

HSOC 0490: Comparative Medicine

Spring 2023

The range of topics will be broadly similar in fall. Papers will remain short and based on course readings. Brief primary sources/images may be assigned to be read for class TR. There may be brief in-class quizzes on those primary sources; one short quiz per week, lowest three dropped. I am still thinking about this!

TR 10:15-11:15

Cohen 402

Dr. Ian Petrie

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Office: Van Pelt 147 (Center for Teaching & Learning; [directions and map](#))

Office Hours: WF 4:30-6pm or by appointment: <https://calendly.com/petrie/meeting-with-petrie>

I'm happy to meet in person or via Zoom. If my availability on Calendly doesn't work for you, email me and we'll figure out a time.

Evenings are an option and, in a pinch, weekends too.

Mask Policy

Masks are required in lecture. I will have some on hand each day but please try to remember to bring one. Your TAs will let you know their policy for recitations.

Week 1: Introductions / The Columbian Exchange

R 1/12

Reading for recitation:

<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/story/2020-03-26/coronavirus-florentine-codex-mexican-indigenous-life-smallpox-quarantine>

Week 2: Healing in the Atlantic World, Part I

T 1/17

R 1/19

Reading for recitation:

Joan Bristol, "Ana de Vega: Seventeenth-Century Afro-Mexican Healer," in Kenneth J. Andrien, ed., *The Human Tradition in Colonial Latin America*, 2nd ed. (2013), pp. 174-87.

Martha Few, "The Curing World of Maria Garcia, an Indigenous Healer in Eighteenth-Century Guatemala," in Diego Armus & Pablo F. Gómez, eds., *The Gray Zones of Medicine: Healers & History in Latin America* (2021), pp. 26-39, 216-18.

Pablo F. Gómez, "The Circulation of Bodily Knowledge in the Seventeenth-Century Black Spanish Caribbean," *Social History of Medicine* 26, 3 (2013): 383-402.

Week 3: Healing in the Atlantic World, Part II

T 1/24 [last day to add]

R 1/26

Reading for recitation:

Rana Hogarth, "Of Black Skin and Biopower: Lessons from the Eighteenth Century," *American Quarterly* 71, 3 (2019): 837-47.

Londa Schiebinger, *Secret Cures of Slaves: People, Plants, and Medicine in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World* (Palo Alto, 2017), pp. 45-65.

Vincent Brown, "Spiritual Terror and Sacred Authority in Jamaican Slave Society," *Slavery & Abolition* 24, 1 (2003): 24-53.

Diana Paton, *The Cultural Politics of Obeah: Religion, Colonialism and Modernity in the Caribbean World* (Cambridge, 2015), pp. 98-118.

Paper 1A due by recitation

Week 4: Early Modern Chinese Medicine(s)

T 1/31

R 2/2

Reading for recitation:

Joanna Grant, "Medical Practice in the Ming Dynasty—A Practitioner's View: Evidence from Wang Ji's *Shishan Yi'an*" *Chinese Science*, 15 (1998): 37–77.

He Bian, "Documenting Medications: Patients' Demand, Physicians' Virtuosity, and Genre-Mixing of Prescription-Cases (*Fang'an*) in Seventeenth-Century China," *Early Science and Medicine* 22, 1 (2017): 103–23.

Charlotte Furth, *A Flourishing Yin: Gender in China's Medical History, 960-1665* (Berkeley, 1999), pp. 266-300.

Paper 1B due by recitation

Week 5: Early Modern Medicine(s) in South Asia

T 2/7

R 2/9

Reading for recitation:

Seema Alavi, "Medical Culture in Transition: Mughal Gentleman Physician and the Native Doctor in Early Colonial India." *Modern Asian Studies* 42, 5 (2008): 853–97.

Dominik Wujastyk, "Change and Creativity in Early Modern Indian Medical Thought," *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 33, 1 (2005): 95–118.

