HISC115

Making Modern Medicine:

The history of scientific medicine from the Renaissance anatomy theatre to the human genome project and beyond

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MAKING MODERN MEDICINE

In the last few decades, medicine and the life sciences have become the locus for some of society’s most extravagant hopes and acute anxieties. Making Modern Medicine is aimed at students who would like to uncover the history behind the headlines and take the ‘longer view’ of some of these questions. We will investigate the origins of aspects of contemporary life familiar to us all, from the vitamins we swallow down with breakfast to giving birth in hospital, bringing a historical perspective to bear on topics such as the storms over American health care reform, the politics of pharmaceutical patents and the emergence of the new genetic determinism.

Course outline and Readings

The textbooks for the course are Roy Porter’s Blood and Guts, a short history of medicine and a custom course packet from the UCSD Bookstore.

1. Friday 9/26
   Introduction to the course

FIRST WEEK

2. Monday 9/29
   Disease through the ages
   Blood and Guts, Ch. 1.

3. Wednesday 10/1
   Humoral Medicine
   Blood and Guts, pp. 21-36.

4. Friday 10/3
   Renaissance Anatomy
   Blood and Guts, Ch. 3.

SECOND WEEK

5. Monday 10/6
   The pre-modern hospital
   Blood and Guts, pp. 135-142.

6. Wednesday 10/8
   The French Revolution and the Paris Hospital
   Blood and Guts, pp. 144-152.

7. Friday 10/10
   The stethoscope
THIRD WEEK

8. Monday 10/13
Institutions of medicine

9. Wednesday 10/15
Women’s medical education

10. Friday 10/17
Public Health and sanitation
No reading

FOURTH WEEK

11. Monday 10/20
The laboratory
*Blood and Guts*, Ch. 4.

12. Wednesday 10/22
The chemistry of the body
Various authors, excerpts from *Source Book of Medical History*, pp.

13. Friday 10/24
Ghastly kitchens

FIFTH WEEK

14. Monday 10/27
Microbes
Pasteur, Louis (1881) *An Address on Vaccination in Relation to Chicken Cholera and Splenic Fever*

15. Wednesday 10/29
The industrial roots of drug production
Weatherall, M. 1990. *In search of a cure: a history of the pharmaceutical industry.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 36-64; *Blood and Guts*, Ch. 6.

16. Friday 10/31
Midterm discussion
SIXTH WEEK

17. Monday 11/3
Surgery
*Blood and Guts*, Ch. 6.

18. Wednesday 11/5
Imperial Medicine

19. Friday 11/7
Medicine and WWI
No reading

SEVENTH WEEK

20. Monday 11/10
The medicalization of childbirth

21. Wednesday 11/12
The medicalization of sex

22. Friday 11/14
The medicalization of eating
Ellis, Carleton and MacLeod, Annie, (1922), *Vital Factors of Food: Vitamins and Nutrition*, pp. v-xiii, 292-299.

EIGHTH WEEK

23. Monday 11/17
Racial hygiene

24. Wednesday 11/19
WWII and the war on disease
Bush, Vannevar, (1945), ‘Science, the Endless Frontier: a report to the President’ pp. 231-239

25. Friday 11/21
Therapeutic optimism and medical nemesis
*Blood and Guts*, Ch. 8.
NINTH WEEK

26. Monday 11/24
AIDS

27. Wednesday 11/26
The human genome project
Davies, Kevin, (2002), *Cracking the genome: inside the race to unlock human DNA*, pp.11-32

28. Friday 11/28
Thanksgiving, no class

TENTH WEEK

29. Monday 12/1
Decade of the Brain

30. Wednesday 12/3
Health Care reform
Class discussion, no reading

31. Friday 12/5
Neo-liberal medicine and the new therapeutic optimism
Class discussion, no reading