

LAH 3931: History of Medicine in Latin America

Rinker Hall 106
Tuesday 1:55-2:45
Thursday 1:55-2:45, 3:00-3:50

David Sowell
Grinter Hall 346

This course offers an overview of the history of medicine in Latin America from contact through the twenty-first century. Covering over 500 years in one course necessitates numerous choices, especially with a topic so encompassing as medicine. Medical systems--“Hispanic” and “biomedical”--constitutes one of the organizing themes of the course. The anthropologist Irwin Press sees a medical system as “a patterned, interrelated body of values and deliberate practices, governed by a single paradigm of the meaning, identification, prevention, and treatment of sickness.” Diseases are central to the history of medicine, and serve as a second theme. The complementary relationships between state and medical power constitute the third theme of the course, especially with the emergence of what Michael Foucault termed “biopower” in the twentieth century to analyze the “numerous and diverse techniques for achieving the subjugation of bodies and the control of populations” that bring “life and its mechanisms into the realms of explicit calculations and made knowledge-power an agent for the transformation of human life.”

Course objectives: Upon completion of the course, the successful student will:

- be able to trace the history of medicine in Latin America;
- accurately use general concepts in the analysis of the history of medicine;
- be able to articulate the ideologies, practices, and power of distinct medical systems, notably Hispanic and biomedicine;
- illustrate the changing pattern of diseases and social responses in the region;
- demonstrate the ability to analyze how social differences such as gender, class, ethnicity and race are revealed in the history of medicine; and
- be able to discuss and illustrate dimensions of biopower within contemporary Latin America.

Course Format and Evaluation: The course will mix lectures and discussion, both of which require active student engagement. Students will create a reading portfolio, take an exam, and prepare a cumulative essay on a period, topic, or region covered by the suggested readings of the syllabus. Grade points are assigned according to University policies.

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Assignment weights.	Portfolio	45%
	Weekly reading reviews—15%	
	Reflective essays—10% each	
	Examination	25%
	Cumulative Essay	30%

The **Reading Portfolio** will consist of **weekly reading reviews** and three **reflective essays**. It will be due on April 21, the last day of class. Each Monday, please email me a one-page review of the required readings by 1 pm. The weekly review should address the “main point” of the readings for the previous week, the data and analysis that the author(s) uses to support the main points, a short statement of the significance of the essay, and what questions remain in your mind after the previous week’s classes. I will evaluate these on a +, √, and – basis. These reflections will enable you to write a three-page **reflective essay** every fifth week. Please use these reviews to discuss your progress toward achieving the course objectives. Your reflective essays should discuss both readings and classroom discussions.

Cumulative Essay You will prepare a cumulative essay on one of the themes of the class (Conquest, Colonial Medicine, The Great Transformation, and Biomedicine). The cumulative essay will be five to seven pages in length and will be due the last day of class. Please submit the topic of the essay to me at the beginning of week four. The bibliography on the syllabus should provide a foundation for the essay, but additional research is expected. Please use 12 pt. font, double-spaced, standard margins, and Chicago style end notes.

Attendance “Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.”

Student Assessment “Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.”

Office Hours I will be available after class on Tuesdays until 4 pm. I am also be available Thursday after class by appointment.

Academic Integrity In writing papers, be certain to give proper credit whenever you use words, phrases, ideas, arguments, and conclusions drawn from someone else's work. Failure to give credit by quoting and/or citation is PLAGIARISM and is unacceptable. Any student caught plagiarizing will automatically receive a zero for the assignment and will face official

prosecution at the instructor's discretion. To be sure that you are fully aware of the relevant policies please review the Student Honesty Guidelines at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed.

Accommodation Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Readings Students are expected to complete the required (REQ) readings prior to class. Please purchase this book; articles and book chapters are through the bookstore.

Marcos Cueto and Steven Palmer, *Medicine and Public Health in Latin America: A History* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014).

Course schedule: We will adhere closely to this schedule. Tuesdays will tend to be more lecture and review, and Thursdays more directed discussion.

January 6 The Languages of the Class: Terms and Concepts

January 8 REQ *Medicine and Public Health*, 1-35

January 13 REQ Suzanne Austin Alchon, "Old World Epidemiology to 1500," in *A Pest in the Land: New World Epidemics in a Global Perspective* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2003), 6-31.

Conquest: European diseases ravaged indigenous bodies, leading to a ninety percent population decline in the first century of Iberian rule in the Americas. This section explores the Columbian exchange and those remnants of indigenous healing practices that persisted into the colonial era.

