

# THE INDIANA ACADEMY FOR SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, and the HUMANITIES

## History and Philosophy of Medicine I: From “The Ancient” to “The Medieval”

Fall Semester 2019

### Syllabus

Instructor: Mr. Evan Ward

BU116

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Meeting Times: MWF 11-11:50 AM

#### Office Hours

M – 1-3 PM

T - 8 AM - noon

W – 1-3 PM

F – 1-3 PM

#### Textbook: *all reading materials to be provided by instructor*

A variety of authentic resources from the Internet, literature, film, and music may also be used.

**Course Description:** This course investigates the history of medicine in the ancient and medieval periods through a multidisciplinary lens. We will spend some time on non-European medical traditions (Egypt, Mesopotamia, and China) but will concentrate on medicine as formulated in the Greco-Roman world, as it is upon this tradition that modern ‘Western’ medicine is founded – and frequently invokes (e.g. the Hippocratic oath). The goals of the course are two-fold: first, to help us understand our own practices and discourses concerning health in a radical way and, second, to gain an understanding of alternative models of health and healing, of which the Greco-Roman tradition is one part. We will meander through Egyptian papyri and discover ancient remedies and cures; we will investigate the various ‘schools’ of medicine in the ancient Mediterranean and how their differences and disagreements were based in underlying debates about the nature of knowing; we will read first-hand accounts from a variety of time periods; and we will trace the influence and history of medical ideas through ancient Europe and into medieval Europe and the Islamic world.

#### Course Objectives:

1. Gain familiarity with the art of medicine as conceptualized and formulated by a variety of ancient cultures (with particular focus on Greece and Rome).
2. Trace the development of modern scientific medicine from antiquity to the European middle ages.
2. Compare and contrast conceptions of health, healing, medicine, healer, and patient from a variety of cultural vantage points.
3. Interrogate one’s own particular cultural vantages on health and body.

#### **Hippocrates, *Aphorisms* 1.1**

ὁ βίος βραχύς,

ἡ δὲ τέχνη μακρή,

ὁ δὲ καιρὸς ὀξύς,

ἡ δὲ πείρα σφαλερὴ,

ἡ δὲ κρίσις χαλεπή.

vita brevis,

ars longa,

occasio praeceps,

experimentum periculosum,

iudicium difficile.

life is short,

but the art is long,

the opportunity fleeting,

experimentation perilous,

and judgment difficult.

## Grading Scale

90-100%	A
88-89%	B+
83-87%	B
80-82%	B-
78-79%	C+
73-77%	C
70-72%	C-
69% or Below	D

## Grade Categories and Percentages

Discussion (Canvas + In-Class) – 30%
Homework – 10%
Exams – 40%
Final Project – 15%
Article Presentation – 5%

## Your Grade Breakdown:

- 1. Homework and Reading** – each week you will be assigned a variety of readings; you are expected to read **actively**, which means taking notes as you read, annotating margins (if you are using printed copies), and jotting down questions to be discussed during class; I will check these for the first few weeks of class and then periodically afterwards; you will also have occasional reflection writing assignments (which I will collect for grading); **READING SCHEDULE MAY BE MODIFIED AND UPDATED AS COURSE PROGRESSES**
- 2. Weekly In-Class Discussion** – one day (typically Friday) will be reserved most weeks for in-class discussion of assigned texts; this is a time for you to ask questions, clarify ideas, and really engage with the week’s material; I will grade this very similarly to a Colloquium section, i.e. according to your participation (Did you make *significant/quality* contributions? Were you courteous and respectful? Have you shown evidence that you actually did the readings?)
- 3. Weekly Discussion Board** – each week prior to our discussion day you must (i) write a ~100 word summary of the assigned text *in your own words*, (ii) ask at least 1 thoughtful question about the material, and (iii) respond to a classmate’s question; this must be completed by 11:59 PM on the night before in-class discussion is scheduled
- 4. Exams** – there will be 2 longer written exams, both of which will be “take-home” and turned in via Canvas (see Schedule below for dates of these exams)
- 5. Final Project** – instead of a formal final exam, you will complete an “Ancient Medicine Science Fair” project in small groups, making poster displays and exhibits where you will explain some topic of interest to other Academy students (and instructors/professors); you will receive a rubric and guideline for this later in the semester (see Schedule below for specific dates)
- 6. Reading/Article Presentation** – in week 2 each person will pick a reading to give a 10-15 minute presentation on; presentations should include a brief outline of the reading and presentation of *only* main points (in several weeks these presentations will be followed by class discussion of the week’s texts for the rest of the period)

## Attendance Policy:

You are expected to attend all classes. You will be considered tardy if you arrive after the beginning of class. If you are ten minutes late or more, you will be considered absent but are invited to attend the class session anyway

in order not to fall behind. Sleeping during class and improper technology use may result in unexcused absences.

### Use of Technology:

We will use technology and online resources quite often, so you should bring your laptop/tablet/smartphone to class. However, this technology is only to be used during appropriate times, meaning only when you have been explicitly and verbally directed to use it by your instructor.

