

## **HIST 494 C: Medicine, Race, and Power in the Colonial and Post-Colonial Worlds.**

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Office Hours: Mondays 2:30-4:30 or by appointment

### **Course Description:**

What can the study of the history of medicine tell us about the nature of rule and the politics of race in the colonial world? How did medical theories of disease and healing shape ideas about colonial environments, populations, bodies, and racial differences in the imaginations of colonizers? How did medicine and science function as tools of colonial domination and as part of broader “civilizing” projects, and what were the limits of such efforts at social control? Can the study of medical reforms and everyday life shed light on how colonial subjects conceptualized, challenged, and defined their own positions within the colonial social order? What are the legacies of colonial medical practices in post-colonial societies, and how does the study of medicine in colonized societies differ from studies of medicine in societies that were never colonized?

This intensive reading course engages the questions above and others by examining a growing body of literature by scholars who use medicine and disease as “lenses,” so to speak, to gain insight into the history of ideas about race and the changing nature of power in the colonial and post-colonial worlds. Beginning with a broad overview of shifting approaches to the study of disease in the British and North American historiographies of medicine, we will then examine several theoretical contributions to the study of the human body as a site upon which ideas about race, disease, social control, and medical and political authority are acted out. From there, we will read a wide range of historical monographs that vary not only in geographic and cultural focus, but also in terms of how they approach the history of medicine, colonialism, and post-colonialism. While all of our readings contribute to our understanding of the history of medicine, they engage questions of medical power and racialization through social history, cultural history, gender studies, labor history, and political economy. To conclude the course, we will read Paul Farmer’s *AIDS and Accusation* to gain a sense of how anthropologists have engaged similar questions about race, medicine, power, and inequalities in the contemporary world in which we live.

Since this is a senior seminar in historiography, students should expect to engage in extensive reading and writing this quarter. Weekly reading assignments often exceed 200 pages per week, and while I don’t expect students to have read every single word, I do expect them to come to class having completed much of the reading, having taken notes, and having thought extensively about what they read. Students intimidated by the workload should note that there is no additional reading to be completed beyond the assigned books and articles. Both papers for the course will be based on the works you have read in class.

### **Grade Breakdown for the Course:**

Participation in class discussions and presentation of readings	20%
Weekly response papers to readings and questions over email	20%
Short paper (book review) due week four (4 pages)	20%
Final paper (historiographical essay) (10-12 pages)	40%

We will discuss these requirements in class.

### **Required Texts:**

- Alchon, Suzanne Austin. *A Pest in the Land: New World Epidemics in a Global Perspective*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2003.
- Arnold, David. *Colonizing the Body: State Medicine and Epidemic Disease in Nineteenth-Century India*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993.
- Briggs, Laura. *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science, and US Imperialism in Puerto Rico*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002.
- Farmer, Paul. *AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992.
- Packard, Randall. *White Plague, Black Labor: Tuberculosis and the Political Economy of Health and Disease in South Africa*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989.
- Peard, Julyan. *Race, Place, and Medicine: The Idea of the Tropics in Nineteenth-Century Brazilian Medicine*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1999.
- Vaughan, Megan. *Curing Their Ills: Colonial Power and African Illness*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1991.

\*\*Additional course readings are available in electronic versions on E-reserves and on two of the library's journal databases, J-Stor and Project Muse. To access these databases direct your browser to <http://www.lib.washington.edu/types/ejournals/> and click on the appropriate links.

### **Weekly Topics and Reading Assignments**

\*\*Please note that all reading should be completed before coming to class.\*\*

**Week One:** Introduction to the Course.

**Week Two:** Disease and the History of Medicine.

- Charles Rosenberg, *Explaining Epidemics and Other Studies in the History of Medicine*, Chapters 15 (“Framing Disease: Illness, Society, and History”) and 12 (“Disease and Social Order in America”). Available on E-reserves for this course.
- Roy Porter, “The Patients’ View: Doing Medical History from Below.” *Theory and Society*, Vol. 14, No. 2, (March 1985), pp. 175-198. Available on J-Stor.

- Roy Porter, *Bodies Politic: Disease, Death and Doctors in Britain, 1650-1900*, Chapter 4 (“Imagining Disease”). Available on E-reserves for this course.

