

Georgia Institute of Technology
School of History, Technology, and Society
HTS 3087: History of Medicine

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Office hours:

Course Requirements

1. Participation in discussion (10%)
2. Research poster (35%)
3. Final (35%)
4. Reading quizzes (20%)

This is principally a lecture course, but some classes will be dedicated to discussion. In either case, attendance is a must. Reading quizzes (during the first class session in weeks 2-10) can only be made up in the case of an excused absence. You will be required to present your poster in class during week 14. Some of you may also elect to present at the undergraduate research poster session. We will talk more about this option in class. The research poster can incorporate class work but must also include additional research, of course. We will spend a couple of class sessions on the mechanics of doing a research poster. The last several weeks of the class are designed to give you research time.

Reading

At the bookstore:

Jacalyn Duffin, *History of Medicine*.
John Waller, *The Discovery of the Germ*.
Frank Snowden, *The Conquest of Malaria*.
Melvin Konner, *Becoming a Doctor*.
Howard Markel, *When Germs Travel*.
Elizabeth Watkins, *On The Pill*.

Any readings marked with asterisks are photocopies that will be made available to you on-line.

Weekly Schedule

- Week 1: Introduction: The History of Medicine as a Field
Jacalyn Duffin, *History of Medicine*, ch. 1
- Week 2: The Body
Duffin, chs. 2-3.
- Week 3: Germs
Duffin, chs. 4-8.
John Waller, *The Discovery of the Germ*.
- Week 4: Cholera, ch. 9
*Steven Johnson, *The Ghost Map*, chs. 1-2.
*Gary Wills, *Yellow Fever Black Goddess*, ch. 6
- Week 5: Influenza
Carol Byerly, *Fever of War*.

- Week 6: Malaria
Frank Snowden, *The Conquest of Malaria*.
- Week 7: Public Health in the United States
Howard Markel, *When Germs Travel*, chs. 1, 4, 5.
- Week 8: Technology and Medicine
Duffin, ch. 9.
Making a research poster part 1
- Week 9: Doctors and Surgery
Duffin, ch. 10, 13-14.
Melvin Konner, *Becoming A Doctor*, chs. preface, 1-4, 16.
- Week 10: Reproductive Health
Duffin, ch. 11.
Elizabeth Watkins, *On The Pill*.
- Week 11: Doing Research
Duffin, ch. 15.
Making a research poster part 2
- Week 12: Class review of poster drafts.
- Week 13: My Research on Yellow Fever
Film: *The Great Fever*.
- Week 14: Poster presentations.
- Week 15: Poster presentations and review for exam.

Other policies

No laptops, recording devices, or other electronics can be used in class except when presenting research.

Late assignments are not allowed.

Suggested Additional Reading:

General

W. F. Bynum, *Science and the Practice of Medicine in the 19th Century*.
Roy Porter, *The Greatest Benefit to Mankind*.
Jacalyn Duffin, *History of Medicine*.

Disease

Nancy Tomes, *The Gospel of Germs*.
Elizabeth Fenn, *Pox Americana*.
Christopher Wills, *Yellow Fever, Black Goddess*
John Pierce and Jim Writer, *Yellow Jack*.

Doctors

Wendy Moore, *The Knife Man*.
Paul Starr, *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*.

Public Health

Judith Leavitt, *Typhoid Mary*.

Howard Markel, *Quarantine!*

Women's Health

Andrea Tone, *Controlling Reproduction.*

Ann Dally, *Women under the Knife.*

Lara Marks, *Sexual Chemistry.*

Judith Leavitt, *Brought to Bed.*

Medicine and Politics

Marcos Cueto, *Cold War, Deadly Fevers.*

Nikolai Kremmentsov, *The Cure.*

Therapies

Fiametta Rocco, *The Miraculous Fever-Tree.*

Allan Brandt, *No Magic Bullet.*

Military Medicine

Vincent Cirillo, *Bullets and Bacilli.*

Medical Technology

Jacalyn Duffin, *To See with a Better Eye.*

Jack Pressman, *Last Resort.*

Colonial Medicine

Warwick Anderson, *Colonial Pathologies*