January 15 REQ Daniel Bleichman, "Books, Bodies, and Fields: Sixteenth-Century," *Colonial Botany: Science, Commerce, and Politics in the Early Modern World*, Londa L. Schiebinger and Claudia Swan, eds. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005), 83-99; REQ Alfred W. Crosby Jr., *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1972), 35-63.

Suzanne Austin Alchon, *A Pest in the Land: New World epidemics in a global perspective* (Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2003).

Joseph W. Bastien, "Differences between Kallawaya-Andean and Greek European Humoral Theory," *Social Science and Medicine* 28:1 (January 1989), 45-51.

Gert H. Brieger, "Bodies and Borders: A New Cultural History," *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine*, 47:3 (Summer 2004), 402-21.

George M. Foster, "On the Origin of Humoral Medicine in Latin America," *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 1:4 (December 1987), 355-93.

Bernard R. Ortiz de Montellano, *Aztec Medicine, Health, and Nutrition* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1990).

Colonial Medicine Spain and Portugal shared medical heritages that combined humoralism and Catholicism, though distinct areas of conquest implied quite distinct colonial medical systems. Whereas large numbers of indigene occupied the core of the Spanish empire, enslaved Africans in Brazil came to constitute the social and economic foundation for the empire. Spanish institutions—the Church, the *protomedicato*, and the university—supported an "official" approach to healing that came to dominate the colonies, though most people utilized healing practices that combined indigenous, hybrid, and Hispanic tendencies.

January 20 REQ Linda A. Newson, "Medical Practice in Early Colonial Spanish America: A Prospectus," *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, 25:2 (2006), 367-91.

Elsa Malvido, "Illness, Epidemics, and Displaced Classes in Sixteenth-Century New Spain," in *Searching for the Secrets of Nature: The Life and Works of Dr. Francisco Hernández*, ed. by Simon Varey, Rafael Chabrán, and Dora B. Weiner (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2000), 82-89.

Gunter B. Risse, "Shelter and Care for Natives and Colonists: Hospitals in Sixteenth-Century New Spain," in *Searching for the Secrets of Nature: The Life and Works of Dr. Francisco Hernández*, ed. by Simon Varey, Rafael Chabrán, and Dora B. Weiner (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2000), 65-81.

January 22 REQ Juan A. Villamarín and Judith E. Villamarín, "Epidemic Disease in the Sabana de Bogotá, 1536-1810," in David Noble Cook and W. George Lovell, eds., *Secret Judgments of God: Old World Disease in Colonial Spanish America* (Norman: Oklahoma University Press, 1992), 113-41.

Cumulative Essay Topic Due

Sherry Fields, *Pestilence and Head Colds: Encountering Illness in Colonial Mexico* (New York: New York University Press, 2008).

Luz María Hernández and George M. Foster, “Curers and Their Cures in Colonial New Spain and Guatemala: The Spanish Component,” in *Mesoamerican Healers*, ed. by Brad R. Huber and Alan R. Sandstrom (Austin: Texas University Press, 2001), 19-46.

John Tate Lanning, *The Royal Protomedicato: The Regulation of the Medical Professions in the Spanish Empire*, ed. by John Jay TePaske (Durham: Duke University Press, 1985).

Luz María Hernández Sáenz, *Learning to Heal: The Medical Profession in Colonial Mexico, 1767-1831* (New York: Peter Lang, 1997).

Noemí Quezada, “The Inquisition’s Repression of *Curanderos*.” In *Cultural Encounters: The Impact of the Inquisition in Spain and the New World*, ed. by Mary Elizabeth Perry and Anne J. Cruz (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991), 39-57.

January 27 REQ Carlos Viesca Treviño, “*Curanderismo* in Mexico and Guatemala: Its Historical Evolution from the Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Century,” in *Mesoamerican Healers*, ed. by Brad R. Huber and Alan R. Sandstrom (Austin: Texas University Press, 2001), 37-65

January 29 REQ Stephen Webre, “The Wet Nurses of Jocotenango: Gender, Science, and Politics in Late-Colonial Guatemala,” *Colonial Latin American Historical Review* 10:2 (Spring 2001), 172-97.

The Great Transformation: Enlightenment thought re-envisioned the human body to adhere to “laws of nature” and eventually led to new medical practices. This section explores medical ideologies and practices during the Great Transformation that began during the Bourbon and Pombaline reforms of the late-eighteenth century and persisted in some areas until the twentieth century. Scientific rationalism gradually eclipsed scholasticism in the university system, gave rise to a distinct type of physician who was deeply influenced by Darwinism, notions of geographic determinism, and concepts of Tropical Medicine. Significantly, these new medical beliefs constituted fundamental dimensions of the modernization and state-formation projects.

