The balance between health and disease is a central feature of human life and society. Over the past 500 years there have been major changes in the prevalence and experience of diseases, from epidemics of smallpox and tuberculosis, to the chronic afflictions of obesity, heart disease, and mental illness. At the same time there has been enormous growth in the role of medicine in culture, economics, and politics. This course will use a historical approach to explore the changing interactions between disease and society in America, examining: the reasons for the changing patterns of disease, the evolution of medical theory and practice, the development of hospitals and the medical profession, the rise of biotechnology research and the pharmaceutical industry, and the politics of health care in America.
Requirements

As a HASS-CI course, emphasis is placed on oral and written communication. The course requires (1) active participation in both lectures and weekly recitation sections, (2) one 5-minute oral presentation; (3) co-leading one discussion, and (4) a series of written assignments: weekly reading responses, two short papers, and one final research paper. There will be no midterm or final examinations.

Readings

Each week, except the four weeks when papers are due, 50-70 pages of readings will be assigned. All the readings will be available on the STS.005 Stellar site.

Recitations

Each week’s readings must be read prior to recitation section. Active participation in the discussions is required. Each student will also co-lead one recitation. This will involve:
1) emailing the other members of the section in advance with a list of likely discussion topics,
2) providing a 5-10 minute summary of the readings,
3) leading the discussion with help from the recitation leader.

Weekly Reading Responses

Every Friday night, a short, one-page (300 words) writing assignment, based on the weekly readings, will be posted in the Homework section of the STS.005 Stellar site. We will provide a few tentative questions, but you are encouraged to raise your own questions about the readings. The reading responses must be submitted via Stellar by 9 am on the recitation day, except the four weeks when papers are due. PDF format is preferred, but DOC and TXT are also allowed.

Papers

As a HASS-CI class, three papers are required, for a minimum of 20 pages total. Two shorter, 6-page papers (1800 words each) are due on October 3 and October 24. One of these papers (you choose which one) must be substantially revised and resubmitted by November 11. The final research paper (8 pages, 2400 words) is due on December 9.

Oral Presentation

Each student will give one 5-minute oral presentation on the topic of their first or second paper. Presentations will be given during recitations on October 3, October 24, or November 11.

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation in Discussions:</th>
<th>20%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Co-leading Recitation:</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation:</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Weekly Writing Assignments: 15%
Paper 1: 10%
Paper 2: 10%
Re-write: 10%
Final Paper: 25%

Writing Advisor

To receive feedback on paper drafts or to consult on any other issues related to writing assignments or oral presentations, contact Tom Delaney, the course writing advisor, at <tdelaney@mit.edu> or sign up online at http://www.mysignup.com/fallwritingsessions

Writing and Communication Center

Another resource is the Writing and Communication Center (12-132), which offers you free professional advice from published writers about all types of academic, creative, and professional writing, as well as about oral presentations. Go to http://web.mit.edu/writing and click on the yellow sunburst. If you cannot find an open appointment slot, do not despair. There are always cancellations on the day of the appointment. Click on the Wait List (the blue strip that says “Is the time that you want already reserved?”) Whenever a cancellation occurs on that day, you will be automatically notified by email. Because several people might receive that same message, go online ASAP to schedule that open spot; 96% of clients who want an appointment end up with one if they use the Wait List. If you can’t find an appointment, you can drop by the Center and sign up to be a drop-in client and/or try the Online Tutor at http://web.mit.edu/writing/Center/onlinetutor.html . The Center’s hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Friday 9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.; and Sundays, 5:00-9:00 p.m. (check the online scheduler for up to-date hours).

Reference Librarian

To find literature sources appropriate for your paper topic, set up an appointment with Michelle Baildon, reference librarian for History of Science and Technology, <baildon@mit.edu>, phone 253-9352, Room 14S-222.

CLASS SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lectures</th>
<th>Readings &amp; Papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/04 Introduction: Disease, Medicine, and Society</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part I: Social Determinants of Disease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/09 What Is Disease?</td>
<td>Colonial Encounters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/11 Colonization and Disease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Week 3
09/16  Urbanization, Hygiene, and Cholera
09/18  The Decline of Tuberculosis

Week 4
09/23  Epidemiological Transitions
09/25  Health Disparities

Week 5
09/30  Diseases of Civilization
10/02  The Rise of Cigarettes

Part II: The Rise of Modern Medicine

Week 6
10/07  Colonial Medicine and Bloodletting
10/09  From Heroic Therapy to the Numerical Method

Week 7
10/14  Anesthesia and the Rise of Surgery
10/16  Germ Theory and the Therapeutic Revolution

Week 8
10/21  Medical Education and Specialization
10/23  Medical Technology and the Modern Hospital

Week 9
10/28  Sanitation and Hygiene
10/30  Antibiotics and Clinical Trials

Part III: Solutions For Today’s Problems

Week 10
11/04  Health Care Policy: Access and Cost
11/06  Debate: The Future of Health Care

Week 11
11/11  Veteran’s Day: No class
11/13  Risk, Regulation, and Public Health

Week 12
11/18  The Tobacco Pandemic
11/20  Obesity and Diabetes

Week 13
11/25  Biotech and the Big Pharma
11/27  Thanksgiving: No class

Week 14
12/02  The Age of AIDS
12/04  Psychotherapy and Psychopharmacology

Week 15
12/09  Disease and Society in the 21st Century

10/03 Paper 1 Due
Student presentations

10/31 Paper 2 Due
Student presentations

11/14 Rewrite Due
Student presentations

12/09: Final Paper Due
READINGS

Week 1: Introduction (no readings)

Week 2: Colonial Encounters


Week 3: Urban Epidemics


Week 4: Transitions and Disparities


Week 6: Therapeutic Paradoxes


**Week 7: Therapeutic Revolutions**


**Week 8: Medical Technologies**


**Week 10: Public Health**


**Week 12: Disease and Responsibility**


**Week 14: Mental Health**