

**HIST 262**  
**Public Health: History, Policy and Practice**

Dr. Amna Khalid  
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Office Hours: Moodle sign-up required:  
Venue: LH 426  
Class times: Mon, Wed: 11:10 – 12:20  
Fri: 12:00 - 13:00

**Course Description**

This course examines the rise of the institution of public health in the modern period. Locating public health within the social history of medicine we will consider how concepts of health and disease have changed over time and how the modern state's concern with the health of its population cannot be separated from its need to survey, police, and discipline the public. We will consider the way the 'old public health' that focused on sanitation and ordering the environment gave way to the 'new public health' that places emphasis on lifestyles and individual responsibility. Topics covered include miasma, contagion, quarantine, vaccination, the ordering of space in the home, as well as the role of subordinates in implementing public health policy. We will also consider how certain epidemics became the major drivers for public health and how AIDS posed one of the most significant challenges to public health in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Required Reading**

All required readings will be posted **weekly** on Moodle. You are expected to do the readings **before** class. Class participation is an important part of this course so you are required to come prepared to class.

*Note: All readings posted on Moodle are only intended for the use of this class. Please do not share them with people outside the Carleton Community so as not to breach copyright laws.*

**Grading structure**

- Class participation: 20%
- Assignments – Building a Teaching Module
- Annotated Bibliography of Secondary Sources: 40%
    - o Topic statement and short description
    - o Long bibliography with key secondary texts in subfield highlighted
    - o Key issues in subtopic with annotated bibliography (sources with summaries and relation articulated)
    - o Bibliography of primary sources – just identified with notes on access
  - Primary Source Portfolio Paper: 40%
    - o Bibliography of primary sources – just identified with notes on access
    - o Bibliography of 5 sources with short descriptions
    - o Portfolio of 3 primary sources (summaries, analyses and rationale for inclusion & exclusion articulated)

### **Class participation**

Please note that you are expected to have done the assigned readings before the class. You should be able to identify the main argument in the reading, comment on the ways in which the argument has been constructed and be able to come up with questions you would like to ask the author. So try and think along the following lines when assessing a reading: What is the main point of the reading? Can you summarize the argument in one sentence? Can you contextualize the argument? How is the argument substantiated? Is the evidence reliable? Can you identify any biases?

A substantial part of your grade is based on class participation which means actively taking part in class discussions, posing questions and responding to those posed by others.

To see me in my office hours please sign up for a meeting slot on my office hours sign-up sheet on Moodle.

When conducting research you must look beyond Google and Wikipedia. While you may use such sources as a starting point to begin your research you should never rely on them exclusively as they are not considered academic sources. Instead learn to find sources using the Carleton College library catalogue and other library resources such as specialized databases. Sarah Calhoun is the subject librarian relevant for you and she is a great person to ask for help. So contact her if you need help or have queries regarding the library resources.

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is a pre-requisite for class participation. You are required to attend all the class sessions for this course. Absences may have consequences for your final grade.

### **Class Policies**

- No laptops or tablets in class
- Turn off all cellphones, iPods, and personal electronic devices during class.
- You are welcome to eat or drink during class so long as it is not disruptive.

### **Carleton College Disability Policy**

Carleton College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students requesting accommodation must place documentation on file with the Coordinator of Disability Services who will then inform faculty about student accommodations. College policy is that faculty can and should wait for this notification before making course modifications for students. Disability Services contact information:

Andy Christensen, Coordinator of Disability Services – email: [anchrist@carleton.edu](mailto:anchrist@carleton.edu); phone: x4080.

## Course Schedule

### Week 1

#### TOPIC 1: Theories of Health and Disease

Mon Jan 7: Introduction to Course

Wed Jan 9: Health as Harmony of Humors

William Bynum, "Medicine at the bedside," in *The History of Medicine: A Very Short Introduction*, 5-18. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

BBC Radio Podcast: In Our Time\_ The Four Humors

Fri Jan 11: Longevity of Humoralism – understanding by analogy

### Week 2

#### TOPIC 2: Cordon Sanitaires and Quarantine Measures

Mon Jan 14: Class Cancelled

Wed Jan 16: Malefic Miasma and Contagious Connections

Hannaway, Caroline. "Environment and Miasmata," in *Companion Encyclopedia of the History of Medicine*, edited by W.F. Bynum and Roy Porter, 292-308.

London: Routledge, 1993.