February 3 REQ *Medicine and Public Health*, 35-57

February 5 REQ Catherine Mark and José G. Rigau-Pérez. “The World’s First Immunization Campaign: The Spanish Smallpox Vaccine Expedition, 1803-1813,” *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 83:1 (Spring 2009), 63-94.

First Reflective Essay Due

N. Trujillo-Pagan, “The Politics of Professionalization: Puerto Rican Physicians during the Transition from Spanish to US Colonialism,” in De

Barros, et al. eds. *Health and Medicine in the circum-Caribbean, 1800-1968* (NJ: Routledge, 2009), 142-64.

Adam Warren, *Medicine and Politics in Colonial Peru: Population Growth and the Bourbon Reforms* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010).

David Sowell, *The Tale of healer Miguel Perdomo Neira: medicine, ideologies, and power in the nineteenth-century Andes* (Wilmington: Scholarly Resources, 2001).

David Sowell, "Contending Medical Ideologies and State Formation: The Nineteenth-Century Origins of Medical Pluralism in Contemporary Colombia," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 77:4 (Winter 2003), 900-26.

Karol Weaver, *Medical Revolutionaries: The Enslaved Healers of Eighteenth-Century Saint Domingue* (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2006).

February 10 REQ *Medicine and Public Health*, 58-81

Chalhoub, Sidney, "The Politics of Disease Control: Yellow Fever and Race in Nineteenth Century Rio de Janeiro," *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 25:3 (October 1993), 441-63.

February 12 REQ Donald B. Cooper, "The New 'Black Death': Cholera in Brazil, 1855-1856," *Social Science History*, 10:4 (Winter 1986), 467-88; Greg Grandin, "A Pestilent Nationalism: The 1837 Cholera Epidemic Reconsidered," in *The Blood of Guatemala: A History of Race and Nation* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2000), 82-98

February 17 REQ *Medicine and Public Health*, 164-67; REQ Dain Borges, "'Puffy, Ugly, Slothful and Inert': Degeneration in Brazilian Social Thought, 1880-1940," *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 25:2 (May 1993), 235-56.

February 19 REQ Julia Rodriguez, "Inoculating against Barbarism? State Medicine and Immigrant Policy in Turn-of-the-Century Argentina," *Science in Context* 19:3 (2006), 357-80.

Eduardo A. Zimmermann, "Racial Ideas and Social Reform: Argentina, 1890-1916," *Hispanic American Historical Review*, 72:1 (February 1992), 23-46.

Biomedicine The development of Germ Theory after the 1870s symbolized the emergence of biomedicine, a medical ideology that envisages the body to be a biological entity that can be known and treated through scientific inquiry.

Vaccinations, surgical techniques, antibiotics and other procedures improved biomedical efficacy, enabling its practitioners to assert that they had learned the “truths” of nature, thereby reducing other medical practices to superstition or quackery, which needed to be suppressed in favor of biomedical authority. Foucault’s concept of biopower captures the hegemonic nature of biomedicine, which came to infuse contemporary society. However, despite the pervasive character of biopower, subaltern medical practices enable patterns of medical pluralism to persist in many countries.

February 24 REQ *Medicine and Public Health*, 81-105

Mara Loveman, “Blinded like a state: The Revolt Against Civil Registration in Nineteenth Century Brazil,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 49:1 (January 2007), 5-39.

David S. Parker, “Civilizing the City of Kings: hygiene and housing in Lima,” In *Cities of hope: people, protests, and progress in urbanizing Latin America, 1870-1930*, ed. by Ronn Pineo and James Baer (Boulder: Westview Press, 1998), 153-78.

February 26 REQ Alexandra Minna Stern, “Buildings, Boundaries, and Blood: Medicalization and Nation-Building on the U.S.-Mexico Border, 1910-1930,” *Hispanic American Historical Review* 79:1 (February 1999), 41-81.

Diana Obregón, “Building National Medicine: Leprosy and Power in Colombia, 1870-1910,” *Social History of Medicine*, 15:1 (April 2002), 89-108.

Julyan G. Peard, *Race, Place, and Medicine: The Idea of the Tropics in Nineteenth Century Brazilian Medicine* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1999).

Katherine Bliss, “The Science of Redemption: Syphilis, Sexual Promiscuity, and Reformism in Revolutionary Mexico City,” *Hispanic American Historical Review* 79:1 (February 1999), 1-40.

