

(A sample syllabus for a small, upper-level History seminar with no pre-requisites, open to all majors, and all grade levels. This was a special topics course designed by the instructor with input from the department chair.)

NHIS3312-A: Flesh and Blood: The Body in Western Europe, 1250-1800

Spring 2010 – Mondays 4:00pm-5:50pm in Johnson/Kaplan Hall Room 619

Professor Tracy E. Robey (robeyt@newschool.edu)

Office hours: 3:00pm-3:50 in the Johnson/Kaplan Hall 6th Floor Lounge and by appointment

Course Description:

This course juxtaposes changing perceptions of the human body with Europe's intellectual, cultural, and political developments of the Renaissance and early modern periods. In the context of these shifts we explore the importance of religious relics, reasons for grisly executions, roles of physicians and midwives, ideas about gender and sexuality, reactions to the bodies of non-Europeans, and the "magical" healing power of the monarch's touch. How did religion influence thinking about punishment and sustenance? What does the Scientific Revolution tell us about modern ideas about gender and sexuality? What can modern medicine learn from past practices and epidemics? We read accounts by religious women Cecilia Ferrazzi and Teresa of Avila, the Enlightenment Encyclopedia, eyewitness reports of English and German executions of heretics, the literary works of Boccaccio and Aretino, and midwives' manuals, among other sources.

Course objectives-- students will be able to:

- identify and discuss major issues in the history of the body in early modern Europe.
- read primary and secondary texts documenting the history of the body.
- use these texts and class discussion to write in some of the main historical genres.
- think critically about the changing perceptions of the body in the past and relate this to current thoughts about the body.
- present their ideas persuasively to their peers.
- demonstrate in class and on informal and formal assignments their mastery of the previous objectives.

Grades are based on:

Participation 20%

Participating in class discussions, engaging in small group work, answering questions during the lecture, and asking questions when concepts are not clear are all ways in which you can ensure that you receive full marks for class participation.

E-mail response to the first reading 5%

This short assignment will require you to write roughly the equivalent of one page of double-spaced text to the instructor before class meets regarding your thoughts about Nancy G. Siraisi's *Medieval and Early Renaissance Medicine: An Introduction to Knowledge and Practice*.

Historiography paper 15%

This 4-page paper requires you to compare at least three secondary sources read for class. For each source you should identify the argument, sources, and methodology, then discuss how the sources relate to each other.

Primary source paper 20%

This 5-page paper requires you to develop an argument based on your interpretation of at least three primary sources.

Research paper 40%

Each of the above assignments are designed to develop the skills necessary to produce a polished, 10-page minimum research paper on a topic of your choice relating to the history of the body in Western Europe between 1250-1800 (subject to the approval of the instructor) using both primary and secondary sources to support an argument you develop over the course of the semester. Workshops on how to organize your research, find primary sources, and organize the paper, among other topics, will happen in class. To oversee and aid your steady work on the topic you select, the assignment will be broken into graded components due throughout the semester.

- Five-minute informal presentation on the topic you have selected: 5%
- Bibliography of primary and secondary sources: 5%
- One-page description of the primary sources you are using: 5%
- Outline of your paper: 5%
- Formal presentation of a polished draft to the class for feedback: 10%
- Final submission of your paper: 10%

All papers (except the final research paper) may be rewritten and submitted for a better grade after the student makes a good faith effort on a finished paper that is submitted on the due date and attends a writing consultation with the instructor regarding the necessary changes.

Required Reading

Most course readings will be posted on BlackBoard (**BB**). Bring your hard copy of the reading with you to class. Reading assignments are due on the date under which they are listed; complete all reading assignments before coming to class. The following books will not be available on BlackBoard and may be purchased at the Barnes & Noble textbook store at 105 Fifth Avenue (at 18th Street) in Manhattan:

- Ferrazzi, Cecilia. *Autobiography of an Aspiring Saint*. Edited by Anne Jacobson Schutte. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996. ISBN: 978-0226244471. New/Used Price: \$9.50/\$7.10.
- Siraisi, Nancy G. *Medieval and Early Renaissance Medicine: An Introduction to Knowledge and Practice*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990. ISBN: 978-0226761305. New/Used Price: \$28.00/\$21.00.
- Vesalius, Andreas. *Illustrations from the Works of Andreas Vesalius of Brussels*. Mineola, NY: Dover, 1973. ISBN: 978-0486209685. New/Used Price: \$19.95/\$14.95.
- Siegemund, Justine. *The Court Midwife*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005. ISBN: 978-0226757094. New/Used Price: \$26.00/\$19.50.
- Aretino, Pietro. *The School of Whoredom*. London: Hesperus Press, 2003. ISBN: 978-1843910367. New/Used Price: \$13.95/\$10.45.