P.K. Yasser Arafath, "Saints, Serpents, and Terrifying Goddesses: Fertility Culture on the Malabar Coast (c. 1500-1800)," in Anna Winterbottom and Facil Tesfaye, eds., *Histories of Medicine and Healing in the Indian Ocean World, Vol. One: The Medieval and Early Modern Period* (New York, 2016), pp. 99-124.

Paper 1C due by recitation

Week 6: African Healing Traditions

T 2/14

R 2/16

Reading for recitation:

Steven Feierman, "Healing as Social Criticism in the Time of Colonial Conquest," *African Studies*, 54 (1995): 72-88.

Karen E. Flint, *Healing Traditions: African Medicine, Cultural Exchange, and Competition in South Africa, 1820-1948* (Athens, 2008), pp. 37-89.

Week 7: Diaspora and Healing After Abolition

Last day to drop: M 2/20

T 2/21

R 2/23

Reading for recitation:

Diana Paton, *The Cultural Politics of Obeah: Religion, Colonialism and Modernity in the Caribbean World* (Cambridge, 2015), pp. 158-240.

Lara Putnam, "Rites of Power and Rumors of Race: The Circulation of Supernatural Knowledge in the Greater Caribbean, 1890-1940," in Diana Paton and Maarit Forde, eds., *Obeah and Other Powers: The Politics of Caribbean Religion and Healing* (Durham, 2012), pp. 243-67.

Week 8: Midterm

T 2/28 Midterm in class

R 3/2 – no class

No recitations this week

**** Spring Break week of 3/6 – Enjoy! ****

Week 9: Colonial Medicine & Epidemics

T 3/14

R 3/16

Reading for recitation:

Alexandre I. R White, "Global Risks, Divergent Pandemics: Contrasting Responses to Bubonic Plague and Smallpox in 1901 Cape Town." *Social Science History* 42, 1 (2018): 135–58.

David Arnold, "Touching the Body: Perspectives on the Indian Plague," repr. in Ranajit Guha & Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, eds., *Selected Subaltern Studies* (New York, 1988), pp. 391-426.

Carol Benedict, "Bubonic Plague in Nineteenth-Century China," *Modern China* 14, 2 (1988): 127-45 [note that this is only part of the article]

Week 10: Global Chinese Medicine

T 3/21

R 3/23

Reading for recitation:

Tamara Venit Shelton, "Nature's Own Remedies: Chinese Medicine in Progressive Era America." *Pacific Historical Review* 88, 3 (2019): 378–409.

Patricia Palma and José Ragas, "The Miraculous Doctor Pun: Chinese Healers, and Their Patients in Lima, 1868-1930," in Diego Armus & Pablo F. Gómez, eds., *The Gray Zones of Medicine: Healers & History in Latin America* (2021), pp. 138-54, 236-9.

Mei Zhan, "A Concise History of Worlding Chinese Medicine," in Frank Pieke & Koichi Iwabuchi, eds., *Global East Asia: Into the Twenty-First Century* (Berkeley, 2021), pp. 150–58.

Elizabeth Hsu, "'The Medicine from China Has Rapid Effects': Chinese Medicine Patients in Tanzania." *Anthropology & Medicine* 9, 3 (2002): 291–313.

Paper 2A due by recitation

Week 11: Modernity, Tradition & Technologies in South Asia

Last day to withdraw: 3/27

T 3/28

R 3/30

Reading for recitation:

Charu Gupta, "Procreation and Pleasure: Writings of a Woman Ayurvedic Practitioner in Colonial North India." *Studies in History* 21, 1 (2005): 17–44.

Projit Bihari Mukharji, "Akarnan: The Stethoscope and Making of Modern Ayurveda, Bengal, c. 1894–1952," *Technology and Culture* 60 (2019): 953-78.

Joyce Burkhalter Flueckiger, "The Agency of the Material *Taviz* (Amulet) in a South Indian Healing Room" in Anna Bigelow, ed., *Islam Through Objects* (London, 2021), pp. 127-41.

Guy Attewell, "Alignments? X-Ray Diversions, Haptics, Credibility—With a 'Bone-Setting' Clinic in Hyderabad City." *Medical Anthropology* 35, 1 (2016): 5–16.

