

HISTORY 1496  
War and Medicine Since the Renaissance

(CRN: 23983)

Fall 2013

T R: 1-2.20; Smith-Buonanno Hall 101

Professor Harold J. (Hal) Cook

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Office Hours: T R 3-4pm & by appointment

**Course Description:**

Since the Renaissance, warfare has mainly been a mass activity organized by states, with the ability to cause mass harm growing by leaps and bounds. At the same time, states have developed methods to care for their armed forces, and sometimes for the non-combatants entangled in their military operations; non-combatants in turn have been deeply affected by the ways in which medicine has been engaged in warfare, often in ways that are little noticed. This course will deal briefly with the history of warfare, and mainly with the ways in which states, citizens, and interested parties have attempted to ameliorate the bodily effects of warfare, often with unexpected consequences, from the Renaissance to the late 20th century.

Readings:

All books are available for purchase at the bookstore and on reserve at the library. Articles are available at the library and (in most cases) the library's electronic journals service (OCRA): password "Pare."

**Required Books:**

D. Robert DeChaine. *Global Humanitarianism: NGOs and the crafting of community*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2005. Available electronically via library

Pratik Chakrabarti. *Medicine and Empire: 1600-1960*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

Ernest Hemingway. *Hemingway on war*. Edited by Seán Hemingway. New York: Scribner, 2003.

Margaret Humphreys. *Marrow of Tragedy: The Health Crisis of the American Civil War*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013.

Reviel Netz. *Barbed Wire: An Ecology of Modernity*. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 2004.

Assessment:

Examinations (40%):

**Midterm** (1 hour; 15 percent of final grade), held in class on March 13

**Final** (2 hour; 25 percent of final grade), held May 12, 2pm

Papers (45%):

Paper 1 (15%): Due Sept 25; A paper of no more than 1000 words, drawing on primary sources in the form of an official history. Details on sources for the project will be provided in class.

Paper 2 (15%): Due April 17; A paper of no more than 2500 words, related to a topic of interest covered in the course. Details on sources for the project will be provided in class.

Timeline (15%): Due April 24; A timeline of 25 to 30 entries, picking out the most important events (according to each student) in the history of war and medicine. This can be presented using a word-processor, a spreadsheet, or a specialized program (for free web versions, see [timeglider.com](http://timeglider.com) or [timeline.verite.co](http://timeline.verite.co)).

#### Participation (15%):

Participation in discussion is an important part of this class and will account for 15% of your overall grade. Full participation points will go to students who attend class regularly and participate constructively in discussions (i.e., judgment is based on the quality rather than quantity of the participation). Attendance in class is mandatory.

#### Course Schedule:

Jan 23: Introduction and Orientation

##### A Short History of Warfare

Jan 28: Pillage and Siege: Early Gunpowder Warfare in Europe and Abroad

*The Apologie and Treatise of Ambroise Paré*, ed. Geoffrey Keynes (NY: Dover Books, 1968): "The Voyage of Turin, 1537," pp. 21-25, and "Of Wounds made by Gunshot, other Fierie Engines, and all sorts of Weapons," pp. 130-142.

Jan 30: From the 19<sup>th</sup> Century: Nations and Industries at War

Leonard A. Cole, *Clouds of Secrecy: The Army's Germ Warfare Tests Over Populated Areas* (New Jersey: Rowman and Littlefield, 1988), pp. 32-71.

Feb 4: Imperial Conquest and Resistance

John Ellis, *The Social History of the Machine Gun* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986), pp. 79-109.

Feb 6: People's Wars and Wars against Peoples

Ernest Hemingway. *Hemingway on war*. Edited by Seán Hemingway. New York: Scribner, 2003. (Read at least one chapter in each of the eight sections.)

##### Military Medicine

Feb 11: Caring for the Wounded: Battlefield and Shipboard Medicine

Dora B. Weiner, "French Doctors Face War, 1792-1815," in *From the Ancien Régime to the Popular Front*, ed. C.K. Warner (NY: Columbia University Press, 1969), pp. 51-73.

