Course Description

From the use of the Hippocratic Oath in the Nuremberg trials to William Harvey’s engagement with the “divine Galen” in his monumental study of the circulation of blood, it is quite clear that ancient Greek medicine has had a profound influence on Western medicine and society. To gain a better understanding of this relationship, this course thematically examines the historical reception of the theories and practices of Greco-Roman physicians. By examining ancient Greek medicine in light of the modern fields of pathology, surgery, pharmacology, therapy, obstetrics, psychology, anatomy, medical science, ethics, and education, the student will gain not only a better understanding of the foundations of Western medicine but also an appreciation for how medical terms, theories, and practices take on different meanings with changes in science and society. Course material will be a combination of primary and secondary readings.

Course Expectations

Please bear in mind that you are responsible for the material covered in class and your readings. Daily assignments will consist of readings from the required text. The chapter readings are available on the syllabus. Students are expected to consult the syllabus and do the assigned reading before coming to class. If over the course of the semester the syllabus needs to be modified or adjusted, an announcement will be sent out via blackboard with an updated assignment schedule.

The tentative readings for this course can be found on this syllabus.

Required Texts

Helen King, Greek and Roman Medicine, 978-1853995453


Faith Wallis, Medieval Medicine: A Reader, 978-1-4426-0103-1.

* Additional readings will be available on Blackboard or through UT’s electronic resources.
**Grading**

There will be 5 scheduled tests. Scores for each test will be posted the next day on Blackboard under View Grades. **There will be no final exam.**

I will not be assigning plus-minus final grades. Therefore, my grading scale is as follows:

- **A** = 100-90
- **B** = 89-80
- **C** = 79-70
- **D** = 69-60
- **F** = 59 and below

- Please note that I do **not** round grades up (i.e. 89.99 is not an A), and there is no curve for this course.

**Tentative Test Dates**

Feb. 11, Mar. 4, Apr. 1, Mar. 20, May 6

If a test has to be moved you will be given at least a week advanced notice. I will never move the test up. As long as I schedule the test during our regularly scheduled class time, your previous plans don’t count as an excused absence.

**Make-up Policy and Missed Classes**

Absences will only be excused for religious holidays, medical reasons (with a letter from Student Health Services or a private physician), or for family emergencies (only when certified by the Dean of Students: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/). No make-up tests will be given, except in cases of emergencies or for religious holidays. If you miss a lecture class, please do not ask me what you missed. It is your responsibility to find someone in the class to take notes for you.

If you need to miss a test for the observance of a religious holiday, you must notify me at least 14 days in advance so we can make alternative arrangements.

**Computer Access**

Students are expected to have access to a computer and to the internet. Class material including the syllabus, test information, grades as well as other information and announcements will be posted on Blackboard (courses.utexas.edu). To access this site, students must have an uteid and password. Additionally, it is the student’s responsibility to ensure that the email address which UT has on file is a valid address which is checked regularly. N.B. Certain email providers (yahoo mail for one) automatically mark any bulk email as spam.
University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

Any student found cheating will be referred to Student Judicial Services with my recommendation that he or she receive a failing grade (F) for the course. Cheating is anything that attempts to circumvent the process of teaching, learning, and assessment. It may include, but is not limited to, copying off another person's quizzes, exams, or homework; or getting someone else to do your work for you. It also includes the use of unauthorized material/devices while taking a test. If you are unsure about the exact definition you should consult the General information catalogue, Appendix, Section 11-802. http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs/gi06-07/app/appc11.html#Subchapter11-802

*If you are still unsure, don’t risk it.

Email Abuse

Use of Blackboard's email should be for course-related messages only; please see UT Austin Acceptable Use Policy. Messages such as selling football tickets and posting party invites are not considered course-related. Violations of the UT Austin Acceptable Use Policy will be vigorously pursued. Violators may face disciplinary action including, but not limited to verbal warnings, negative impact on grades, or loss of email privileges. For more information on reporting emails that you believe violate the policy, please visit the UT Austin Acceptable Use Policy website. https://www.utexas.edu/cio/policies/aup/index.php

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual’s behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal.