Pelling, Margaret. "The Meaning of Contagion: Reproduction, medicine and metaphor," in *Contagion: Historical and Cultural Studies*, edited by Alison

Bashford and Clair Hooker, 15-38. New York: Routledge, 2001.

Fri Jan 18: Quarantine: The Earliest Public Health Measure

Blazina-Tomic, Zlata. "Introduction, Chapter 1, Chapter 4," in *Expelling the Plague: The Health Office and the Implementation of Quarantine in Dubrovnik, 1377-1533*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2015.

### Week 3

Mon Jan 21: The Mechanics of Quarantine in the Venetian Empire

Blazina-Tomic, Zlata. "Chapter 5, Chapter 6, Conclusion," in *Expelling the Plague: The Health Office and the Implementation of Quarantine in Dubrovnik, 1377-1533*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2015

Wed Jan 23: Isolating the Sick: Responses to Plague in Early Modern Europe

Slack, Paul. "Responses to Plague in Early Modern Europe: The Implications of Public Health." *Social Research* 55, no. 3 (Autumn, 1988): 433-453.

Cipolla, Carlo M. "Introduction, Chapter 1, Chapter 2," in *Fighting the Plague in Seventeenth Century Italy*, 3-50. Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1981.

Newman, Kira L.S. "Bubonic Plague and Quarantine in Early Modern England." *Journal of Social History* 45, no. 3 (Spring, 2012): 809-834.

### **TOPIC 3: The Rise of Sanitarianism**

Fri Jan 25: Epidemic Challenges of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

Porter, Dorothy. "Epidemics and social dislocation in the nineteenth century," in *Health, Civilization and the State: A history of public health from ancient to modern times*, 79-96.

Allen, Michelle. "The Sanitary City: The 'Effacing Fingers' of Reform," in *Cleansing the City: Sanitary Geographies in Victorian London*, 1-23. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2008.

### **Week 4**

Mon Jan 28: Challenges of Urbanization: The Case of Victorian London

Allen, Michelle. "Chapter 1," in *Cleansing the City: Sanitary Geographies in Victorian London*, 24-53. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2008.

Allen, Michelle. "Chapter 4," in *Cleansing the City: Sanitary Geographies in Victorian London*, 115-139. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2008.

Wed Jan 30: The Sanitary Movement in the United States

Duffy, John. "Chapter 5," in *The Sanitarians: A History of American Public Health*, 66-78. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1990.

Duffy, John. "Chapter 6," in *The Sanitarians: A History of American Public Health*, 79-92. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1990.

Duffy, John. "Chapter 7," in *The Sanitarians: A History of American Public Health*, 93-109. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1990.

Fri Feb 1: Primary Source

Griscom, John H. *The Sanitary Condition of The Laboring Population of New York, With Suggestions for its Improvement*, 1-58. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1845.

### **Week 5**

### **TOPIC 4: Public Health and the Domestic Sphere**

Mon Feb 4: The Bacteriological Revolution: The Rise of Laboratory-based Thinking

Tomes, Nancy. "Chapter 4," in *The Gospel of Germs: Men, Women, and the Microbe in American Life*, 91-112. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998.

Tomes, Nancy. "Chapter 5," in *The Gospel of Germs: Men, Women, and the Microbe in American Life*, 113-134. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998.

Wed Feb 6: The Germ Comes into Homes

Tomes, Nancy. "Chapter 6," in *The Gospel of Germs: Men, Women, and the Microbe in American Life*, 135-154. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998.

Tomes, Nancy. "Chapter 7," in *The Gospel of Germs: Men, Women, and the Microbe in American Life*, 157-182. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998.

Fri Feb 8: Midterm Review and Consolidation

## Week 6

Mon Feb 11: Midterm Break

Wed Feb 13: Germ Theories in Comparative Perspective

Worboys, Michael. "Was there a Bacteriological Revolution in late nineteenth-century medicine?" *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 38 (2007): 20-42.

Andrews, Bridie J. "Tuberculosis and the Assimilation of Germ Theory in China, 1895-1937." *Journal of the History of Medicine* 52 (January, 1997): 114-157.

Sutphen, Mary P. "Not What, but Where: Bubonic Plague and the Reception of Germ Theories in Hong Kong and Calcutta, 1894-1897." *Journal of the History of Medicine* 52 (January 1997): 81-113.