Paper 2B due by recitation

Week 12: Making "Traditional Chinese Medicine"

T 4/4

R 4/6

Reading for recitation:

Bridie Andrews, *The Making of Modern Chinese Medicine, 1850-1960* (Vancouver, 2014), pp. 185-205.

Volker Scheid, "The People's Republic of China," in T.J. Hinrichs & Linda Barnes, eds., *Chinese Medicine & Healing: An Illustrated History* (Cambridge, MA, 2013), pp. 239-83.

Week 13: Transformation & Pluralism in African Healing, Part I

T 4/11

R 4/13

Reading for recitation:

Karen Flint, "Competition, Race and Professionalization: African Healers and White Medical Practitioners in Natal, South Africa in the Early Twentieth Century" *Social History of Medicine* 14,2 (2001): 199-221.

Karen Flint, "Indian–African Encounters: Polyculturalism and African Therapeutics in Natal, South Africa, 1886–1950s," *Journal of Southern African Studies* 32, 2 (2006): 367–85.

Abena Dove Osseo-Asare, "Writing Medical Authority: The Rise of Literate Healers in Ghana, 1930–70," *The Journal of African History* 57, 1 (2016): 69–91.

Paper 2C due by recitation

Week 14: Transformation & Pluralism in African Healing, Part II

T 4/18

R 4/20

Reading for recitation:

Abena Dove Osseo-Asare, *Bitter Roots: The Search for Healing Plants in Africa* (Chicago, 2014), pp. 131-63.

Julie Livingston, "Pregnant Children and Half-Dead Adults: Modern Living and the Quickening Life Cycle in Botswana," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 77, 1 (2003): 133–62.

Stacey A. Langwick, "Articulate(d) Bodies: Traditional Medicine in a Tanzanian Hospital." *American Ethnologist* 35, 3 (2008): 428–39.

Week 15: Concluding Thoughts

T 4/25

Assessments

Paper 1: 10%

Midterm: 20% (in class, 2/28)

Contributions (weeks 2-8): 10%

Paper 2: 15%

Contributions (weeks 9-15): 10%

Take-home Final: 35% (due 5/9 at 11:59pm)

The papers are short (3pgs. double-spaced) and based on course materials, plus one prompt each time which gives you the option of applying the readings to a short primary source. You have three opportunities to do each one, to give you some control of timing and topic. Papers are due by your recitation.

Paper 1A: due 1/27

Paper 1B: due 2/3

Paper 1C: due 2/10

Paper 2A: due 3/24

Paper 2B: due 3/31

Paper 2C: due 4/14

Late Policy

You get five "life happens" days which you can apply as you like, no questions asked, to paper submissions and/or the take-home final.

For the in-class midterm, in the event of illness or other major problem, a make-up will be arranged.

Academic Integrity

Academic honesty is fundamental to the educational mission of the University. It is important that you are familiar with, and adhere to, the [Code of Academic Integrity](#). Citation expectations for the papers and take-home final will be communicated in writing and discussed in class.

The sections which are most relevant to this class are:

Cheating: using or attempting to use unauthorized assistance, material, or study aids in examinations or other academic work or preventing, or attempting to prevent, another from using authorized assistance, material, or study aids. *Example:* using a cheat sheet in a quiz or exam, altering a graded exam and resubmitting it for a better grade, etc.

Plagiarism: using the ideas, data, or language of another without specific or proper acknowledgment. *Example:* copying another person's paper, article, or computer work and submitting it for an assignment, cloning someone else's ideas without attribution, failing to use quotation marks where appropriate, etc.

Fabrication: submitting contrived or altered information in any academic exercise. *Example:* making up data for an experiment, fudging data, citing nonexistent articles, contriving sources, etc.

Multiple submission: submitting, without prior permission, any work submitted to fulfill another academic requirement.

Facilitating academic dishonesty: knowingly helping or attempting to help another violate any provision of the Code. *Example:* working together on a take-home exam, etc.