

THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

HNRS-300.002H
Spring 2004
T 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Professor Alan M. Kraut
Office: Battelle 143, x2410
Hrs.: M 3:00-5:00 p.m.
TF 2:00-4:00 p.m. & by appt.
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FROM SMALLPOX TO SARS: AMERICAN SOCIETY'S RESPONSE TO DISEASE

Physical diseases are biological realities -- a pathogen invades our body and destroys organs; a vital substance is missing from our diet and our bodily functions are disrupted. Each disease is particular although symptoms may appear similar. However, diseases are also cultural constructs and there is frequently a lack of agreement in our diverse society and culture about how to define a disease, how to treat it, and how much a community may intrude upon the rights of individuals in protecting the broader community from that disease. This colloquium traces the history of the perennial battle between society and disease in the United States from the debate over smallpox vaccination in colonial America to the current controversy over quarantine in response to SARS and other mysterious infectious diseases.

READINGS: Many of the following texts are on reserve at the library in addition to being available in the bookstore. There will also be several items of required reading in the History Department Lounge (first floor of Battelle) only. This material is not available in the bookstore and is marked with an asterisk (*).

TEXTS:

Sontag, Susan	<i>Illness As A Metaphor and AIDS and Its Metaphors</i>
Fett, Sharla	<i>Healing, Health, and Power on Southern Slave Plantations</i>
Rosenberg, Charles	<i>The Cholera Years</i>
Warner, John Harley and Tighe, Janet	<i>Major Problems in the History of American Medicine and Public Health</i>
Kraut, Alan M.	<i>Silent Travelers, Germs, Genes, and the "Immigrant Menace"</i>
Kraut, Alan M.	<i>Goldberger's War: The Life and Work of a Public Health Crusader</i>
Tomes, Nancy	<i>The Gospel of Germs: Men, Women, and the Microbe in American Life</i>
Brandt, Allan	<i>No Magic Bullet, A Social History of Venereal Disease</i>
Verghese, Abraham	<i>My Own Country: A Doctor's Story</i>

REQUIREMENTS:

a) There will be book reviews (two or three per student depending on class size), a mid-term examination, and a final examination.

b) Book reports by individual students are designed to introduce an awareness and understanding of important works -- primary and secondary -- that time does not permit to be included among the core readings. For the benefit of all in the class, each review will be presented orally as well as in writing. Oral reports **may not be read and should be no more than 10 to 12 minutes in length**. The written report submitted to the instructor should be 5 to 8 word processed pages and include the following information (not necessarily in this order).

1. Brief summary of the book or article, with special attention to the author's thesis and sub-theses.
2. Evaluation and critical commentary with particular attention to how this book or article contributes to our understanding of the topic for which it has been assigned.
3. If applicable, description and assessment of sources and methodology.

Reports must be word processed with care to organization, structure, punctuation, spelling, clarity, accuracy, and correctness as well as to the substance of the works. **PLEASE PROOF-READ YOUR PAPERS. SPELL-CHECK IS NOT ENOUGH.**

c) Grading will be as follows:

Book Reviews	40%
Mid-term Exam	20%
Class Participation	10%
Final Exam	30%

There will be a penalty of ½ grade per day for each day late papers are submitted.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS:

All students are responsible for having read the assigned material on schedule. This should maximize the amount of informal discussion. Class participation **will be** a factor in the calculation of final grades.

January 13: Introduction: What is disease?

Film: Sei Met Ko

January 20: Disease in Nature and Culture

Sontag, *Illness As A Metaphor*

Warner & Tighe, *Major Problems in the History of Medicine and Public Health*,
Chapter 1

Film: Excerpts from *A Science Odyssey*

January 27: The Columbian Exchange and the Slave Trade

Fett, *Working Cures*

Kraut, *Silent Travelers*, pp. 11-30.

Report Options:

Noble David Cook, *Born to Die: Disease and New World Conquest*
Virgil Vogel, *American Indian Medicine*
Alfred Crosby, Jr. *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492*
Alfred Crosby, Jr, *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900*

February 3: Smallpox and the Controversy over Inoculation

Warner & Tighe, chapter 2

Report Options:

John B. Blake, Public Health in the Town of Boston, 1630-1822
Elizabeth Fenn, Pox Americana, *The Great Smallpox Epidemic of 1775-82*
John Duffy, *Epidemics in Colonial America*
Whitfield Bell, Jr., *John Morgan, Continental Doctor*

February 10: Medicine, Midwives, and Slaves in the Revolutionary Era and Early 19th Century

Warner and Tighe, chapters 2 & 3

Film: *A Midwife's Tale*

Report Options:

Janie B. Donegan, *Women and Men Midwives: Medicine, Morality and Misogyny in Early America*
Kay K. Moss, *Southern Folk Medicine, 1750-1820*
J.H. Powell, *Bring Out Your Dead, The Great Plague of Yellow Fever in Philadelphia in 1793*
Elizabeth A. Fenn, *Pox Americana, The Great Smallpox Epidemic of 1775-82.*
Maurice B. Gordon, *Naval and Maritime Medicine During the American Revolution*

February 17: Cholera and the First Great Wave of Immigration

Rosenberg, *Cholera Years*

Report Options:

Gerald Grob, Mental Institutions in America, Social Policy to 1875
Barbara Rosenkrantz, *Public Health and the State*
John Harley Warner, *The Therapeutic Perspective: Medical Practice, Knowledge, and Identity in America 1820-1885.*
Martin S. Pernick, *A Calculus of Suffering: Pain, Professionalism, and Anesthesia in Nineteenth Century America*
Jane B. Donegan, "Hydropathic Highway to Health": *Women and Water-Cure in Antebellum America*
Stephen Nissenbaum, *Sex, Diet, and Debility in Jacksonian America: Sylvester Graham and Health Reform*

February 24: Medicine, Hospitals, and the Civil War

Warner & Tighe, Chapter 6
Option: Trip to Medical Museum in Frederick, MD

Report Options:

Todd Savitt, *Medicine and Slavery: The Health Care of Blacks in Antebellum America*

Reginald Horsman, *Josiah Nott of Mobile: Southerner, Physician, and Racial Theorist*

Peter McCandless, *Moonlight, Magnolias, and Madness: Insanity in South Carolina from the Colonial Period to the Progressive Era*

Sally G McMillen, *Motherhood in the Old South: Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Infant Rearing in the Old South*

George Adams, *Doctors in Blue*

Horace Cunningham, *Doctors in Gray*

Margaret Humphrey, *Yellow Fever and the South*

George Frederickson, *The Inner Civil War*

Eric Dean, Jr., *Shook Over Hell: Post Traumatic Stress, Vietnam, and the Civil War*

J. Franklin Dyer, *The Journal of A Civil War Surgeon*

March 2: Mid-Term Examination

March 9: **SPRING BREAK !**

March 16: Germs and What to Do About Them

Tomes, *The Gospel of Germs*

Report Options:

Stuart Galishoff, *Newark: The Nation's Unhealthiest City, 1832-1895*

James H. Cassedy, *Charles V. Chapin and the Public Health Movement*

Alfred W. Crosby, *America's Forgotten Pandemic: The Influenza of 1918*

John Ettling, *The Germ of Laziness: Rockefeller Philanthropy and Public Health in the New South*

Judith Leavitt, *The Healthiest City: Milwaukee and the Politics of Health Reform*

March 23: Mass Immigration and the Threat to the Public's Health

Kraut, *Silent Travelers*, pp. 50-165.

Film: *Isle of Hope, Isle of Tears*

Report Options:

Howard Markel, *Quarantine! East European Jewish Immigrants and the New York City Epidemics of 1892*

Nayan Shah, *Contagious Divides, Epidemics and Race in San Francisco's Chinatown*

Amy L. Fairchild, *Science at the Borders, Immigrant Medical Inspection and the Shaping of the Modern Industrial Labor Force*

March 30: Urban Life and the Industrial Workplace

Kraut, *Silent Travelers*, pp.166-254.

Film: *Temple of Moloch*

Report Options:

Barbara Bates, *Bargaining for Life: A Social History of Tuberculosis, 1876-1938*

Christopher Sellers, *Hazards of the Job: From Industrial Disease to Environmental Health Science*

David Rosner and Gerald Markowitz, eds. *Deadly Dust: Silicosis and the Politics of Occupational Disease in Twentieth Century America*

David Rosner and Gerald Markowitz, eds. *Dying for Work: Workers' Safety and Health in Twentieth Century America*

Edward H. Beardsley, *A History of Neglect: Health Care for Blacks and Mill Workers in the Twentieth Century South*

Claudia Clark, *Radium Girls: Women and Industrial Health Reform*

Alan Derickson, *Black Lung: Anatomy of a Public Health Disaster*

April 6: The Culture of Biomedical Research: Race and Class

Kraut, *Goldberger's War*

Warner & Tighe, Chapter 12

Film: *Deadly Deception*

Report Options:

Daniel J. Kevles, *In the Name of Eugenics, Genetics and the Uses of Human Heredity*

Philip J. Reilly, *The Surgical Solution, A History of Involuntary Sterilization in the United States*

Sheila M. Rothman and David J. Rothman, *The Pursuit of Perfection, The Promise and Perils of Medical Enhancement*

Elizabeth Haiken, *Venus Envy, A History of Cosmetic Surgery*

Susan Lederer, *Subjected to Science, Human Experimentation in America Before the Second World War*

April 13: World Wars, Health, and Morality

Brandt, *No Magic Bullet*

Warner and Tighe, Chapter 10

Guest Speaker: Dr. John Parascandola, former Historian of the United States
Public Health Service

Report Options:

James T. Patterson, *Dread Disease: Cancer and Modern American Culture*

Keith Wailoo, *Dying in the City of Blues, Sickle Cell Anemia and the Politics of Race and Health*

Michael Bliss, *The Discovery of Insulin*

Spencie Love, *One Blood, The Death and Resurrection of Charles R. Drew*

David B Adams, *The Greatest Good to the Greatest Number: Penicillin Rationing on the American Home Front, 1940-1945*

April 20: Epidemics: Polio, AIDS, and SARS

Verghese, *My Own Country, A Doctor's Story*

Warner & Tighe, Chapter 15

Film: "A Paralyzing Fear: The Story of Polio in America"

Report Options:

Naomi Rogers, *Dirt and Disease Before FDR*

Robert Proctor, *Cancer Wars: How Politics Shapes What We Know and Don't Know About Cancer*

Caroline Hannaway, Victoria A. Harden, and John Parascandola, eds. *AIDS and the Public Debate: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*

Elizabeth Fee and Daniel Fox, eds. *Aids, The Making of A Chronic Disease*

Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*

May 4: **Final Examination (5:30-8:00 p.m.)**