

NEH Summer Seminar
July 5 - August 8, 2009

DISEASE IN THE MIDDLE AGES

Tentative Schedule & Syllabus Latest update: 26 November 2008

Texts (to be purchased); all except Horrox should be read in their entirety before the beginning of the seminar:

Lawrence Conrad et al., *The Western Medical Tradition, 800 BC to AD 1800* (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995), ISBN: 0521475643; hereafter cited as *Tradition*

Peter Pormann and Emilie Savage-Smith, *Medieval Islamic Medicine* (Edinburgh: University of Edinburgh Press, 2007), ISBN 0748620672

Michael R. McVaugh, *Medicine Before the Plague: Practitioners and Their Patients in the Crown of Aragon, 1285-1345* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993), ISBN 9780521524544

Rosemary Horrox, trans., *The Black Death* (Manchester: University of Manchester Press, 1994), ISBN 0-7190-3498-1

Additional Readings: the books listed above will be supplemented each week by readings posted on our Blackboard® site. We will also put several other books on a Reserve shelf in the Wellcome Library. Reproductions of primary sources will be distributed in the seminar so that they can be examined in close detail. At least one or two sessions will be held in the Rare Book Room of the Wellcome Library to examine the historical materials *in situ*.

Meeting Times and Location: all sessions will be held at the Wellcome Trust Centre, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE, except for the fieldtrips as noted below. The Wellcome Building opens at 9:45am and our sessions will start at 10:00am, continuing until 12:30pm. The three optional methods sections (including the one at the British Library) will run from 2:30-4:00pm on the days indicated below.

Research Reports: time will be allocated for in-class reports of on-going research projects by Seminar participants. The schedule will be determined once we are assembled and can decide which topics fit best with our weekly themes.

SCHEDULE

Sunday, 5 July: participants arrive in London; check into rooms [arrival date *may* be moved up to Saturday, 4 July, depending on when first field trip is scheduled]

Week 1 (6-10 July): Disease, Disability, and Their Histories

Topics for Discussion:

- what is “disease”? what is “disability”?
- historiography of medieval medicine

- archeology, paleopathology, new DNA technologies, and the problems of retrospective diagnosis

Day 1 (Monday, 6 July): Introductions & Orientation

Day 2 (Tuesday, 7 July): Overview of Medieval Medicine: Intellectual and Social Traditions
review Conrad *et al.*

Catherine J. Kudlick, "Disability History: Why We Need Another 'Other'," *American Historical Review*, 108 (2003), 763-93

Day 3 (Wednesday, 8 July): The Biological Basis of Disease: Data and Methods

Michel Drancourt, *et al.*, "Palaeomicrobiology: Current Issues and Perspectives," *Nature Reviews: Microbiology* 3 (Jan. 2005), 23-35

Anne L. Grauer, "Where were the Women?," in A. Herring and A. Swedlund, eds., *Human Biologists in the Archives* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), pp. 266-287

Michael McCormick, "Rats, Communications, and Plague: Toward an Ancient and Medieval Ecological History," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 34, no. 1 (Summer 2003), 1-25

Day 4 (Thursday, 9 July): Fieldtrip to Bath, England (<http://www.romanbaths.co.uk/>) – meet at Paddington Station at 9:00am

Topics: health seeking and the culture of bathing

Martial, *Epigrams* (selections)

Anonymous, *Balnea puteolana (The Baths of Pozzuoli)*

Peter of Eboli, *De balneis terre laboris (The Baths of Terra Laboris)*, excerpts

Florence Eliza Glaze, "The Politics of Bathing: Medicinal Baths and Competition in High Medieval S. Italy" (forthcoming)

Day 5 (Friday, 10 July): free day for research

International Medieval Congress, Leeds, England – 13-16 July 2009: note that we will change the Seminar meeting days to Wednesday to Friday in Week 2 to allow people to attend the Leeds meeting, if they desire.

Week 2 (13-17 July): Categorizing Disease/Crafting Therapy: Medieval Medical Theory

Guest Lecturer: Emilie Savage-Smith, Oxford University

Topics for Discussion:

- translation and the transmission of cultural traditions
- knowledge of anatomy and the practices of human dissection
- the drug trade
- did ancient/medieval physicians have a *chemical* understanding of drug efficacy?

