

PROBLEMS IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

HSHM 701; HIST 893

John Harley Warner
Fall term 2025
Tuesday, 1:30-3:20

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L234 SHM

An examination of the variety of approaches to the social and cultural history of medicine and public health. Readings are drawn from recent literature in the field, sampling writings on health care, illness experiences, knowledge production, and medical cultures in Asia, Latin America, Africa, Europe, and the United States from antiquity through the twenty-first century. Topics include the role of gender, race, ethnicity, class, and religion in the experience of illness, suffering, and healing; medical epistemology and interactions among divergent understandings of the body; medicine, colonialism, and imperialism; and the role of the marketplace in shaping cultural authority, professional identities, and patient expectations.

Sept. 2: Introduction

Sept. 9: Nancy J. Tomes, *The Gospel of Germs: Men, Women, and the Microbe in American Life* (Harvard University Press, 1999). \$27.26, ISBN: 9780674357082.

Sept. 16: Shigehisa Kuriyama, *The Expressiveness of the Body and the Divergence of Greek and Chinese Medicine* (Zone Books, 2002). ISBN: 9780942299892. \$17.37

Sept. 23: Katharine Park, *Secrets of Women: Gender, Generation, and the Origins of Human Dissection* (Zone Books, 2006). ISBN: 9781890951689. \$19.69

Sept. 30: Mary Fissell, *Pushback: The 2,500-Year Fight to Thwart Women by Restricting Abortion* (Seal Press, 2025). ISBN 1541604075. \$23.80

Oct. 7: Pablo F. Gómez, *The Experiential Caribbean: Creating Knowledge and Healing in the Early Modern Atlantic* (University of North Carolina Press, 2017). ISBN: 9781469630878. \$32.50

Oct. 14: Elizabeth O'Brien, *Surgery and Salvation: The Roots of Reproductive Injustice in Mexico, 1770-1940* (University of North Carolina Press, 2023). ISBN: 9781469675879. \$32.95

Oct. 21: Ruth Rogaski, *Hygienic Modernity: Meanings of Health and Disease in Treaty-Port China* (University of California Press, 2004). ISBN: 9780520283824. \$30.59

Oct. 28: Sean Hsiang-Lin Lei, *Neither Donkey nor Horse: Medicine in the Struggle over China's Modernity* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2014). ISBN: 9780226169880. \$29.00

Nov. 4: Projit Bihari Mukharji, *Doctoring Traditions: Ayurveda, Small Technologies, and Braided Sciences* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016). ISBN: 9780226383132. \$39.72

Nov. 11: Anne Kveim Lie, Jeremy A. Greene, and Warwick Anderson, eds., *Medicine on a Larger Scale: Global Histories of Social Medicine* (Cambridge University Press, 2025). ISBN: 9781009428552. \$41.99

Nov. 18: Judith Walzer Leavitt, *Typhoid Mary: Captive to the Public's Health* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1996).

Dec. 2: Claire L. Wendland, *A Heart for the Work: Journeys through an African Medical School* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010). ISBN: 9780226893273. \$30.55

The course evaluation will be based on informed and engaged participation in discussions and a short paper due on December 12. This may be either a reflective essay (*not* a research paper) of ca. 15-20 pages that explores historical or historiographic themes that link together several of the seminar readings, or an orals field reading list related to the history of medicine, health culture, and/or public health with a 10-page essay discussing the field's central issues and challenges.

The course may also be taken as a research seminar, in which case a research paper will be substituted for the reflective essay. Students who elect the research option should meet individually with the instructor to discuss the formulation of a research focus and plan of analysis.