### Make-Up Work:

It is your responsibility to find out what announcements and assignments have been missed after an absence. **Whether excused or unexcused, you may not use an absence as a reason for being unprepared or failing to turn in work.** It is your responsibility to check in with me, your classmates, and Canvas to learn what you missed and what to prepare for next class. If your absence is excused, you must notify me in advance and provide documentation. If an emergency arises, notify me as soon as possible and supply appropriate documentation so that we can arrange a make-up assignment. This is especially important for missed discussions, which cannot, strictly speaking, be made up (due to the nature of discussion) and will require us to find a suitable replacement assignment or activity. **Make-up quizzes and tests will be given during office hours ONLY. All work missed due to an unexcused absences will result in a zero grade. No exceptions.**

### Late Work:

I do not accept late work for any reason with the exception of missing class for an **excused absence**. (See above)

### Accommodations for Disabilities and Special Needs:

If any disability requires course adaptations or accommodations, if emergency medical information needs to be shared with me, or if any special arrangements must be made in order for you to evacuate the building, please advise me at your earliest convenience.

### Academic Integrity:

Honesty, trust, and personal responsibility are fundamental attributes of the Indiana Academy community. Because language should be communicative, students are encouraged to collaborate in their studying. You may make judicious use of advice from tutors and peers. However, this does not mean copying someone else's work or letting someone copy your work. It means working with a partner to gain a better understanding of the material, read the literature together, study notes together, etc. All assigned work – whether “turned in” *in class or not* – must be your own and completed without outside assistance. If you have questions about what constitutes “your own” work, please see me. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated. *Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero for the assignment and other penalties outlined in the Student Handbook.***

### Tentative Course Schedule & Readings

Week 1 (Aug. 12-16) – introduction; historical outline; preliminary ‘definitions’ (health, disease, medicine, doctor/healer, patient, sick, healthy)

***Readings: (1) Nutton 2013 pp 1-17 “Sources and Scope” READ FOR WED AUG. 14<sup>th</sup>***

***(2) Brown 2015 pp 1-13 “Introduction” READ FOR FRIDAY AUG. 16<sup>th</sup>***

***HW Checks: check for annotations/notes on Wed & Fri; also complete the survey “Getting to Know You” on Canvas by Friday for very easy HW points***

Week 2 (Aug. 19-23) – medicine within ancient Egyptian and Mesopotamian contexts; **PRESENTATION SIGN-UP**

*Readings: (1) David 2003 “Medicine...” & “Art of Healing..” READ FOR MON AUG. 19<sup>th</sup>*

*(2) Scurlock 2014 READ FOR WED AUG. 21<sup>st</sup>*

*(3) Interactive Edwin Smith Papyrus READ AND PLAY AROUND WITH FOR FRI AUG. 23<sup>rd</sup>*

*HW Checks:* *check for annotations/notes on Mon & Wed*

Week 3 (Aug. 26-30) – Ancient Points of View on Medicine as “Science”

*Sivin 1995 “Text and Experience in Classical Chinese Medicine”*

*Zimmerman 1995 “The scholar, the wise man, and universals: three aspects of Ayurvedic medicine”*

*Hippocratic “Tradition in Medicine”*

*PRESENTATION:* Bates 2000 “Why not call modern medicine ‘Alternative?’” (Fri 8/30)

Week 4 (Sept. 4-6) – Greek Philosophy and Medicine I: Plato & Aristotle

*Ibn Sina (Avicenna) “On Medicine”*

*PRESENTATION:* Selections from Plato’s *Timaeus* and Aristotle on biology (Fri 9/6)

Week 5 (Sept. 9-13) – Temple Medicine, Aelius Aristides, Illness as Narrative

*Nutton 2013 “Religion and Medicine in Fifth and Fourth-Century Greece” pp 104-115*

*Aristides “Sacred Tales” Selections*

*Dominus “What Happened to the Girls in Le Roy” New York Times 3/7/2012*

*PRESENTATION:* Horstmanshoff 2004 “Asclepius and Temple Medicine in Aelius Aristides’ *Sacred Tales*” (Wed 9/11); Petridou 2016 “Healing Shrines” (Fri 9/13)

Week 6 (Sept. 16-20) – Oath and Ethics in Ancient Medicine, Medicine as Science and/or Art?