Day 1 (Wednesday, 15 July): Ancient Medicine and Its Islamic Legacy

Paul Potter, "Some Principles of Hippocratic Nosology" in Paul Potter, Gilles Maloney et Jacques Desautels (éds.), *La maladie et les maladies dans la collection Hippocratique, Actes du Vie Colloque International Hippocratique* (Québec: Éditions du Sphinx, 1990), pp. 237-53

review Pormann and Savage-Smith, *Medieval Islamic Medicine*
excerpts from Galen, al-Razi

Day 2 (Thursday, 16 July): (morning) How Drugs Work: Plant Lore and Pharmaceutical Empiricism

Mattheus Platearius (attributed), *Circa instans* (excerpts)

Henry Daniel, *Aaron Danielis* (an herbal by a 14th cent. English gardener)
 Walton O. Schalick, III, "How does My Garden Grow? Gardens and Pharmacology in the
 Medieval Paris" (unpublished paper)

(afternoon) **Fieldtrip to the Chelsea Physic Garden**

(<http://www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk/garden/>), meet at 2pm at entrance at 66 Royal Hospital
 Road, London SW3 4HS

Day 3 (Friday, 17 July): A European Proclivity: The Beginnings of Anatomical Investigation
 Katharine Park, *Women's Secrets: Gender, Generation, and the Origins of Human
 Dissection* (New York: Zone Books, 2006), chapter 2

Friday, 17 July, 2pm: Medical Paleography – a special presentation at the British Library
 Manuscripts Room, led by librarian Laura Nuvoloni

Week 3 (20-24 July): Diagnosing Disease, Then and Now: The Case of Plague

Guest Lecturer: Dr. Anne Grauer, Loyola University of Chicago

Topics for Discussion:

- growth of prestige of medical profession (testimony in courts, autopsies)
- public health regulations
- notions of contagion and quarantine

Day 1 (Monday, 20 July): Medieval Diagnostic Methods (pulses, urines, autopsy) and
 Professional Authority

review McVaugh, *Before the Plague*

Monica H. Green and Daniel Lord Smail, "The Trial of Floreta d'Ays (1403): Jews,
 Christians, and Obstetrics in Later Medieval Marseille," *Journal of Medieval History* 34,
 no. 2 (June 2008)

Day 2 (Tuesday, 21 July): Modern Diagnostic Methods

Michel Drancourt, *et al.*, "Detection of 400-year-old *Yersinia pestis* DNA in Human Dental
 Pulp: An Approach to the Diagnosis of Ancient Septicemia," *Proceedings of the
 National Academy of Sciences* 95 (1998), 12637–12640

Michel Drancourt, *et al.*, "*Yersinia pestis Orientalis* in Remains of Ancient Plague Patients,"
Emerging Infectious Diseases, 2007 Feb, <http://www.cdc.gov/EID/content/13/2/332.htm>

Day 3 (Wednesday, 22 July): The Consequences of Diagnosis

Peregrine Horden, "Mediterranean Plague in the Age of Justinian," in *The Cambridge
 Companion to the Age of Justinian*, ed. Michael Maas (Cambridge: Cambridge
 University Press, 2005), pp. 134-160

Horrox, *Black Death* (pages to be assigned)

Michael Dols, "The Comparative Communal Responses to the Black Death in Muslim and
 Christian Societies," *Viator* 5 (1974), 269-287

Shona Kelly Wray, "Boccaccio and the Doctors: Medicine and Compassion in the Face of
 Plague," *Journal of Medieval History* 30 (2004), 301-322

**Day 4 (Thursday, 23 July): Fieldtrip to Human Bioarchaeology Centre, Museum of
 London**

(<http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/English/Collections/OnlineResources/CHB/>),
 meet at 10am at 150 London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN

Brian Connell and Peter Rauxloh, "A Rapid Method for Recording Human Skeletal Data"

(available at <http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/61CC101E-B351-451B-857B-7A4479E78CC7/0/RapidMethodRecordingManual.pdf>)

Sharon N. DeWitte and James W. Wood, "Selectivity of Black Death mortality with respect to preexisting health," *PNAS* 105, no. 5 (February 5, 2008), 1436–1441

"East Smithfield Black Death cemetery" (available at

<http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/English/Collections/OnlineResources/CHB/Databases/Medieval+cemeteries/ESmithfieldBlackDeath.htm>)

Day 5 (Friday, 24 July): free day for research

Week 4 (27-31 July): Managing Disease and Disability: The Case of Leprosy

Guest Lecturer: Michael McVaugh, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Topics for Discussion:

- modern biomedical understandings of leprosy (Hansen's disease)
- how prevalent was leprosy really?
- surgical practices, pain, and the responsibilities of the practitioner
- social containment: legal pronouncements and the role of leprosaria
- why did leprosy disappear?

Day 1 (Monday, 27 July): Weighing Risks – The Pain of Surgery vs. Living with Disability

Michael McVaugh, "Cataracts and Hernias: Aspects of Surgical Practice in the Fourteenth Century," *Medical History* 45 (2001), 319-40

Walton O. Schalick, III, "To Market, To Market: The Theory and Practice of Opiates in the Middle Ages," in M. Meldrum, ed., *Opioids and Pain Relief: A Historical Perspective* (Seattle, WA: IASP Press, 2003), pp. 5-20

Day 2 (Tuesday, 28 July): The Uncertainty of Diagnosis: Who "Names" Leprosy?