- Warwick Anderson, “The Trespass Speaks: White Masculinity and Colonial Breakdown.” *American Historical Review*, Vol. 102, No. 5, (Dec. 1997), pp. 1343-1370. Available on J-Stor.

**Week Three:** Bodies, Race, and Medical Power: Theories and Examples of Analysis.

- Paul Rabinow, *The Foucault Reader*, “Introduction.” Available on E-reserves for this course.

- Colin Jones and Roy Porter, *Reassessing Foucault: Power, Medicine, and the Body*, Chapter 1 (“Introduction”). Available on E-reserves for this course.

- Roy Porter, *Bodies Politic: Disease, Death and Doctors in Britain, 1650-1900*, Chapter 6 (“Profiles of Patients”). Available on E-reserves for this course.

- Alexandra Minna Stern, “Buildings, Boundaries, and Blood: Medicalization and Nation-Building on the US-Mexico Border, 1910-1930.” *Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol. 79, No. 1 (Feb. 1999), pp. 41-81.

- Dorothy Roberts, *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty*, Chapter 2 (“The Dark Side of Birth Control”). Available on E-reserves for this course.

- Warwick Anderson, “Excremental Colonialism: Public Health and the Poetics of Pollution.” *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 21, No. 3 (Spring 1995), pp. 640-669. Available on J-Stor.

**Week Four:** Colonialism and the Foucauldian Paradigm, I.

- Megan Vaughan, *Curing Their Ills: Colonial Power and African Illness*.

- Zine Magubane, “Simians, Savages, Skulls, and Sex: Science and Colonial Militarism in Nineteenth-Century South Africa.” In Donal Moore et al., eds. *Race, Nature, and the Politics of Difference*. Available on E-reserves for this course.

**Week Five:** Colonialism and the Foucauldian Paradigm, II.

- David Arnold, *Colonizing the Body: State Medicine and Epidemic Disease in Nineteenth Century India*.

**Week Six:** Gender, Race, and Colonial Power: Feminist Approaches to Medical History.

- Laura Briggs, *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science, and US Imperialism in Puerto Rico*.

**Week Seven:** Race, Medicine, and Climate: Approaches from Environmental History.

- Julyan Peard, *Race, Place, and Medicine: The Idea of the Tropics in Nineteenth-Century Brazilian Medicine*.

**Week Eight:** Disease, Demographic Collapse, and the Colonial System.

- Suzanne Austin Alchon, *A Pest in the Land: New World Epidemics in Global Perspective*.

**(Start reading Packard this week. I recommend that you read chapters 1-3.)**

**Week Nine:** The Production of a Racialized Disease: Approaches from Political Economy.

- Randall Packard, *White Plague, Black Labor: Tuberculosis and the Political Economy of Health and Disease in South Africa*.
- Diana Wylie, "The Changing Face of Hunger in Southern African History, 1880-1980." *Past and Present*, No. 122 (Feb. 1989), pp. 159-199.

**Week Ten:** A New Colonialism? Ethnographic Perspectives on Health and Inequality in the "Developing World."

- Paul Farmer, *AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame*.
- Paul Farmer, *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor*, Chapter 8 ("New Malaise: Medical Ethics and Social Rights in the Global Era"). Available on E-reserves for this course

**\*\*A Quick Note about Academic Integrity\*\***

Since this course will require substantial amounts of writing, I wish to make it clear that I expect all students to adhere to the University of Washington's policies on academic integrity, especially with regards to plagiarism. Plagiarism can take a variety of forms including but not limited to the direct copying of other people's written words from books, the internet, or other student's papers; the copying of other people's ideas or interpretations without acknowledgment; or the copying of the structure of an argument

from somebody else's work. Cases of plagiarism will be punished to the fullest extent that university policy allows. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism at the University of Washington, please browse the following links or come see me:

<http://depts.washington.edu/grading/issue1/honesty.htm>

<http://www.washington.edu/students/handbook/conduct.html>

Having ended on that slightly threatening note, let me just convey how delighted I am that you have decided to take this class. I wish you all an enjoyable and productive quarter!!