

GENDER, MEDICINE AND CULTURE IN US HISTORY

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Scope of the Course: Gender, Healers, and Health

This course compares men and women as healers and as patients, and traces the interactions between medical and cultural constructions of gender and health in US history, from the colonial era to the present. It will be taught about 2/3 in lecture format and 1/3 discussion. Reading assignments range from modern histories to old medical journals, newspaper articles, poetry and films. The available readings are more about women's experiences than men's, however the course will use these materials to examine how gender affected both men and women. The course will not attempt to survey every gendered aspect of medical history, but will focus on a series of specific examples chosen to illustrate the diversity and depth of the subject. No background in history, gender studies, or medicine is required, though prior coursework in at least one such area would be helpful. The course is not open to first-year undergraduates.

TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

1/7 COURSE INTRODUCTION

1/12 MALE-FEMALE, DISEASE-HEALTH: GENDER AND HEALTH AS HISTORICALLY-CHANGING CONCEPTS ABOUT BODIES

READ:

Engelhardt, "Disease of Masturbation" (C)

Canning, "The Body as Method?" (C)

PART ONE: 1780-1880

1/14 GENDER, HEALING, AND BIRTH IN REVOLUTIONARY-ERA NEW ENGLAND: THE WORLD OF MARTHA BALLARD

READ:

Ulrich, A Midwife's Tale, pp. 3-90, 147-203, 235-61, 339-45. (P, UGLI)

1/21 (Revolutionary-era continued)

1/26 SICKNESS, SUFFERING, RACE, AND GENDER

READ:

Rosenberg and Rosenberg, "Female Animal" (C)

Poe, "Romance," "For Annie" " Annibel Lee" (C)

Pernick, Calculus of Suffering, pp. 148-195, 238-239 (C, UGLI)

1/28 CHANGING MEANINGS OF GENDER AND HEALTH

READ:

Hansen, "Physicians' 'Discovery' of Homosexuals"

Also review readings for 1/12

2/2 BIRTH AND BIRTH LIMITATION

READ:

Leavitt, Brought to Bed (P, UGLI), pp. 3-127

Tone, Devices and Desires (P, UGLI), Part One

"Editorial ... Infantophobiall" (C)

2/4 (Birth and birth limitation continued)

2/9 GENDER DIFFERENCES AMONG PHYSICIANS
 READ:
 Morantz-Sanchez, Sympathy and Science, chaps. 2, 3, 8, and appendix (P,UGLI)
 Pernick, Calculus of Suffering, pp. 9-31, 223-28 (C, UGLI)
 "Female Physicians" (C)

2/11 (Differences among Doctors continued)
FIRST PAPER DUE by 5pm today

PART TWO: 1880-1930

2/16 GERMS AND GENDER: WHAT'S NEW?
 READ:
 Tomes, Gospel of Germs (P, UGLI), pp. 1-20
 Morantz-Sanchez, Sympathy and Science (P, UGLI), chaps 7, 9
 Flexner "Report" (C), pp. 52-59, 143-45, 178-81.

2/18 MIDTERM EXAM

MIDWINTER BREAK

3/1 GERMS AND GENDER: CONTINUITIES
 READ:
 Tomes, Gospel of Germs (P, UGLI), chaps. 6-end
 Leavitt, Typhoid Mary (P, UGLI)
 Documents: Comstock, "Mothercraft," Gilman, The Home, McCann, "Little Mothers League," and "Tragedy of the Baby," all (C)

3/3 (Germs and gender continuities continued)

3/8 GENDER AND TECHNOLOGY
 READ:
 Sandelowski, Devices and Desires (P, UGLI) chaps 1-4

3/10 DIFFERENCE AND EQUALITY IN WORKPLACE HEALTH
 READ:
 "Muller v. Oregon" (C)
 FILMS: Health and sex roles

3/15 VD: GERM-FIGHTERS AND 'SOCIAL DISEASES'
 READ:
 Brandt, No Magic Bullet (P, UGLI), chaps. 1-4
 Pernick, "Sex Education Films" (C)

3/17 FILMS: VD and Sex Education

3/22 EUGENICS, GENDER, RACE, AND REPRODUCTION: "FEWER AND BETTER" BABIES
 READ:
 Pernick, Black Stork (P, UGLI), pp. 3-80, 101-114, 129-176.
 Larson, Sex, Race and Science (P, UGLI), pp. 1-17, 40-49, 63-84, 93-96, 104-24, 153-69.
 Tone, Devices and Desires (P, UGLI), Part Two.
SECOND PAPER DUE by 5 pm today

3/24 FILMS: Eugenics and Child Health Films

- 3/29 PSYCHIATRY, SEXUALITY, AND EXPERTISE
 READ:
 Lunbeck, Psychiatric Persuasion (P, UGLI), Parts One and Three.
 Meyerson, "Nervous Husband," and Southard, "Practical **Grouping**"

