

HISTORY 4065: HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN AMERICA TO 1865
FALL SEMESTER, 2010, Tuesday-Thursday 3:30-4:45

Dr. Nan McMurry
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This course presents the history of medicine in America from the arrival of European explorers at the end of the 15th century to the end of the Civil War in 1865. Topics covered include the exchange of diseases between Old and New Worlds, the disease environment in early America, medical theories and therapies, medical education, medical institutions such as hospitals and insane asylums, medicine on the plantation, women as patients and practitioners, and medical aspects of the Civil War.

We will conduct the course as a seminar, covering the subject material through student presentations and discussion along with occasional lectures and group reading assignments. Your active participation is essential to the success of the class.

Reading Assignments:

There are no books to purchase for this class. All reading assignments will come from materials on reserve at the Main Library (many, but not all, assignments are available electronically). A reading list will be distributed every few weeks; individual students will take responsibility for presenting each item on the list; when the list is finished there will be a test; then the process will begin again with a new reading list. Each student will give two presentations over the course of the semester. I will also give you a number of brief handouts that cover material we won't have time to go over in class. Tests will cover material presented or discussed in class and contained in handouts.

Attendance/participation and make-up policy:

1. **Special days:** these are days when you are scheduled to make a class presentation, take a test, turn in an essay, or participate in an all-class discussion. You may **not** be absent on these days without a compelling reason. I am the judge and jury on a case-by-case basis for what constitutes a compelling reason. If your reason qualifies as compelling, your absence will be excused, and you will be allowed to make up any work missed, although in the case of class presentations you may be given an alternative assignment instead of your original one. If your reason does not qualify as compelling, your absence will not be excused, and you will receive a grade of zero for any work missed.

Special Day Schedule:

Mystery disease (all-class discussion) = Tuesday, August 24

1st Test = Tuesday, September 28

1st Essay due = Tuesday, October 19

2nd Test = Thursday, October 28

2nd Essay due = Thursday, November 18

3rd Test = Thursday, December 9, 3:30-6:30 PM

Each student will have two additional special days for class presentations. The dates will vary by the individual assignment.

2. **Regular days:** these are days when your only responsibility is to attend class (i.e., days when you aren't giving a presentation, taking a test, turning in an essay, or participating in an all-class discussion). You are allowed **four** automatically excused absences on regular days, no questions asked. If you have more than four absences on regular days, you will lose your eligibility for the attendance/participation bonus described below.
3. **Attendance/participation bonus:** if you complete the semester with no unexcused absences on special days and no more than four absences on regular days, an extra A will be averaged in with your other grades.
4. **Excessive absences:** I reserve the right to drop you from the class if you have more than four consecutive absences with no concurrent explanation.

Grading:

Your final grade will be an average of the following components: 3 tests, 2 essays, 2 class presentations, and the attendance/participation bonus (if you qualify as described above). Each component will be weighted equally (i.e., 1 test = 1 class presentation). Final grades will be assigned as follows, based on your final average for all assignments and attendance/participation (if you qualify):

93-100 = A	77-79 = C+
90-92 = A-	73-76 = C
87-89 = B+	70-72 = C-
83-86 = B	60-69 = D
80-82 = B-	59 or below = F

I do not give extra credit work. You should concentrate on attending class and doing well on the graded assignments listed above.

Miscellaneous:

All academic work presented orally or in written form must comply with the UGA academic honesty code: http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm. Each student is responsible for informing herself or himself about the academic honesty policy before performing any academic work.

This syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. Information about schedule changes and details about individual assignments may be communicated by email, so it is essential that you keep up with your email while you are in this course. I will use the uga.edu email addresses provided by the registrar. Not reading email = not an acceptable excuse.