

In fall 2024, the course will be substantially the same as you see here, in terms of readings & assessments. I think I will reorganize the second half of the course to proceed by topics rather than regions. Questions? Email me!

HSOC 0490: Comparative Medicine

Fall 2023

Dr. Ian Petrie

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

Office Hours: T 3-5pm 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.

Week 1: Introductions / The Columbian Exchange

T 8/29

R 8/31

Reading for recitation:

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

Week 2: The Atlantic World, Part I

T 9/5

R 9/7

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. 1-14.](#)

[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: The Atlantic World, Part II

T 9/12

R 9/14

Reading for recitation:

Elise A. Mitchell, ["How Far Back Were Africans Inoculating Against Smallpox? Really Far Back," Slate](#) (September 4, 2023)

[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.](#)

[Sasha Turner, *Contested Bodies: Pregnancy, Childrearing, and Slavery in Jamaica* \(Philadelphia, 2017\), pp. 112-50.](#)

Secondary Source Paper 1A due by 11:59pm on Thursday 9/14

Primary Source Paper 1A due by 11:59pm on Sunday 9/17

Week 4: Early Modern Chinese Medicine(s)

T 9/19

R 9/21

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.](#)

Secondary Source Paper 1B due by 11:59pm on Sunday 9/24

Primary Source Paper 1B due by 11:59pm on Sunday 9/24

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

T 9/26

R 9/28

Reading for recitation:

[Seema Alavi, *Islam and Healing: Loss and Recovery of an Indo-Muslim Medical Tradition, 1600-1900* \(London, 2008\), pp. 18-53.](#)

[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.](#)

Secondary Source Paper 1C due by 11:59pm on Thursday 9/28

Primary Source Paper 1C due by 11:59pm on Sunday 10/1

Week 6: (Some) African Healing Traditions

T 10/3

R 10/5

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: Midterm

[M 10/9: last day to drop]

T 10/10: Midterm in class

R 10/12: **No class - FALL BREAK**

Week 8: Diaspora and Healing After Abolition

T 10/17

R 10/19

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 9: Colonial Medicine & Epidemics

T 10/24

R 10/26

Reading for recitation:

[Maira M.W. Chan-Yeung, "The 'Great Dying': Bubonic Plague," in *A Medical History of Hong Kong, 1842-1941* \(Hong Kong, 2018\), pp. 133-56.](#)

[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.](#)

[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.](#)

Secondary Source Paper 2A due by 11:59pm on Thursday 10/26

Primary Source Paper 2A due by 11:59pm on Sunday 10/29

Week 10: Global Chinese Medicine

T 10/31

R 11/2

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.](#)

Stewart Culin, "[The Practice of Medicine by the Chinese in America](#)" Download "The Practice of Medicine by the Chinese in America"(1887) - Culin directed the Penn Museum and taught at Penn in the 1890s

Secondary Source Paper 2B due by 11:59pm on Thursday 11/2

Primary Source Paper 2B due by 11:59pm on Sunday 11/5

Week 11: Modernity & Tradition in Indian Healing / Women Healers in India

T 11/7

R 11/9

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.](#)

[Joyce Burkhalter Flueckiger, "'There Are Only Two Castes: Men and Women': Negotiating Gender as a Female Healer in South Asian Islam," *Oral Tradition* 12, 1 \(1997\): 76-102.](#)

Secondary Source Paper 2C due by 11:59pm on Thursday 11/9

Primary Source Paper 2C due by 11:59pm on Sunday 11/12

Week 12: Making "Traditional Chinese Medicine"

T 11/14

R 11/16

Reading for recitation:

[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.](#)

Mei Zhan, *Other-Worldly: Making Chinese Medicine Through Transnational Frames* (Durham, NC, 2009), [ch. 2](#) and [ch. 4](#)

Week 13: Global Homeopathy

T 11/21

While Wednesday is nominally "Friday" we are not having recitations this week!

R 11/23 - No class - Thanksgiving Break

Week 14: Transformation & Pluralism in Healing in Africa, Part I

T 11/28

R 11/30

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," *Journal of African History* 57, 1 \(2016\): 69-91.](#)

Week 15: Transformation & Pluralism in Healing in Africa, Part II / Concluding Thoughts

T 12/5

R 12/7

Reading for recitation:

[Ogechukwu E. Williams, "Medical Legitimacy: Childbirth, Pluralism, and Professionalization in Nigeria's Faith-Based Aladura Birthing Homes." *The Journal of African History* 64, 1 \(March 2023\): 96-111.](#)

[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.](#)

Final Exam: Friday 12/15, 12-2pm in Annenberg School 110

Assessments

Secondary Source Paper 1 (2 pgs): 7.5% - pick one of 1A, 1B, 1C

Primary Source Paper 1 (2 pgs): 7.5% - pick one of 1A, 1B, 1C

Midterm: 15% (in class, 10/10)

Recitation Contributions (weeks 1-8): 10%

Lecture Participation (weeks 1-8): 2.5%

Secondary Source Paper 2 (2 pgs): 7.5% - pick one of 2A, 2B, 2C

Primary Source Paper 2 (2pgs): 7.5% - pick one of 2A, 2B, 2C

Recitation Contributions (weeks 9-15): 10%

Lecture Participation (weeks 9-15): 2.5%

Final: 30% (12/15/23 12-2pm)

Recitation Attendance

In this class you are required to attend recitation. I am confident that you will find this beneficial and indeed enjoyable, as you engage with your TA and your peers in discussing the readings. You may have two excused absences. Please let your TA know. To make up for an absence, you may submit a 500 word (1 page single-spaced) reflection on that week's readings, due by the next recitation.

Late Policy

You get three "life happens" days which you can apply as you like, no questions asked, to paper submissions.

For the in-class midterm and the final, in the event of illness or other major problem, a make-up will be arranged. The official makeup slot for the final will be during the first week of the spring semester (classes begin January 18, 2024).

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.

Lastly, it is my expectation that you will not use **ChatGPT** or other generative AI in this class. Use of it for anything you submit for credit will be considered an academic integrity violation.