This colloquium will introduce students to the study of the history of medicine by providing an introduction to historical research and writing. We will cover the historiography of medical history from the 1960s. In our weekly meetings, we will discuss methodologies, research questions, and a variety of approaches to the history of health and medicine that will serve as a broad introduction to the field. Students will write short weekly papers and a 8-10 page literature review at the end of the semester.

You will be asked to lead discussion twice during the course of the semester. It is the responsibility of discussion leaders to tie the books together and suggest a larger historiographical framework to which the readings of the week speak. In addition, you should try to familiarize yourself with the larger outlines of the surrounding literature. During class discussion, we will analyze both the authors’ arguments and their contributions to the field. Some weeks, we will discuss two books. On those days, half of the class will read one, the other half the other book.

To help you digest the readings, you are asked to write a 2-page abstract on the readings. The abstracts are due at the class sessions during which we will discuss the respective readings. If you have questions about how to write an abstract, check the research database Historical Abstracts or the short abstracts provided in the back of the American Historical Review for examples. Be aware, that these abstracts may vary in quality.

Historiographical Paper

For your final paper, I will give you a sample comprehensive exam question and ask you to answer the question based on your reading during the semester. The final paper is due on December 18.

Discussion Questions

Finally, I ask you to prepare discussion questions for each week. These questions should help us to analyze the readings and put them in relation to each other. Discussion questions will be due by email to the entire class by Monday morning.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows: Discussion 50% Final Paper 50%

All the books are available at Barnes & Nobles. To obtain cheaper copies, you might search both amazon.com and abebooks.com. I have also put the readings on reserve. With some coordination, we should be able to get enough copies to share the readings. All the articles are available on Sakai.
Schedule

Sept. 1  introduction: Medical History: What is it? What Function does it serve?
Hans-Uwe Lammel, “To Whom Does Medical History Belong? Johann Moehsen, Kurt Sprengel, and the
Problem of Origins in Collective Memory,” Locating Medical History: The Stories and Their
Meanings, ed. by Frank Hisman and John Harley Warner [2004]
Elizabeth Fee and Theodore M. Brown, “Using Medical History to Shape a Profession: The deals of
William Osler and Henry E. Sigerist,” Locating Medical History
Susan Reverby and David Rosner, “Beyond ‘the Great Doctors’,” in Reverby and Rosner, eds. Health Care
in America: Essays in Social History (Temple University Press, 1979) 3-16

Sept. 15: Population and Diseases
Charles Rosenberg, The Cholera Years: The United States in 1832, 1849, and 1866, (1962)
Alfred W. Crosby, The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492, (1972)

Sept. 22 Women’s Health:
Barbara Ehrenreich and Deirdre English, Witches, Midwives, and Nurses: A History of Women Healers,
(1973)
Mary Roth Walsh, Doctors Wanted: No Women Need Apply, (1977)
Caroll Smith-Rosenberg, “The Hysterical Woman: Sex Roles and Role Conflict in Nineteenth Century
America,” Social Research 39, (1972)

Sept. 29 Class, Race, and Health:

Oct. 6: Women Health Care Providers
Susan Reverby, Ordered to Care: The Dilemma of American Nursing, 1850-1945, (1987)
Regina Morantz Sanchez, Sympathy and Science: Women Physicians in America, (1985)

Oct. 13: Postcolonial Histories
Warwick Anderson, “Postcolonial Histories of Medicine,” Locating Medical History
Randall Packard, White Plague, Black Labor: Tuberculosis and the political Economy of Health and
Disease in South Africa, (1989)

Oct. 20: Cultural Histories
Mary E. Fissell, “Making Meaning from the Margins: The New Cultural History of Medicine,” Locating
Medical History
Barbara Duden, The Woman Beneath the Skin: A Doctor’s Patients in Eighteenth Century Germany,
(1991)
Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, A Midwife’s Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on her Diary, 1785-1812,
(1991)
Oct. 27: Excluded Populations and Health Reform
Susan Smith, Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired: Black Women’s Health Activism in America, 1890-1950, (1995)

Nov. 3: The Making of Medical Therapies

Nov. 10: Interrogating Sex and Gender
Alice Dreger, Hermaphrodites and the Medical Invention of Sex, (2000)

Nov. 17: Social Construction of Race and Sex

Nov. 24 no class

Dec. 1: Medical Ethics
Allan M. Brandt, “From Analysis to Advocacy: Crossing Boundaries as a Historian of Health Policy,” Locating Medical History: The Stories and Their Meanings

Dec. 8 New Approaches

Dec. 15 Final Paper Due