

HISTORY 3840F
Microscopes and Amputation Saws: A History of Medicine in 10 Objects
Fall/Winter 2022-23
Mondays 12:30-2:20 p.m. in TBA
Course delivery: in-person

Instructor: Prof Shelley McKellar

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This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.

Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic

The intent is for this course to be delivered in-person but should the COVID-19 landscape shift, the course will be delivered on-line synchronously (ie., on Zoom at the times indicated in the timetable). The grading scheme will not change. The course will return to an in-person mode of delivery when the University and local health authorities deem it safe to do so.

Course Description:

Using 10 objects as entry points into the history of medicine, this course explores the changes and continuities in Western medical knowledge and practice since the 18th century. New and old medical treatments, different medical theories, professional authority, socio-cultural expectations, and issues of power, class, race, gender will be explored.

Prerequisite(s):

None

Course Syllabus:

Content & Expectations

This is a course in the history of modern Western medicine that focuses on medical KNOWLEDGE and PRACTICE. This course aims to highlight the changes and continuities in Western medicine, identifying key individuals, ideas, treatments, structures, and contexts that reinforced or shifted the practice of medicine, predominantly from the 18th century to present day. In this course, we will ask (and trace): How did medical “practice” reinforce or disrupt medical “knowledge” at various periods of time, and who were the actors (people, technology, structures) involved in this? Who gets to “practice” medicine, in what way, and why?

Each week's topic will start with a medical object, which will serve as an entry point to explore a broader theme or aspect in the history of medicine. In this course, we will spotlight 10 medical objects and tackle 10 distinct areas of medical history, covering such topics as the germ theory revolution, the history of surgery, shifting childbirth practices, the rise of the hospital, and more. Our weekly lectures and discussion will delve into various topics by providing necessary content and historical material thereon, considering different historical interpretations and contrasting points of view, and examining numerous methods and theories used by historians to gather and evaluate historical evidence. Issues of class, race, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality will be discussed alongside themes of individual agency, professional authority, consumerism, and more. Students will engage with a variety of primary sources throughout this course and be exposed to material culture through medical objects.

This is a 2-hour lecture course, with small group break-out discussions. There will be a hands-on component in the form of a Medical Artifact Collection workshop for which students will work in small groups. This workshop session is scheduled during class time (and thus no lecture is scheduled for that meeting). Please note the workshop date and meeting location (because it differs from the lecture room).

Who can take this course?

This course is open to all students. History students, students planning to major in science or medicine, or other students in the social sciences, health sciences, or arts and humanities are welcome. Students do not need a background in science, medicine, or history to take this course.

Course-Level Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students shall be able:

- To differentiate the changes and continuities (historical shifts and patterns) in medical knowledge and practice over time, and how individual agency, professional authority, socio-cultural expectations, and issues of power, class, race, and gender may influence this
- To explain key medical developments, such as the establishment of the germ theory, the rise of the hospital, and the introduction of new medical technologies and treatments
- To recognize that medical knowledge and practice are shaped by time and place
- To analyze critically various source materials – primary and secondary sources – from which to understand the history of medicine
- To formulate and communicate an effective argument, which demonstrates good research, writing and analytical skills

Course Materials:

- Jacalyn Duffin, *History of Medicine: A Scandalously Short Introduction*, 3rd edition (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2021). Available at [Western Libraries](#); Available for purchase in paper and eBook at <https://utorontopress.com/9781487509170/history-of-medicine/>
- Documents for discussion will be made available online via the OWL course site

Methods of Evaluation:

Quiz #1 (online; open book)	15 %	Due date: Check schedule
Quiz #2 (online; open book)	15 %	Due date: Check schedule
Workshop Assignment: Medical Object Reflection	15 %	Due date: Oct 24 (short essay or oral presentation submission)
Research Essay Assignment (max. 3000 words)	40 %	Due date: Nov 28
Participation (break-out groups; workshop; class interaction)	15 %	Due date: every class

Assignments --

A handout for each of the two assignments will be posted on the OWL course site. Students will have a choice of topics for both assignments, thus allowing students to pursue a topic in the history of medicine that interests them.

Submitting Your Course Work --

You will complete your online quizzes and submit course assignments via the OWL course site. An **electronic copy** of all assignments is required for grading.

Late Penalties --

Penalty for late assignments is 2% each day (including Saturday and Sunday) after the due date. Course work cannot be submitted after the last day of lecture classes in the term. To be fair to all students in this class, anyone seeking an assignment extension and/or a late penalty exemption must request this through Academic Counselling.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Week	Date	Topic	Duffin book chapters
1	12 Sept	Introduction Why Objects as an Entry Point into the History of Medicine?	1
2	19 Sept	Artificial Leg (Object #1) History of the Body	2, 3
3	26 Sept	Microscope (Object #2) History of Pathology & Disease Theories	4

4	3 Oct	<p>Penicillin (Object #3)</p> <p>History of Pharmacology</p> <p>Online Quiz #1 (Students responsible for material covered during weeks 1 to 4 inclusively; quiz to be completed before next class meeting)</p>	5
5	10 Oct	<p>Thanksgiving – NO CLASS MEETING</p>	
6	17 Oct	<p>Scarificator (Object #4)</p> <p>WORKSHOP: Medical Artifact Collection</p> <p>*** workshop session held in LwH 2262 – the Teaching Classroom connected to the Collection Storage Space</p>	None
7	24 Oct	<p>Thermometer (Object #5)</p> <p>History of Measurement & Diagnosis</p> <p>Medical Object Reflection Assignment (due by end of day)</p>	9
8	31 Oct	<p>Fall Reading Week – NO CLASS MEETING</p>	
9	7 Nov	<p>X-ray (Object #6)</p> <p>History of Hospitals</p>	9
10	14 Nov	<p>Amputation Saw (Object #7)</p> <p>History of Surgery</p>	10
11	21 Nov	<p>Forceps (Object #8)</p> <p>History of Obstetrics & Childbirth</p> <p>Online Quiz #2 (Students responsible for material covered during weeks 7 to 11 inclusively; quiz to be completed before next class meeting)</p>	11
12	28 Nov	<p>The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual or DSM (Object #9)</p> <p>History of Psychiatry and Mental Illness</p> <p>Research Essay Assignment (due by end of day)</p>	12
13	5 Dec	<p>Acupuncture Needle (Object #10)</p> <p>History of Complementary Medicine</p>	None

Additional Statements:

Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document,

<https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>,

for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness

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