Description of the course

This course will present an overview of the history of medicine from the early pre-Hippocratic phase down to late antiquity. Class time will be devoted to the analysis of both literary and material sources. The aim of the class is to present ancient medicine as a phenomenon involving multiple aspects of everyday life. Some crucial themes of the social history of medicine will be touched on. Among them the construction of the body, gynecology, food and dietetics, the typology and social status of doctors, medicine and magic, diseases and plagues, birth and death. Finally we will study the scientific foundations of the discipline with respect to its various types of cures and healing. A final paper of 8-10 pages on a topic to be arranged with the teacher will offer a chance to study more in depth one of the matters analyzed in the course of the term. A package containing the course materials will be available on-line for downloading.

Lecture 1  Discussion of Syllabus
Pre-rational and irrational medicine in ancient Greece and neighboring cultures.
(Longrigg 1-40) and Iliad, 4

Lecture 2  Alcmeon and the Presocratic Philosophers
(Longrigg 31-39)

Lecture 3  The formation of the Corpus Hippocraticum
The Nature of Man and A Regimen for Health (Lloyd 260-275) - (Longrigg 40-50)

Lecture 4  Food and dieting - between ethics and physiology
(Longrigg 146-156)

Lecture 5  Airs, Water, Places (Lloyd 148-169)
(Longrigg 123-135)

Lecture 6  Prognosis (Lloyd 170-185)
(Longrigg 136-145)
| Lecture 7 | Medicine and philosophy. Platonic and medical anamnesis  
Plato, *Phaedrus* |
| Lecture 8 | *Aphorisms* (Lloyd 206-236) |
| Lecture 9 | *The Oath* and *The Sacred disease* (Lloyd 67; 237-251) - (Longrigg 101-106) |
| Lecture 10 | Sicilian Medicine, Alcmaeon (Longrigg 61-83) |
| Lecture 11 | Alexandria and Hellenistic Medicine (Longrigg 84-100) |
| Lecture 12 | MIDTERM EXAM |
| Lecture 13 | Greek Medicine in Rome, Cato, *On Agriculture*, selected passages; Pliny the Elder, *Natural History*, 29 |
| Lecture 14 | Celsus Proemion and Book I |
| Lecture 15 | Celsus book VII (surgery) |
| Lecture 16 | Surgery  
(Longrigg 178-201) |
| Lecture 17 | Body and soul, Lucretius, *On the Nature of Things*, 3 |
| Lecture 18 | Roman medical schools (emphasis on methodism, dogmatics and pneumatism) |
| Lecture 19 | Soranus *Gynecology*  
(Longrigg 191-201) |
| Lecture 20 | Dioscorides, *On Pharmacy and Medicine*  
(Longrigg 157-167) |
| Lecture 21 | The construction of the body, physiology and gender roles, Seneca *Ep.* 95 and 114 |
| Lecture 22 | Galen, *On anatomical procedures* |
| Lecture 23 | Galen, *On Prognosis* |
| Lecture 24 | Galen, *On the Therapeutic Method* |
| Lecture 25 | Ancient medicine and modern science. |
Lecture 26

What is health? final remarks. TERM PAPER DUE

Required texts


These titles are available from the Bookstore.
- A supplementary course-pack is available online for downloading.

Please notice the following online resources:

- Ancient Medicine/Medicina Antiqua (www.ea.pvt.k12.pa.us/medant/)
- Collections de medic@/Bulletin de médecine ancienne (http://www.bium.univ-paris5.fr/amn/debut.htm)
- Diotima: Materials for the Study of Women and Gender in the Ancient World (http://www.stoa.org/diotima/)

Course requirements

**Attendance:**
regular participation and prompt attendance are required. If a student misses more than two classes without an excuse or is consistently unprepared for class, his/her grade will be significantly affected.

**Written work:**
A term paper (no credit will be given for work handed in late without reasonable cause). There will be one mid-term and one final exam.

**Grades** Final grades will be weighted as follows:

- Attendance and participation 10%
- Midterm 30%
- Term paper 30%
- Final exam 30%

**Exam dates** (subject to revision only by the instructor)

Mid-term 1: Lecture 12; Term paper: Lecture 26; Final exam TBD