Charles Singer, "A Thirteenth Century Clinical Description of Leprosy," *Journal of the History of Medicine* 4 (1949): 237-239

Vita of Alice Schaerbeek

Michael W. Dols, "Leprosy in Medieval Arabic Medicine," *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* 34, no. 3 (July 1979), 314-33

Luke Demaitre, "The Description and Diagnosis of Leprosy by Fourteenth-Century Physicians," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 59, no. 3 (Fall 1985), 327-44

Day 3 (Wednesday, 29 July): Containing Disease: Hospitals and Leprosaria

Jesper L. Boldsen and Lene Møllerup, "Outside St. Jørgen: Leprosy in the Medieval Danish City of Odense," *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 130, no. 3 (2006), 344-51

Fred Bergman, "Hoping against Hope? A Marital Dispute about the Medical Treatment of Leprosy in the Fifteenth-century Hanseatic Town of Kampen," in *The Task of Healing: Medicine, Religion and Gender in England and the Netherlands, 1450-1800*, ed. Hilary Marland and Margaret Pelling (Rotterdam: Erasmus Publishing, 1996), 23-48

Day 4 (Thursday, 30 July): free day for individual research

Day 5 (Friday, 31 July): free day for individual research

Week 5 (3-7 August): Alternative Cures

Topics for Discussion:

- saintly healing; coping with disability
- regimens, "self-help", and the lay medical reader
- social safety nets: the institutions of charity and the role of hospitals

Day 1 (Monday, 3 August): The Limits of Physical Cure: Hierarchies of Resort

Sharon Farmer, *Surviving Poverty in Medieval Paris: Gender, Ideology, and the Daily Lives of the Poor* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2002), chapter 2

Iona McCleery, “‘Multos ex medicinae arte curaverat, multos verbo et oratione’: Curing in Medieval Portuguese Saints’ Lives,” *Social History of Medicine* 12 (1999), 191-225

Day 2 (Tuesday, 4 August): Turning to the Saints

Excerpts from the canonization proceedings of St. Louis of Toulouse (d. 1297) and Clare of Montefalco (d. 1318)

Joseph Ziegler, “Practitioners and Saints: Medical Men in Canonization Processes in the Thirteenth to Fifteenth Centuries,” *Social History of Medicine* 12 (1999), 191-225

Day 3 (Wednesday, 5 August): Poverty, Disease, and Disability

Walton O. Schalick, III, “Mephibosheth in the Middle Ages: Disabilities, Children and the Most Vulnerable of the Vulnerable in Medieval Europe” (unpublished paper)

Day 4 (Thursday, 6 August): free day for individual research

Day 5 (Friday, 7 August): free day for individual research

Friday, 7 August, evening: End of Seminar Fête

Saturday, 8 August: departure from London

Optional Methods Sessions: These sessions (approximately 1½ hours each) will be run one afternoon a week during the first three weeks. They are intended to give participants with advanced research skills but without any prior training in the History of Medicine “inside tips” to some of the more challenging aspects of doing work in this technical field.

Week 1 (Tuesday, 7 July): Online Resources for the History of Medicine

Week 2 (Friday, 17 July): Medical Paleography (for participants already trained in basic paleography) – a special presentation at the British Library Manuscripts Room, led by librarian Laura Nuvoloni

Week 3 (Tuesday, 21 July): Medical Images

General Bibliography on Medieval Medicine:

Benedictow, Ole J. *The Black Death, 1346–1353: The Complete History* (Woodbridge, Suffolk: Boydell Press, 2004), ISBN-10: 1843832143, ISBN-13: 978-1843832140

Billier, Peter, and Joseph Ziegler, eds. *Religion and Medicine in the Middle Ages*, York Studies in Medieval Theology, 3 (York: York Medieval Press, 2001), ISBN 1903153077

Bowers, Barbara S., ed. *The Medieval Hospital and Medical Practice* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2007), ISBN 0 7546 5110 X

Bynum, William F. and Helen Bynum, eds. *Dictionary of Medical Biography*, 5 vols. (Greenwood, 2006), ISBN 0-313-32877-3

Carmichael, Ann. *Plague and the Poor in Renaissance Florence* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986), ISBN 0-521-26833-8

Demaitre, Luke. *Leprosy in Premodern Medicine: A Malady of the Whole Body* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007), ISBN-10: 0801886139, ISBN-13: 978-0801886133

Dols, Michael. *The Black Death in the Middle East* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1977), ISBN 0-691-03107-X