Spring Break February 28-March 7

March 10 REQ Stanley S. Blake and Stanley E. Blake, “The medicalization of nordestinos: public health and regional identity in northeastern Brazil, 1889-1930,” *The Americas* 60:2 (October 2003), 217-48.

March 12 REQ Steven Paul Palmer, “Beginnings of Cuban Bacteriology: Juan Santos Fernández, Medical Research, and the Search for Scientific Sovereignty, 1880-1920,” *Hispanic American Historical Review*, 91:3 (August 2011), 445-68.

Mariano Ben Plotkin, "Psychoanalysis, Race Relations, and National Identity: The Reception of Psychoanalysis in Brazil, 1910 to 1940," in Warwick Anderson, Deborah Jenson, and Richard Keller, eds. *Unconscious Dominions. Psychoanalysis, Colonial Trauma, and Global Sovereignties* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2011), 113-40.

March 17 REQ *Medicine and Public Health*, 106-56

Mariola Espinosa, *Epidemic Invasions: Yellow Fever and the Limits of Cuban Independence, 1878-1930* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2009).

Marcos Cueto, *Missionaries of Science: The Rockefeller Foundation and Latin America* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994).

March 19 REQ Mariola Espinosa, "The Threat from Havana: Southern Public Health, Yellow Fever, and the U.S. Intervention in the Cuban Struggle for Independence, 1878-1898," *Journal of Southern History* LXXII, 3 (August 2006), 541-68.

March 24 REQ Alexandra Minna Stern, "Yellow Fever Crusade: US Colonialism, Tropical Medicine, and the International Politics of Mosquito Control, 1900-1920," In *Disease, Globalization and Security, 1850 to the Present*, ed. by Alison Bashford (London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2006), 41-59.

Second Reflective Essay Due

Nancy Leys Stepan, "The interplay between socioeconomic factors and medical science: Yellow Fever Research, Cuba, and the United States," *Social Studies of Science* 8:4 (November 1978): 397-423.

Vincent J. Cirillo, "Fever and reform: the typhoid epidemic in the Spanish-American war," *The Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Science* 55:4 (October 2000), 363-397.

Nancy Leys Stepan, "Tropical Medicine and Public Health in Latin America," *Medical History* 42:1 (January 1998), 104-12.

Löwy, Ilana, "Epidemiology, Immunology, and Yellow Fever: The Rockefeller Foundation in Brazil, 1923-1939," *Journal of the History of Biology*. 30:3 (1997), 397-417.

March 26 REQ Donna J. Guy, "Medical Imperialism Gone Awry: The Campaign Against Legalized Prostitution in Latin America," in Meade and Walker, editors. *Science, Medicine and Cultural Imperialism* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1991), 75-94.

Anne-Emanuelle Birn, "Healers, Healing, and Child Well-Being: Ideologies, Institutions, and Health in Latin America and the Caribbean," *Latin American Research Review*, 40:2 (June 2005), 176-92.

Bliss, Katherine Elaine, *Compromised Positions: Prostitution, Public Health, and Gender Politics in Revolutionary Mexico City* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2001).

Donna J. Guy, "White Slavery, Public Health, and the Socialist Position on Legalized Prostitution in Argentina, 1913-1936," *Latin American Research Review* 23:3 (1988): 60-80.

Jorge Salessi, "The Argentine Dissemination of Homosexuality, 1890-1914," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* (January 1994), 337-68.

Carrillo, Ana María, "Physicians 'Who Know' and Midwives Who 'Need to Learn,'" In *Midwives in Mexico: Controversy and Change*. Edited by Robbie Davys-Floyd, Marcia Good-Maust, and Miguel Guernez (Austin: University of Texas Press, forthcoming).

Gómez-Dantés, Octavio, "Health Reform and Policies for the Poor in Mexico," In *Health Reform and Poverty in Latin America*, ed. P. Lloyd-Sherlock, 128-142. London: Institute of Latin American Studies, University of London, 2000.

March 31 REQ Jennifer Leyn, "The Sickness was too Strong": Medical Choice in Santa Catarina Mxtahuacán," in Walter Randolph Adams and John P. Hawkins. *Health Care in Maya Guatemala: Confronting Medical Pluralism in a Developing Country* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2007), 100-22.

Catherine Leah Gold and Roger Alex Clapp, "Negotiating Health and Identity: Lay Healing, Medicinal Plants, and Indigenous Healthscapes in Highland Peru," *Latin American Research Review*, 46:3 (July 2011), 93-111.

Ayora-Díaz, Steffan Igor. "Globalization, Rationality and Medicine: Local Medicine's Struggle for Recognition in the Highland Chiapas, Mexico." *Urban Anthropology*, 27:2 (Summer 1998), 165-95.

