27 April)
3) Pre-Seminar Questions: (15%)
4) Discussion Reports: (15%)
5) Attendance and Participation: (5%)

Course Schedule:

1. (16 January ) Introduction
2. (23 January) Health, Disease, and Healers in ancient Greece and Rome

3. (30 January) Medieval Practitioners and the Legacy of the Past
   Elmer and Peter Grell, *Health, Disease, and Society in Europe 1500-1800*, pp. 5-12.

4. (6 February) Medical Renaissance and Scientific Revolution

5. (13 February) Clinical Medicine in the Early Nineteenth Century

6. (20 February) Hopes and Hypes of Germ Theories of Disease
   Brunton, *Health, Disease and Society in Europe*, pp. 32-38.

7. (27 February) Scientific Medicine
   Bynum, “Rise of Science in Medicine,” pp. 111-123.

8. (13 March) Women in Medicine

9. (Make-up class) The Brave New Vision of Eugenics
Brunton, Health, Disease and Society in Europe, pp. 204-213, 224-228.

10. (27 March) Reforming Medical Education, Reconstructing the Profession

11. (3 April) Public Health and Biomedicine in the Twentieth Century

12. (10 April) Use and Abuse of Human Subjects
Warner and Tighe, Major Problems in the History of American Medicine, pp. 390-393, 403-408, 416-422.

13. (17 April) Tissue Culture, Failure, and the Rise of New Biomedicine
**If you still have time, please read Park’s and Jordan/Lynch’s papers in the optional reading list.

Assignments:

Midterm Skit Scenario (30%, due by 9 March)
You will write a short skit scenario based on your reading of primary sources listed in the syllabus. You must reconstruct a hypothetical conversation between two or more historical figures. An ideal form is a
Discussion Reports

At the end of the class. This report reflects the outcome of the class members’ conversation about the discussion question assigned to them. The professor’s evaluation of each student’s activity and attendance is monitored in every seminar and will be included in the general distribution of students’ marks in the entire class. But late submission can be excused according to the professor’s understanding of the student’s circumstances.

Final Research Paper (35%, due by 27 April)

You will write your final research paper on a topic in medical history. You have to use primary sources in the syllabus, along with some in the optional reading list. Your essay must show your original historical analysis and interpretation of one or more primary sources that you choose. It must be uploaded into the course portal within i-NTULearn in the format of an MS Word file rather than PDF. The recommended word number is 2,000.

Pre-Seminar Questions (15%)

After finishing the required readings for each week, every student must submit a question for discussion during the seminar. The question is to be uploaded in the course portal in i-NTULearn before each Tuesday evening. These questions will be graded according to their relevance, novelty, and ingenuity.

Discussion Reports (15%)

After the seminar, each group—which students can create by themselves but cannot be changed after the add/drop period—should submit a short report of discussion to the course portal of i-NTULearn after the end of the class. This report reflects the outcome of the class members’ conversation about the discussion question assigned to them. The professor’s evaluation will be added as a comment, about which students can ask further questions. In each report, there must be a list of participating members.

Attendance and Participation (5%)

Each student’s activity and attendance is monitored in every seminar and will be used in the final evaluation. Please try to attend every class and be sure to be proactive during the discussion.

Late Submission:

There will be a penalty to a paper submitted after the deadline. The extent of penalty will be decided depending on the general distribution of students’ marks in the entire class. But late submission can be excused according to the professor’s understanding of the student’s circumstances.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a serious academic misconduct and may endanger a student’s career in a highly severe way. It is done intentionally or unintentionally by using another person’s ideas and writings without any proper citation and/or quotation marks. Paraphrasing is an act of rewriting other people’s ideas or arguments using your own words. While this is an acceptable practice in most cases, it can be an issue if you do not indicate that the ideas have come from another person’s work. If you are not sure about how you should do regarding these issues, please do cite the referred sources in footnotes/endnotes and use the quotation marks around the terms you did not invent. Even if a student cited a source, direct quotation without
quotation marks may be a problem, too. If any plagiarized sentence or paragraph is detected, the grade will be reduced to zero and the student’s name will be reported to the school.

Policy on Missing Classes:
In general, students are encouraged to attend all seminars. However, they may miss a few, if there is a good reason, such as illness, required university activity, or family emergency. In such cases, students can claim for the credit of class attendance, only if they submit a summary of the week’s readings along with the documentary evidence on the reasons of absence.

Optional Reading List:

Primary Sources:


Peter Elmer and Ole Peter Grell (eds.), *Health, Disease, and Society in Europe 1500-1800* (Manchester, Open University Press, 2004) [in NTU library].


Secondary Sources (Basic Textbooks):


Other Relevant Secondary Sources (Books):


**Other Relevant Secondary Sources (Journal Articles and Book Chapters, Uploaded in i-NTULearn):**