Course Policies

- Attendance at all class sessions is mandatory; if you are unable to attend a meeting due to illness or bereavement please provide the instructor with appropriate documentation the day you return so you will not be penalized.
- Arriving to class after 4:00pm will result in half credit for attendance.
- Due to the condensed nature of the course all undocumented absences after the first will result in 5% being deducted from your overall grade.
- In addition to simply attending the course meetings you must be an "active participant" in class discussions, small group sessions, and brief lectures in order to earn full marks for participation.
- Late assignments will not be accepted.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES & RESOURCES

Disabilities

In keeping with the University's policy of providing equal access for students with disabilities, any student with a disability who may need academic accommodations

should contact the office of Student Disability Services. Students requesting any accommodations will need to meet with Jason Luchs, who will conduct an intake, and if appropriate, provide an academic accommodation notification letter. All conversations will be kept confidential.

Mr. Luchs's office is located at 79 5th Avenue on the 5th floor (luchs@newschool.edu, 212.229.5626 x3135). You may also access more information at <http://www.newschool.edu/student-services/disability/>.

Incompletes

A grade of Incomplete ("I") indicates that your instructor has granted you an extension to complete outstanding work for a course. The grade of Incomplete will not be assigned automatically. It will only be assigned at the request of the student **by the last day of class. Incomplete grades cannot be granted for students who are graduating seniors.**

If circumstances require you to request a grade of Incomplete—and the instructor approves your request—the terms of the Incomplete should be agreed upon in writing, using the "Request for a Grade of Incomplete" form (http://www.newschool.edu/forms/registrar_incomplete_grade.pdf). This ensures that both the student and the instructor understand the exact nature of the required work, the manner in which it is to be submitted, and the date by which it must be submitted.

Your instructor will determine the deadline for submission of outstanding work. Students with a grade of Incomplete who do not complete their work by the agreed-upon deadline will receive a grade of Withdrawal/Failure ("WF"). Students who complete outstanding work according to the terms of the Incomplete will receive a letter grade. (The "I" will be converted to a letter grade after your instructor submits a Change of Grade form on your behalf).

Libraries

The New School Library offers frequent research workshops for students, the day, time, and location of which are posted to the Library webpage (<http://library.newschool.edu/events/>) each semester. The library also provides one-on-one support for students who in conducting research for a paper or project require additional assistance. Students can contact the library about scheduling a one-on-one appointment with a reference librarian at the following link: <http://library.newschool.edu/reference/request.php>.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use of another person's words or ideas in any academic work. (This could be using books, journals, internet postings, or other students' papers.) For further information on avoiding plagiarism through proper acknowledgements, including expectations for paraphrasing source material and forms of citation in research and writing, students should consult the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing* (2nd edition), Chapter 6, on documentation. The Bachelor's

Program provides useful online resources to inform students of correct forms of research and writing. To access these resources, go to <http://www.newschool.edu/ba/> and click on the link "Resources for Current Students."

The New School Writing Center also provides online resources about avoiding plagiarism. (See <http://www.newschool.edu/admin/writingcenter/index.html>.)

Please note that students must receive prior permission from instructors to submit the same or substantially overlapping material for two different assignments. Submission of the same work for two assignments without prior permission is plagiarism.