Students with Disabilities

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice), 329-3986 (video phone), and on their website: http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/
Important Dates

January 21
Friday  Last day of the official add/drop period; after this date, changes in registration require the approval of the department chair and usually the student’s dean.

February 2
Wednesday  Last day to drop a class for a possible refund.

March 14–19 – NO CLASS
Monday–Saturday  Spring break.

March 28
Monday  Last day an undergraduate student may, with the dean’s approval, withdraw from the University or drop a class except for urgent and substantiated, nonacademic reasons. Last day a student may change registration in a class to or from the pass/fail or credit/no credit basis.

May 6
Friday  Last class day

**NO FINAL EXAM**

Tentative Reading Schedule

By tentative, it is understood that this schedule is subject to change as needed. Any updates to the reading list will be posted on Blackboard. Please do the assigned readings and exercises before coming to class.

* = reading to be posted on Blackboard


King = Helen King, Greek and Roman Medicine, 2002.

Nutton = Vivian Nutton, Ancient Medicine, 2005 (UT electronic resource).


I. Chronological survey of Ancient Greek Medicine

Wed. 1/19:  Introduction
Readings: King, Preface, pp. viii-xi

Fri. 1/21:  Disease in Antiquity
Readings: Nutton, Ch. 2: Patterns of Disease, pp. 19-36.

Mon. 1/24:  Before Hippocrates

Wed. 1/26: Hippocrates and Hippocratic Medicine?
Readings: King, Ch. 2: *Hippocratic Medicine*, pp. 9-17; Nutton, Ch. 4: *Hippocrates, the Hippocratic Corpus, and the Defining of Medicine*, pp. 53-71.

Fri. 1/28: From Plato to Praxagoras
Readings: Nutton, Ch. 8: *From Plato to Praxagoras*, pp. 115-127.

Mon. 1/31: Alexandrian and Hellenistic Medicine
Readings: King, Ch. 4: *Alexandrian Medicine*, pp. 26-31; Nutton, Ch. 9: *Alexandria, Anatomy and Experimentation*, pp. 128-139; *Hellenistic Medicine*, pp. 140-156.

Wed. 2/2: Greek Medicine at Rome
Readings: King, Ch. 5: *Greek Medicine at Rome*, pp. 32-37; Nutton, Ch. 11: *Rome and the Transplantation of Greek Medicine*, pp. 157-170; *Celsus, On Medicine (De medicina).*

Fri. 2/4: Galen and His Contemporaries
Readings: King, Ch. 6: *Galen and his contemporaries*, pp. 38-43; Nutton Ch. 15: *The Life and Career of Galen*, pp. 216-229.

Mon. 2/7: Galenic Medicine and its Alternatives
Readings: King, Ch. 7: *Curing Illness*, pp. 44-52; Nutton Ch. 16: *Galenic Medicine*, pp. 230-247.

Wed. 2/9: Medicine in the Later Roman Empire
Readings: King, Ch. 8: *After Ancient Medicine*, pp. 53-61; Nutton, Ch. 19: *Medicine in the Later Roman Empire*, pp. 292-309.

Fri. 2/11: TEST 1

II. The Physician: Image, Education and Ethics

Mon. 2/14: Who is and Who is Not a Physician?

Wed. 2/16: Status of the Physician in Society
Readings: * Anonymous, Hippocratic Letters; * Pliny the Elder, Natural History; * Tatian, Oratio; Wallis, Satires and Critiques of Medicine, pp. 525-542

Fri. 2/18: Hippocrates in Art
No Readings

Mon. 2/21: Medical Education: The Authority of Antiquity

Wed. 2/23: Medicine and Religion: Asclepius and Asclepeia / Christian Saints, Sanctuaries, and Hospitals
Readings: * Edelstein and Edelstein, Asclepius; Wallis, Christianity, Disease and Medicine, pp. 49-71; The Ethics of Medical Care: Hospitals and the Provision of Charity, pp. 461-484.