Libbet Crandon-Malamud, *From the Fat of Our Souls: Social Change, Political Processes, and Medical Pluralism in Bolivia* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991).

Steven Palmer, *From Popular Medicine to Medical Populism: Doctors, Healers, and Public Power in Costa Rica, 1800-1940* (Durham: Duke Univ. Press, 2003).

Zavaleta, Antonio, and Alberto Salinas, *Curandero Conversations: El Niño Fidencio, Shamanism and Healing Traditions of the Borderlands* (Bloomington, IN: Author House, 2009).

Ann Zulawski, *Unequal Cures: Public Health and Political Change in Bolivia, 1900-1950* (Duke University Press, 2007).

April 2 **Examination**

April 7 REQ *Medicine and Public Health*, 157-203

April 9 REQ Gurri, Francisco D., Gilberto Balam Pereira, Emilio F. Moran, "Well-Being Changes in Response to 30 Years of Regional Integration in Maya Populations from Yucatán, Mexico." *American Journal of Human Biology*. 13:5 (September/October 2001), 590-602.

Diego Armus, *Disease in the History of Modern Latin America: From Malaria to AIDS* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2003).

Omran, Abdel R, "The Epidemiologic Transition: A Theory of the Epidemiology of Population Change," *Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly*, No. 1, Vol. 4, part 1 (October 1971), 509-38.

James W. McGuire and Laura B. Frankel, "Mortality Decline in Cuba, 1900-1959: Patterns, Comparisons, and Causes," *Latin American Research Review* 40:2 (2005), 83-116.

April 14 REQ *Medicine and Public Health*, 204-268

Márquez Patricio V. and Daniel J. Joly, "A Historical Overview of the Ministries of Public Health and the Medical Programs of the Social Security Systems in Latin America," *Journal of Public Health Policy* 7:3 (Autumn 1986), 378-94.

April 16 REQ Whitfield, Amy, and Howard Waitzkin. "The Vicissitudes of Public Health Policy in the Americas," *Latin American Research Review*, 44:2 (2009), 216-24.

Howard Waitzkin, "Health Policy and Social Change: A Comparative History of Chile and Cuba," *Social Problems* 31:2 (December 1983), 235-48.

Charles L. Briggs, "Modernity, Cultural Reasoning and the Institutionalization of Social Inequity: Racializing Death in a Venezuelan Cholera Epidemic," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 43:4 (October 2001), 665-700.

Simone P. Kropf, Nara Azavedo and Luiz O. Ferreira, "Biomedical Research and Public Health in Brazil: the case of Chagas's disease (1909-1950)," *Social History of Medicine* 16:1 (2003), 111-130.

April 21 REQ Candace Johnson, "Health as Culture and Nationalism in Cuba," *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies* 31:61 (2006), 91-113 **Third Reflective Essay and Portfolio due**

Cumulative Essay Due April 30, 10 am.

Historiography Early examples of the history of medicine tended to be “heroic” in character, uncritically celebrating the men and inventions associated with “modern” medicine. Often written by medical practitioners, this approach has been largely supplanted over the past thirty years. Easily accessible historiographical essays include:

Diego Armus, “History of Disease and Health in Modern Latin America” in the Oxford Bibliography series.

Diego Armus, “Disease in the Historiography of Modern Latin America,” In *From Malaria to Aids: Disease in the History of Modern Latin America*, ed. by Diego Armus (Durham: Duke University Press, 2003), 1-24.

Anne-Emanuelle Birn and Raúl Necochea López, “Footprints on the Future: Looking Forward to the History of Health and Medicine in Latin America in the Twenty-First Century,” *Hispanic American Historical Review*, 91:3 (August 2011), 503-27.

Julia Rodríguez and Ann Zulawski, “Introduction: Science and Medicine in Latin America.” *Hispanic American Historical Review* (Special Edition: “Science and Medicine in Latin America.” Essays in Honor of Nancy Leys Stepan), 91:3 (August 2011), 387-89.

Steven Palmer and Claudia Agostoni, “Introduction: Landscapes of Latin American Health, 1870-1970,” *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, 35:69 (2010), 5-18.

Ann Zulawski, “New Trends in Studies of Science and Medicine in Latin America,” *Latin American Research Review*, 34:3 (1999), 241-51.

Anne-Emanuelle Birn, “Child health in Latin America: historiographic perspectives and challenges,” *História, Ciências, Saúde-Manguinhos* 14:3 (July-September 2007), 677-708.