Writing Center

Students are highly encouraged to take advantage of the university writing center, located at 65 5th Avenue, room 105. To make an appointment, you can e-mail the writing center at writingcenter@newschool.edu or call 212.229.5121. For further information, please visit the Writing Center web site: www.newschool.edu/admin/writingcenter/.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Monday, January 25th: First session

Monday, February 1st: An Overview of the Body in early modern Europe

Reading:

Thomas, Keith. "The Environment." In *Religion and the Decline of Magic*, 3-21. New York: Scribner, 1971. **BB**

Bynum, Caroline Walker. "Why All the Fuss About the Body? A Medievalist's Perspective." *Critical Inquiry* 22 (1995): 1-33. **BB**

Stagg, Kevin. "The Body" In *Writing Early Modern History*, 205-226. Edited by Garthine Walker. London: Hodder Arnold, 2005. **BB**

Writing workshop: How to write a serious e-mail

Monday, February 8th: Medicine

Reading:

Siraisi, Nancy G. *Medieval and Early Renaissance Medicine: An Introduction to Knowledge and Practice*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990.

A prayer for curing the King's Evil.

<http://www.eskimo.com/~lhowell/bcp1662/occasion/scrofula.html>

Assignment: E-mail Professor Robey and identify the argument, sources, and methodology in Siraisi's *Medieval and Early Renaissance Medicine* (equivalent to one double-spaced page).

Writing workshop: How to take useful notes when reading

Monday, February 15th: NO CLASS (PRESIDENT'S DAY)

Monday, February 22nd: Pestilence

Reading:

Cohen, Samuel. "The Black Death: End of a Paradigm." *The American Historical Review* 107, no. 3 (2002): 703-738. **BB**

Boccaccio, Giovanni. Introduction to *The Decameron*.
<http://www.history.vt.edu/Burr/Boccaccio.html>

Boehrer, Bruce Thomas. "Early Modern Syphilis." In *Forbidden History: The State, Society and the Regulation of Sexuality in Modern Europe*, 29-56. Edited by John C. Fout. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992. **BB**

Reed, C. S. "The Codpiece: Social Fashion or Medical Need?" *Internal Medicine Journal* 34 (2004): 684-686. **BB**

Douglas, Mary. "Witchcraft and Leprosy: Two Strategies of Exclusion." *Man* 26, no. 4 (1991): 723-736. **BB**

Mead, Richard. *A Short Discourse Concerning Pestilential Contagion, and the methods to be used to prevent it*. London: Ralph Smith, 1720. **BB**

Writing workshop: How to generate ideas and find primary sources and secondary sources for research

Monday, March 1st: Reproduction

Reading:

Siegemund, Justine. *The Court Midwife*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.

Crawford, Patricia. "Attitudes to Menstruation in Seventeenth-Century England." *Past and Present* 91 (1981): 47-73. **BB**

Riddle, John M. and J. Worth Estes. "Oral Contraceptives in Ancient and Medieval Times." *American Scientist* 80 (1992):226-33. **BB**

Beusterien, J. "Jewish Male Menstruation in Seventeenth-Century Spain." *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 73, no. 3 (1999): 447-456. **BB**

Assignment: Give a five-minute informal presentation on the research paper topic you have selected.

Writing workshop: How to write a historiography paper

Monday, March 8th: Execution

Reading:

Connell, William J. and Giles Constable. *Sacrilege and Redemption in Renaissance Florence: The Case of Antonio Rinaldeschi*, 101-199 plus images. Toronto: CRRS, 2005. **BB**

Foucault, Michel. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*, 3-31. New York: Vintage, 1995. **BB**

Merback, Mitchell T. *The Thief, the Cross, and the Wheel: Pain and the Spectacle of Punishment in Medieval and Renaissance Europe*, 11-32 plus images. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999. **BB**

Fox's Book of Martyrs. "General Persecutions in Germany."
<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/foxe/martyrs/files/fox110.htm>

Fox's Book of Martyrs. "An Account of the Persecutions in Scotland During the Reign of King Henry VIII."
<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/foxe/martyrs/files/fox115.htm>

Assignment: Historiography paper (four pages)

Writing workshop: How to create a bibliography using Chicago Style

Monday, March 15th: NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)

Monday, March 22nd: Sexual Intercourse

Reading:

Boccaccio, Giovanni. *The Decameron*, 291-301. New York: Penguin Classics, 2003. **BB**

Navarre, Marguerite de. *The Heptameron*, 197-200. Translated by Léopold Flameng. Philadelphia: G. Barrie, 1881. **BB**

Aretino, Pietro. *The School of Whoredom*. London: Hesperus Press, 2003.