Dvorjetski, Estee. *Leisure, Pleasure and Healing: Spa Culture and Medicine in Ancient Eastern Mediterranean* (Leiden: Brill, 2007), ISBN 978 9004156 81 4

- Fagan, Garrett. *Bathing in Public in the Roman World* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1999), ISBN 0472108190
- García-Ballester, Luís, Michael R. McVaugh, and Agustín Rubio-Vela, *Medical Licensing and Learning in Fourteenth-Century Valencia*, *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society* 79, pt. 6 (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1989), ISBN 0871697963
- Givens, Jean, Karen Reeds, and Alain Touwaide, eds. *Visualizing Medieval Medicine and Natural History, 1200-1550* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2006), ISBN 0754652963
- Glick, Thomas F., Steven J. Livesey, and Faith Wallis, eds. *Medieval Science, Technology and Medicine: An Encyclopedia* (New York & London: Routledge, 2005), ISBN: 0415969301
- Green, Monica H. *Making Women's Medicine Masculine: The Rise of Male Authority in Pre-Modern Gynaecology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008), ISBN13: 9780199211494, ISBN10: 0199211493
- Green, Monica H., ed. and trans. *The 'Trotula': A Medieval Compendium of Women's Medicine* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2001), ISBN 0-8122-3789-4
- Hunt, Tony. *Anglo-Norman Medicine*, 2 vols. (Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 1994-1997), ISBN 0859914011 and 0859915239
- Jacquart, Danielle, and Françoise Micheau. *La médecine arabe et l'Occident médiéval* (Paris : Maisonneuve et Larose, 1990), ISBN 2-7068-1004-1
- Jones, Peter Murray. *Medieval Medicine in Illuminated Manuscripts*, rev. ed. (London: British Library [by] arrangement with Centro Tibaldi, 1998), ISBN 0712306579
- Little, Lester K. ed. *Plague and the End of Antiquity: The Pandemic of 541-750*,(Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), ISBN 0-521-84639-0
- Luttrell, Anthony, and Helen J. Nicholson, eds. *Hospitaller Women in the Middle Ages* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2006), ISBN 0-7546-0646-5
- McVaugh, Michael R. *The Rational Surgery of the Middle Ages*, Micrologus' Library, 15 (Firenze: SISMELE, 2006), ISBN 88-8450-199-7
- Metzler, Irina. *Disability in Medieval Europe: Physical Impairment in the High Middle Ages, c.1100 - c.1400* (London: Routledge, 2006), ISBN 9780415365031
- Mitchell, Piers D. *Medicine in the Crusades: Warfare, Wounds and the Medieval Surgeon* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004), ISBN 0-521-84455-X
- Montford, Angela. *Health, Sickness, Medicine and the Friars in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries* (Ashgate, 2004), ISBN 0-7546-3697-6
- Moore, R.I. *The Formation of a Persecuting Society: Power and Deviance in Western Europe, 950-1250*, 2nd ed. revised (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 2007), ISBN 1405129646
- Nutton, Vivian. *Ancient Medicine* (NY: Routledge, 2004), ISBN 0415086116
- Park, Katharine. *Women's Secrets: Gender, Generation, and the Origins of Human Dissection* (New York: Zone Books, 2006), ISBN 1890951676
- Rawcliffe, Carole. *Medicine & Society in Later Medieval England* (Stroud, Gloucestershire : A. Sutton, 1995), ISBN 0-7509-1497-1 (out of print; copies may be available on the Internet)
- Rawcliffe, Carole. *Leprosy in Medieval England* (Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer, 2006), ISBN 1843832739
- Shatzmiller, Joseph. *Jews, Medicine and Medieval Society* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995), ISBN 0520080599
- Taavitsainen, Irma, Päivi Pahta and Martti Mäkinen, eds. *Middle English Medical Texts* (Helsinki: University of Helsinki, 2005), CD-ROM, ISBN 90 272 3230 X

- Tavormina, M. Teresa, ed. *Sex, Aging, and Death in a Medieval Medical Compendium: Trinity College Cambridge MS R.14.52, Its Texts, Language, and Scribe* (Tempe, AZ: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 2006), ISBN 0-86698-335-X
- Touati, François-Olivier. *Archives de la lèpre: atlas des léproseries entre Loire et Marne au Moyen Age* (Paris : Editions du C.T.H.S., 1996), ISBN: 2735503445
- Voigts, Linda Ehrsam, and Patricia Deery Kurtz, eds. *Scientific and Medical Writings in Old and Middle English: An Electronic Reference*, The Society for Early English & Norse Electronic Texts (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2000), CD-ROM, ISBN 0-472-00279-1
- Wack, Mary F. *Lovesickness in the Middle Ages: The 'Viaticum' and its Commentaries* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1990), ISBN 081228142X