Fri. 2/25: Medical Ethics: Reinventing the Hippocratic Oath

Mon. 2/28: Medical Ethics: Conscience and Profession
Readings: Hippocratic Writings, The Canon (The Law), pp. 68-69; * Galen, The Best Doctor is also a Philosopher; Wallis, The Ethics of Medical Care (1): Conscience and the Law, pp. 431-445, 456-460; * Papadimos, Voltaire's Candide, medical students, and mentoring.

Wed. 3/2: Review

Fri. 3/4: TEST 2

III. Medicine and Science, or Medical Science

Mon. 3/7: Is Medicine a Science or an Art?
Wed. 3/9: Epistemology and Medical Sects  
Readings: *Galen, Sects for Beginners

Fri. 3/11: ! NO CLASS !

Mon-Fri 3/14-18 ! SPRINGBREAK !

Mon. 3/21: Anatomy: Dissecting by the Book  
Readings: *Galen, Anatomical Administrations, On Affected Parts; Wallis, Salernitan Anatomy: The Second Salernitan Demonstration, pp. 159-174, Academic Dissection as “Material Commentary”, pp. 231-241; *Andreas Vesalius, De Humani Corporis Fabrica

Wed. 3/23: Experimentation: Cardiovascular investigations  
Readings: Hippocratic Writings, The Heart, pp. 347-351; *Fragmenta from Erasistratus and Herophilus; *Galen, Whether the Arteries Naturally Contain Blood; *William Harvey, On The Motion Of The Heart And Blood In Animals

Fri. 3/25: Tralatitious Scientific Problems: Embryology  

Mon. 3/28: Observation and Experience: Very Different ‘Case Histories’
Readings: Hippocratic Writings, Epidemics III, pp. 113-137; *Galen, On Prognosis, Wallis, The Doctor at the Bedside, pp. 396-400; *Thomas Sydenham, Observations of Medicine

Wed. 3/30: Dialectic and Medical Theory  

Fri. 4/1 TEST 3

IV. Medical Practice

Mon. 4/4: Diagnosis and Prognosis  
Wed. 4/6: Therapeutics
Readings: *Stephanus, Commentary on Galen’s Therapeutica ad Glaucon; Wallis, Medical Practices in a Changing World, pp. 23-33; Scholastic Therapeutics, 267-275, Customized Therapeutics, pp. 405-419.

Fri. 4/8: Regimen and Health

Mon. 4/11 Pharmacology and Alchemy

Wed. 4/13: Surgery

Fri. 4/15: Venesection and Astrology

Mon. 4/18: Psyche and Soma and the Physician

Wed. 4/20: TEST 4

V. Medicine, Disease, and Society

Fri. 4/22: The Changing Face of Melancholy

Mon. 4/25: Birth Defects
Wed. 4/27: Epilepsy: Culture and Cure  
**Readings:** Hippocratic Writings, Sacred Disease, pp. 237-251; Wallis, Causes: The Case of Epilepsy, pp. 263-266; *Paracelsus, Epilepsy;  
*Fadiman, The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*

Fri. 4/29: Etiology, Deontology, and Plagues  
**Readings:** Hippocratic Writings, Airs, Waters, and Places, pp. 148-169; King, Ch. 3: The Plague of Athens, pp. 18-25; *Galen, Method of Medicine;  

Mon. 5/2 “Metaphor and Malignancy – The Difficult Case of Cancer”  
**Readings:** *Celsus, On Medicine; *Galen, On Tumors; *Paulus of Aegina, Medical Compendium in Seven Books; Wallis, Metaphor and Malignancy – The Difficult Case of Cancer, pp. 344-351.

Wed. 5/4 Romanticizing the Physician: Disease in Literature and Art  
No Readings

Fri. 5/6 TEST 5

- **End of Course - No Final**

*Updated 1/11/11  
Dr. Curtis*