Thomas Laqueur: "Orgasm, Generation and the Politics of Reproductive Biology", *Representations* 14 (1986), pp. 1-41. **BB**

Rocke, Michael. "Gender and Sexual Culture in Renaissance Italy." In *The Italian Renaissance: The Essential Readings*, 192-211. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2002. **BB**

Assignment: Submit a bibliography of primary and secondary sources to be used in your research paper (using Chicago Style).

Writing workshop: How to improve paragraph and paper structure

Monday, March 29th: Bodies and Religion

Reading:

Bynum, Caroline Walker. "The Female Body and Religious Practice in the Later Middle Ages." In *Fragmentation and Redemption: Essays of Gender and the Human Body in Medieval Religion*, 181-238. New York: Zone Books, 1991. **BB**

Ferrazzi, Cecilia. *Autobiography of an Aspiring Saint*. Edited by Anne Jacobson Schutte. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.

Mendieta, Eduardo. "Corpus Christi: The Eucharist and Late Medieval Cultural Identity." In *Consuming Passions: The Uses of Cannibalism in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, 26-44. New York: Routledge, 2003. **BB**

Bynum, Caroline Walker and Paula Gerson. "Body-Part Reliquaries and Body Parts in the Middle Ages." *Gesta* 36, no. 1 (1997): 3-7. **BB**

Theresa of Avila. "On Mortification."

<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/teresa/way.i.xvii.html>

Writing workshop: How to improve syntax

Monday, April 5th: Anatomy and Dissection

Reading:

Cunningham, Andrew. *The Anatomical Renaissance: The Resurrection of the Anatomical Projects of the Ancients*, 57-142. Aldershot: Scolar Press, 1997. **BB**

Park, Katharine. "The Criminal and the Saintly Body: Autopsy and Dissection in Renaissance Italy." *The Renaissance Quarterly* 47 (1994): 1-33. **BB**

Heseler, Baldasar. "Andreas Vesalius' First Public Anatomy at Bologna, 1540, an Eyewitness Report."

<http://www.stanford.edu/class/history13/Readings/vesalius.htm>

Vesalius, Andreas. *Illustrations from the Works of Andreas Vesalius of Brussels*. Mineola, NY: Dover, 1973.

Diderot, Denis, ed. "Chirurgie." *Encyclopédie*. **BB**

Writing workshop: How to write a primary source paper

Monday, April 12th: Appearances, Manners, and Emotions

Reading:

Muir, Edward. "Carnival and the Lower Body" and "Manners and the Upper Body." In *Ritual in Early Modern Europe*, 81-146. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997. **BB**

Ziegler, J. "Skin and Character in Medieval and Early Renaissance Physiognomy." *Micrologus* 13 (2005): 511-535. **BB**

Rublack, U. "Fluxes: The Early Modern Body and the Emotions." *History Workshop Journal* 53 (2002): 1-16. **BB**

Festa, L. "Personal Effects: Wigs and Possessive Individualism in the Long Eighteenth-Century." *Eighteenth-Century Life* 29, no. 2 (2005): 47-90. **BB**

Assignment: Primary source paper (5 pages)

Writing workshop: How to organize your research

Monday, April 19th: peer workshop of primary source description

Reading: read your paper sources and your classmates' primary source paragraphs

Assignment: one paragraph on a primary source you are using in your research paper, circulate before class via e-mail by 4pm Sunday (access the course e-mail list on BB)

Writing workshop: How to organize a research paper

Monday, April 26th: Peer workshop of outline

Reading: read your paper sources and classmates' outlines

Assignment: a short outline of your paper, circulate before class via e-mail by 4pm Sunday; work on drafts of your paper

Writing workshop: How to cite using Chicago style

Monday, May 3rd: Draft presentations

Reading: read your paper sources and classmates' drafts

Assignment: work on drafts of your paper, circulate a draft before class via e-mail by 4pm Sunday (group 1)

Writing workshop: How to give your colleagues useful feedback

Monday, May 10th: Draft presentations

Reading: read your paper sources and classmates' drafts

Assignment: work on drafts of your paper, circulate a draft before class via e-mail by 4pm Sunday (group 2)

Writing workshop: A review of how to proof your paper

Monday, May 17th: Revised research paper due