Feb 13: Public Health and Hygiene: Battling Disease

Peter Mathias, "Swords and Ploughshares: The Armed Forces, Medicine and Public Health in the Late Eighteenth Century," in *War and Economic Development*, ed. J.M. Winter (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1975), pp. 73-90.

Feb 18: **No Class** (long weekend)

Feb 20: Hospitals and Institutions: Rehabilitating the Survivors

Margaret Humphreys. *Marrow of Tragedy: The Health Crisis of the American Civil War*.

Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013.

### Imperialism and Westernization

Feb 25: Settling and Protecting Strange Places: The Making of Tropical Medicine

**First paper due**

Philip D. Curtin, "Disease and Imperialism," in *Warm Climates and Western Medicine: the Emergence of Tropical Medicine, 1500-1900*, edited by David Arnold (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1996), pp. 99-107.

Feb 27: Military Medicine for Non-Colonial States

Hormoz Ebrahimnejad, *Medicine, Public Health and the Qājār State: Patterns of Medical Modernization in Nineteenth-Century Iran* (Leiden: Brill, 2004), pp. 141-161.

March 4: Mass Mobilization for the Relief of Suffering

John F. Hutchinson, "Rethinking the Origins of the Red Cross," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 63 (1989): 557-578.

March 6: The Red Cross and International Rules of War

Pratik Chakrabarti. *Medicine and Empire: 1600-1960*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

### Effects of Warfare on Medicine in Europe and America

March 11: Chains of Command and Medical Professionalization

Darlene Clark Hine, *Black Women in White* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1989), pp. 162-186.

March 13: **Midterm Exam**

March 18: Fears of National Degeneration

Richard Soloway, "Counting the Degenerates: The Statistics of Race Deterioration in Edwardian England," *Journal of Contemporary History* 17 (1982):137-64.

March 20: Population Health as a National Resource: Rationing and Healthcare

Debate: Linda Bryder, "The First World War: Healthy or Hungry?," *History Workshop Journal*, No. 24 (1987):141-157; and J.M. Winter, "Public Health and the Political Economy of War, 1914-18," *History Workshop Journal*, No. 26 (1988): 163-73.

### Spring Recess

### The 20<sup>th</sup> Century

April 1: Testing the Mind (Mental Fitness and Mental Illness)

John Carson, "Army Alpha, Army Brass, and the Search for Army Intelligence," *Isis* (1993): 278-309.

April 3: Chemical and Biological Warfare

John W. Powell, "A Hidden Chapter in History [on Japanese Unit 731]," *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* (Oct. 1981):43-53.

April 8: Prisoners of War; Death Camps

Jay Katz, "The Nuremberg Code and the Nuremberg Trial," *JAMA* 276 (Nov. 1996): 1662-66; Jon M. Harkness, "Nuremberg and the Issue of Wartime Experiments on US

Prisoners," *JAMA* 276 (Nov. 1996): 1672–75.

April 10: Nuclear War

Paul Boyer, "Physicians Confront the Apocalypse: The American Medical Profession and the Threat of Nuclear War," *JAMA* 253 (Aug. 1985): 633-43.

April 15: Drug Shortages and Drug Development

Reviel Netz. *Barbed Wire: An Ecology of Modernity*. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 2004.

April 17: Doctors, Nationalism, and Wars of Independence

Warwick Anderson and Hans Pols, "Scientific Patriotism: Medical Science and National Self-fashioning in Southeast Asia," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 54 (2012): 93–113.

**Second paper due**

April 22: Veterans and Social Medicine

Rosemary Stevens, "Can the Government Govern? Lessons From the Formation of the Veterans Administration," *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* 16 (1991): 281–305.

April 24: Wars of Terror and the Proliferation of NGOs

**Timeline due**

D. Robert DeChaine. *Global Humanitarianism: NGOs and the Crafting of Community*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2005.

**Final Exam:** May 12, 2pm