

For more information:

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FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of History



History of Medicine and Health Care



HTST 493.38/98 “This course is a survey of the history of medicine and health care, particularly in Western societies (Europe and North America), from antiquity to the present. Its general organization focuses on major topics rather than being chronologically based.”

Who is this course for?

Anyone with an interest in the history of medicine - there are no prerequisites

What does it cover?

After an introduction to some major themes, objectives, and sources of the history of medicine, it presents various pre-Modern areas of medicine by discussing topics from Ancient Medicine, such as the “Hippocratic Oath,” Renaissance Medicine and Science, or the History of Anatomy since the Time of the Greeks. It then moves on to exemplify a number of important topics from modern medicine in their genealogy: the revolution in scientific and laboratory medicine, medical education and specialization, the rise of pathology and genetic medicine, elderly patients, and the development of biomedical ethics. Three sessions are further devoted to historical and contemporary issues of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) to

discuss this “parallel system”, present since the Medieval Ages, and its opposition to laboratory-based medicine. Further important modern influences are scrutinized, such as the “Flexner Report” and the history of the Canadian Health Care System, as well as the development of Aboriginal and Western Medicine in Canada

When and Where?

tba - pending decision regarding on-campus delivery in the fall; please contact us for further details

Note to our MD Program Students

There are no additional costs for taking this course. The first meeting will be in September; we take into account there will be classes you have to miss because you are busy with exams or special sessions

What about Assessments?

A 15-minute presentation on a figure from medical history – was (s)he a Hero, Rogue or Charlatan?

An annotated bibliography on a research topic that interests you (don’t know what an annotated bibliography is – we’ll show you)

Participation in class discussions

This is a great opportunity to practice your research and presentation skills. We can work with you on your research topic so that you can present it at the *History of Medicine Days* conference at the UofC in March, if you choose to, with the possibility of publishing your paper in the Conference Proceedings