OFFERED ONLY THIS SUMMER!

Social & Cultural History of Medicine in the United States, 1805 to the Present
HIST 4066/6066
SUMMER SHORT SESSION II 9:15 - 11:30 am DAILY

Birth, death, sex, health and illness are obviously fundamental to the human condition, and histories of medicine and the body provide exciting ways to explore and gain greater understanding of such experiences. This course examines key themes and issues in the history of 19th and 20th century American medicine. It begins by exploring important debates within medical history, as well as exploring how the field has changed in recent decades. Theories and histories of the body are also sampled at the outset (anthropological, feminist, and Foucaultian), before moving on to ground these insights and concepts in a selection of historical case studies: Native, African, and European healing cultures (compared using ex-slave interviews, domestic medical manuals, and ethnological reports); midwifery in late 18th century New England (examined through the diary of Martha Ballard); the growth of anatomy and hospital-based medicine; ‘race medicine’ and experiments on slaves (seen through medical case histories); the American Civil War’s impact on medicine, public health, and soldiers’ bodies (explored using documentary photos and memoirs); the medical inspection of immigrants at Ellis and Angel Island; the health of workers (vividly depicted in Upton Sinclair’s novel The Jungle); attempts to regulate sex, ‘race’, disease and prostitution (in New Orleans’s Storyville district); the rise of eugenic thought and the targeting of individuals with disabilities (including the odious practice of sterilizing the so-called ‘feeble minded’); and also the 40 year long ‘study of untreated syphilis in the American Negro’ – the tragic Tuskegee experiment.

Stephen Kenny is a Lecturer in 19th and 20th century North American History in the Department of History at the University of Liverpool. He has published a number of essays on the history of medicine under American Slavery in the Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Social History of Medicine, and has an article forthcoming on the use of slaves as medical specimens in the Bulletin of the History of Medicine. He is also a contributor to volume 24 of the New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, the Encyclopedia of Jim Crow, and is currently completing a monograph on the use of the slave body in medical education and research in the American South. Dr. Kenny’s teaching interests include the social and cultural history of medicine in the United States; the history and culture of the American South; African-American history and culture; the Civil War and Reconstruction; American Slavery.

This course is made possible through the Summer 2012 FRANKLIN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM (FISP)
The purpose of the Franklin International Scholars Program is to move beyond traditional paradigms of student study abroad and pursue substantive faculty collaborations with partner institutions throughout the world. In this sense Franklin College shares the mission of UGA’s Office of International Education, and FISP is a key element of that mission. Since teaching and research are indissolubly linked, participants in the Franklin International Scholars Program will always be expected to teach as well as to conduct research. Teaching a class will allow international scholars to rehearse their research agendas before an enthusiastic and critical audience of UGA students. As a means of promoting interdisciplinarity, when possible the international scholars will teach split-level graduate/undergraduate classes, or cross-listed courses at either level.

Support for FISP in 2012 has been provided by:
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