PART THREE: Since 1930

- 3/31 GENDER AND POWER IN MEDICINE AND SEXOLOGY.
 READ:
 Morantz-Sanchez, Sympathy and Science (P, UGLI), chaps. 11-12.
 Morantz-Sanchez, "Scientist as Sex Crusader" (C)
 FILMS: Gender roles in health care
- 4/5 VISUAL TECHNOLOGY, HOSPITALS, AND POWER IN CHILDBIRTH
 READ:
 Leavitt, Brought to Bed (P, UGLI), pp. 127-epilogue
 Sandelowski, Devices and Desires (P, UGLI) chap 6
- 4/7 CONTRACEPTION AND ABORTION SINCE SANGER
 READ:
Roe v. Wade selections (C)
 Tone, Devices and Desires (P, UGLI), Part Three
- 4/12 GENDER AND PATIENT ACTIVISM: BREAST CANCER
 READ:
 Lerner, Breast Cancer Wars (P, UGLI)
Our Bodies, ourselves 1st ed., 238-40, 263-69 (to be distributed)
 FILMS: Breast Cancer
- 4/14 PSYCHIATRIC MEDICATION AND THE GENDERING OF DISCONTENT
 READ:
 Metzl, "Mother's Little Helper" and "Prozac Narrative Form"
- 4/19 AIDS AND HISTORY / AIDS AS HISTORY
 READ:
 Brandt, No Magic Bullet (P, UGLI), chaps 5-6.
 Rosenberg, "What is an Epidemic?" (C)
 Bix, "Diseases Chasing Money and Power" (C)
- 4/21 GENDER, HEALTH, AND HISTORY: COURSE SUMMARY, EVALUATIONS
THIRD PAPER DUE 5pm today
- 4/29 FINAL EXAM THURSDAY 4/29 1:30-3:30 pm

FILMS

Films to be shown will be selected from the among the following:

3/10: Health and Sex Roles

CONSEQUENCES (National T.B. Association, 1929, app. 15 minutes). The perils of supermom. A public service short for theaters and classroom use.

HEROES ALL (American Red Cross, 1920, app. 30 mins), selections to be shown.
Rehabilitation of wounded World War I veterans, attempting to reconcile the conflicting cultural images of masculinity and disability.

3/17: VD and Sex Education 1918-24

FIT TO FIGHT (War Department, Social Hygiene Association 1918, 1 hour), slide synopsis and brief film clips to be shown.

The pioneering VD melodrama shown to virtually all US soldiers in WWI.

THE END OF THE ROAD (War Department, Social Hygiene Association 1919, 90 minutes), slide summary and 10 minute prologue to be shown. VD film aimed at women, especially women war-workers.

PERSONAL HYGIENE FOR GIRLS and PERSONAL HYGIENE FOR BOYS (US Public Health Service, and Bray Studios, 1922, app. 12 minutes each). After WWI, sex education movies expanded from an exclusive focus on disease to include normal sex physiology; and moved from public theaters to public schools. These were the first federally funded school sex hygiene movies.

3/24: Eugenics and Child Health

THE BLACK STORK (Wharton Films, 1916, app. 1 hour), 20 minute condensation to be shown from 1927 edition
ARE YOU FIT TO MARRY?
Controversial Chicago surgeon Dr. Harry Haiselden starred in this feature dramatization of the actual cases in which he had refused to provide life saving treatment for supposedly genetically defective newborns.

GENERAL PERSONAL HYGIENE (US Public Health Service and Bray Studios, 1922), app. 12 minutes.
The last reel of the high school sex education series, on hereditary talents and defects, and "wise mating," as part of general health education.

TOMORROW'S CHILDREN (Foy Productions, 1934, app. 70 minutes), coming attractions trailer to be shown.

A melodramatic attack on compulsory sterilization laws in response to the Buck v. Bell decision.

OUR CHILDREN (U.S. Children's Bureau, 1919, app. 15 minutes).
Publicizes the Children's Bureau's child health activities in rural Alabama, illustrating the activities of a program initiated by local mothers, and staffed by women professionals, a program which served both whites and blacks, but in separate, unequal facilities.

3/31: **Gender Roles in Health Professions**

A PHYSICIAN'S HONOR (Lubin Films, 1912, app. 10 minutes).

Among the first of a whole genre of theatrical films that portrayed the medical profession as requiring the sacrifice of personal life; and the need for doctors' wives to let patients come first.

FORGOTTEN FRONTIER (Frontier Nursing Service of Kentucky, 1931, 47 minutes), selections to be shown. Visiting nurses providing primary health care to several isolated rural counties in Depression-ravaged Appalachia. A documentary made by the nurses to publicize their work.

THE VISITING NURSE (Selig Film Company, 1911, app. 10 minutes), only 3 minutes survive. Visiting nurses in the slums of Chicago in a theater newsreel feature.

[HENRY STREET] (Visiting Nurse Association of New York, 1920s, app. 15 minutes).

Publicizes Lillian Wald's pioneering Henry Street Settlement House's visiting nurses work in home health care for the poor in 1920s New York.

4/12: **Breast Cancer**

CHOOSE TO LIVE (American Cancer Society 1940) app. 12 minutes Start of the Women's Field Army campaign for destigmatization, early diagnosis, and treatment by surgery and radiation.