## **TOPIC 5: Public Health and Immigration**

Fri Feb 15: Disease as Other

Markel, Howard. "'Knocking out the Cholera': Cholera, Class, and Quarantines in New York City, 1892." *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 69 (1995): 420-457.

## Week 7

Mon Feb 18: Workshop – Locating Primary Sources (Lib 306)

Wed Feb 20: Other as Diseased

Markel, Howard. "'The Eyes Have It': Trachoma, the Perception of Disease, the United States Public Health Service, and the American Jewish Immigration Experience, 1897-1924." *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 74, no. 3 (Fall, 2000): 525-560.

Shin, Ji-Hye. "The 'Oriental' Problem: Trachoma and Asian Immigrants in the United States, 1897-1910." *Korean Journal of Medical History* 23 (December, 2014): 573-606.

Powderly, T.V. "Immigration's Menace to the National Health." *The North American Review* 175, no. 548 (July, 1902): 53-60.

Fri Feb 22: Public Health, Immigration, and Nationhood: The Case of Australia

Bashford, Alison. "Chapter 5," in *Imperial Hygiene: A Critical History of Colonialism, Nationalism and Public Health*, 115-136. Hampshire: Palgrave MacMillan, 2004.

Bashford, Alison. "Chapter 6," in *Imperial Hygiene: A Critical History of Colonialism, Nationalism and Public Health*, 137-163. Hampshire: Palgrave MacMillan, 2004.

## Week 8

### **TOPIC 6: To Vaccinate or Not to Vaccinate**

Mon Feb 25: Anti-Vaccinationism in Nineteenth Century England

Baker, Jeffrey P. "The Pertussis Vaccine Controversy in Great Britain, 1974-1986." *Vaccine* 21 (March, 2003): 4003-4010.

Baker, Jeffrey P. "Mercury, Vaccines, and Autism: One Controversy, Three Histories." *American Journal of Public Health* 98, no. 2 (February, 2008): 244-253.

Porter, Dorothy and Roy Porter. "The Politics of Prevention: Anti-Vaccinationism and Public Health in Nineteenth-Century England." *Medical History* 32 (1988): 231-252.

Durbach, Nadja. "'They Might as Well Brand Us': Working-Class Resistance to Compulsory Vaccination in Victorian England." *The Society for the Social History of Medicine* 13, no. 1 (2000): 45-62.

Wed Feb 27: Vaccination Debates in the US

Kaufman, Martin. "The American Anti-Vaccinationists and their Arguments." 463-483.

Leavitt, Judith Walzer. "'Be Safe. Be Sure.' New York City's Experience with Epidemic Smallpox," in *Hives of Sickness: Public Health and Epidemics in New York City*, edited by David Rosner, 95-114. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1995.

Fri Mar 1: Case Studies: Smallpox Eradication in India; Polio Eradication in Nigeria

Bhattacharya, Sanjoy. "Uncertain Advances: A Review of the Final Phases of the Smallpox Eradication Program in India, 1960-1980." *American Journal of Public Health* 94, no. 11 (November, 2004): 1875-1883.

Greenough, Paul. "Intimidation, Coercion and Resistance in the Final Stages of the South Asian Smallpox Eradication Campaign, 1973-1975." *Social Science and Medicine* 41, no. 5 (1995): 633-645.

Polio Eradication in Nigeria: Blind Spots and Challenges

Kaufmann, Judith R and Feldbaum, Harley. "Diplomacy and The Polio Immunization Boycott in Northern Nigeria." *Health Affairs* 28, no. 4 (Jul/Aug, 2009): 1091-1101.

## Week 9

### **TOPIC 7: Lay Activism and Public Health: AIDS in the United States**

Mon Mar 4: The Epidemic that Shook the World: Public Health & the Challenge of AIDS

Wald, Priscilla. *Contagious: Cultures, Carriers, and the Outbreak Narrative*, 213-263. Durham: Duke University Press, 2008.

Wed Mar 6: Lay Activism and the Shaping of Science

Epstein, Steven. "The Construction of Lay Expertise: AIDS Activism and the Forging of Credibility in the Reform of Clinical Trials." *Science, Technology and Human Values* 20, no. 4 (Autumn, 1995): 408-437.

Fri Mar 8: ACT UP: What Constitutes Expertise

Documentary screening "How to Survive a Plague."

**Week 10**

Mon Mar 11: ACT UP: What Constitutes Expertise\_continued

Conclude documentary screening "How to Survive a Plague" and module discussion.

Wed Mar 13: Review and Consolidation