*Hippocratic “Oath” and “Canon”*

*Modern Medical Oaths*

*Bartz 2000 “Remembering the Hippocratics: Knowledge, Practice, and Ethos of Ancient Greek Physician-Healers”*

*PRESENTATION:* Montgomery 1995 “*Phronesis* and the Misdescription of Medicine: Against *The Medical School Commencement Speech*” (Wed 9/18)

Week 7 (Sept. 23-27) – Geography, Diet, and Bodies in Hippocratic Medicine

*Hippocratic “Airs, Waters, Places” and “Epidemics” Selections*

*Hippocratic “Regimen in Acute Diseases”*

*Nutton 2013 “Hippocrates, the Hippocratic Corpus and the Defining of Ancient Medicine” pp 53-71*

*PRESENTATION:* Donahue 2016 “Nutrition” (Wed 9/25)

Week 8 (Sept. 30-Oct. 4) – Concepts of the Body and Humoral Theory in Hippocratic Medicine

*Hippocratic “The Nature of Man”*

*Hippocratic “A Regimen for Health”*

*Nutton 2013 “Hippocratic Theories” pp 72-86*

**PRESENTATION:** Zucker 2016 “Psychology and Physiognomics” (Wed 10/2); Haselswerdt 2019 “Semiotics of the Soul in Ancient Medical Dream Interpretation” (Fri 10/4)

Week 9 (Oct. 9-11) – Gender and Sexuality in Hippocratic Medicine; **EXAM 1 ONLINE FRIDAY, DUE BY MON 10/14 @ 11:59 PM**

*Hippocratic “The Seed and The Nature of the Child”*

Week 10 (Oct. 14-18) – “Rational” vs “Religious”; Plague & Contagion; Final Project Information, Group Selection, and Rubric

*Hippocratic “The Sacred Disease”*

*Thucydides’ on the Athenian Plague and Procopius on the Justinian Plague*

**PRESENTATION:** Kallet 2013 “Thucydides, Apollo, the Plague, and the War” (Fri 10/18)

Week 11 (Oct. 21-25) – Hellenistic Egypt: Herophilus & Erasistratus; Meet with Final Project Group

*Nutton 2013 “Alexandria, Anatomy and Experimentation” pp 130-141*

*Selections from Herophilus and Erasistratus*

**PRESENTATION:** Nutton 2013 “Hellenistic Medicine” (Fri 10/25)

Week 12 (Oct. 28-Nov. 1) – Roman Medicine, Celsus, and Intro to Galen; Submit Final Project Topic and Book

*Selections from Celsus “De Medicina”*

*Nutton 2013 “The Life and Career of Galen”*

**PRESENTATION:** Le Blay 2016 “Surgery” (Fri 11/1)

Week 13 (Nov. 4-8) – Galen I: Galen’s Approach to Medicine

*Selections from Galen “On the Natural Faculties”*

*Galen “The Best Doctor is also a Philosopher”*

*Connor 2017 “Galen’s Analogy: Animal Experimentation and Anatomy in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century CE”*

**PRESENTATION:** Nutton 2013 “Rome and the Transplantation of Greek Medicine” (Mon 11/4)

Week 14 (Nov. 11-15) – Galen II: Galen as Medical Authority; Final Project Check #1

*Nutton 2013 “Galenic Medicine”*

*Selections from Galen (“Exercise with a Small Ball,” “Pulse for Beginners,” and probably more)*

**PRESENTATION:** Nutton 2013 “The Consequences of Empire: Pharmacology, Surgery, and the Roman Army” (Fri 11/15)

Week 15 (Nov. 18-22) – Greek Philosophy and Medicine II: Medicine and Epistemology

*Galen “On the Sects for Beginners”*

*Sextus Empiricus Selections*

**PRESENTATION:** Galen “An Outline of Empiricism” (Wed 11/20); Hankinson 1995 “The Growth of Medical Empiricism” (Fri 11/22)

Week 16 (Dec. 2-6) – Gynecology in Ancient Medicine; Final Project Check #2

*Caldwell 2016 "Gynecology"*  
*Selections from Soranus' "Gynecology"*

**PRESENTATION:** Cilliers 2016 "Vindicianus' *Gynaecia* and Theories on Generation and Embryology from the Babylonians Up To Graeco-Roman Times" (Fri 12/6)

Week 17 (Dec. 9-13) – Alternative Traditions, Return to Definitions and Terminology; **EXAM 2 ONLINE FRIDAY, DUE BY WED 12/18 @ 11:59 PM**

*Borgeson 2005 "Evidence-Based Alternative Medicine?"*  
*Gamsa 2018 "A Chinese Way of Thinking"*

**PRESENTATION:** Nutton 2013 "Medicine in the Later Roman Empire" (Wed 12/11); Hildegard of Bingen Selections (Fri 12/13)

Week 18 (Dec. 16-20) – Ancient Medicine Science Fair (during scheduled Final Exam period)

### **Diversity and Inclusion Policy**

Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our Beneficence Pledge and through university resources found at <http://cms.bsu.edu/campuslife/multiculturalcenter>.

### **Potential Project Topics**

- A closer look at the medical traditions of another ancient culture (not Greek/Roman)
- A closer look at Medieval adaptations of Galenism (Islamic culture, Latinate Europe)
- Surgery (and trepanation!)
- Dreams
- Medical instruments & techniques
- Embryology
- More on gynecology and women's bodies (extensive literature here)
- More on medicine as a way of knowing (epistemological debates, intersections with philosophy)