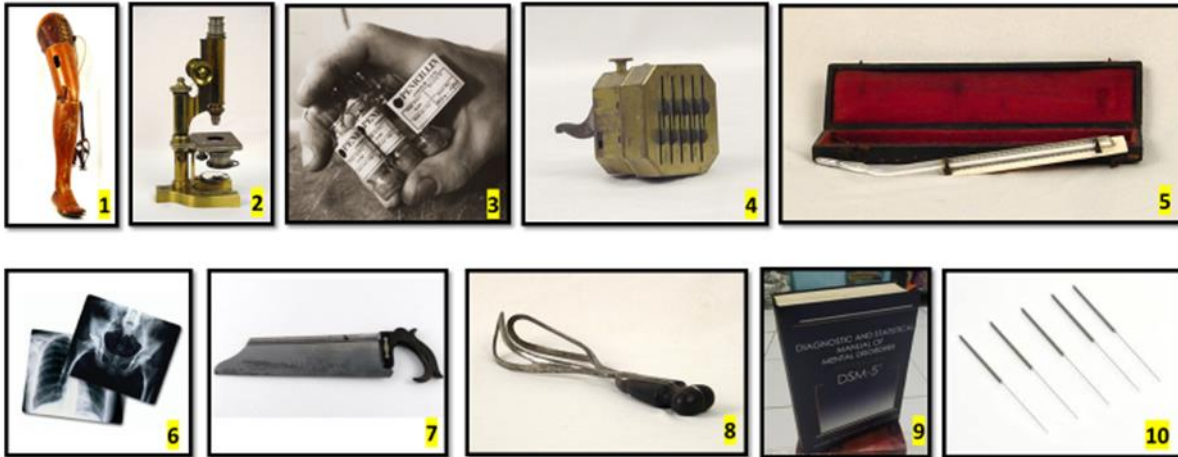


HISTORY 3840G

Microscopes and Amputation Saws: A History of Medicine in 10 Objects



Winter 2024

Instructor: [Prof Shelley McKellar](#)

Email: smckell@uwo.ca

Course Description:

Using 10 objects as entry points into the history of medicine, this course explores the changes and continuities in Western medical knowledge and practice since the 18th century. New and old medical treatments, different medical theories, professional authority, socio-cultural expectations, and issues of power, class, race, gender will be explored.

Prerequisite(s):

None

Course Syllabus:

Content & Expectations

This is a course in the history of modern Western medicine that focuses on medical **KNOWLEDGE** and **PRACTICE**. This course aims to highlight the changes and continuities in Western medicine, identifying key individuals, ideas, treatments, structures, and contexts that reinforced or shifted the practice of medicine, predominantly from the 18th century to present day. In this course, we will ask (and trace): What medical practices changed, and why? How did certain medical practices reinforce or disrupt medical knowledge at various periods of time? Who and what (individuals, technology, structures) were involved in these changes?

Each week's topic will start with a medical object, which will serve as an entry point to explore a broader theme or aspect in the history of medicine. In this course, we will spotlight 10 medical objects and tackle 10 distinct areas of medical history, covering such topics as the germ theory revolution, the history of surgery, shifting childbirth practices, the rise of the hospital, and more. Our weekly lectures and discussion will delve into various topics by providing relevant content and object information, considering different historical interpretations and contrasting points of view, and examining numerous methods and theories used by historians to gather and evaluate historical evidence. Issues of class, race, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality will be discussed alongside themes of individual agency, professional authority, consumerism, and more. Students will engage with a variety of primary sources throughout this course and be exposed to material culture through medical objects.

This is a mixed lecture and breakout sessions course. Each week, there will be a lecture and break-out discussions in small groups. There will be a hands-on component in the form of a Medical Artifact Collection workshop for which students will work in small groups. This workshop session is scheduled during class time, so please note the change of venue (the workshop location differs from our regular class room).

Who can take this course?

This course is open to all students. History students, students planning to major in science or medicine, or other students in the social sciences, health sciences, or arts and humanities are welcome. Students do not need a background in science, medicine, or history to take this course.

Course-Level Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students shall be able:

- To differentiate the changes and continuities (historical shifts and patterns) in medical knowledge and practice over time, and how individual agency, professional authority, socio-cultural expectations, and issues of power, class, race, and gender may influence this
- To explain key medical developments, such as the establishment of the germ theory, the rise of the hospital, and the introduction of new medical technologies and treatments
- To recognize that medical knowledge and practice are shaped by time and place
- To analyze critically various source materials – primary and secondary sources – from which to understand the history of medicine
- To formulate and communicate an effective argument, which demonstrates good research, writing and analytical skills

For history outcomes and expectations for 3rd year students, see:

http://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_information/expectations_outcomes.html

Course Materials:

- Jacalyn Duffin, *History of Medicine: A Scandalously Short Introduction*, 3rd edition (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2021). Available at [Western Libraries](#); Available for purchase in paper and eBook at <https://utorontopress.com/9781487509170/history-of-medicine/> or at [The Western Book Store](#)
- Additional documents for discussion will be made available online via the OWL course site.

Methods of Evaluation:

Quiz #1 (online; open book)	15 %	Due date: Check schedule
Quiz #2 (online; open book)	15 %	Due date: Check schedule
Workshop Assignment: Medical Object Reflection	15 %	Due date: Feb 27
Breakout Session Assignment: Individual Reflection	15 %	Due date: Apr 2
Research Essay Assignment (approx. 2500-3000 words)	30 %	Due date: Mar 19
Participation (break-out groups; workshop; class interaction)	10 %	Due date: every class

Assignments --

A handout for each of the assignments is posted on the OWL course site (under Assignments). Students will have a choice of topics for these assignments, thus allowing students to pursue a topic in the history of medicine that interests them.

Submitting Your Course Work --

You will complete your online quizzes (under Tests & Quizzes) and submit course assignments (under Assignments) via the OWL course site. A **digital copy** of all assignments is required for grading.

Late Penalties --

Penalty for late assignments is 2% each day (including Saturday and Sunday) after the due date. Course work cannot be submitted after the last day of lecture classes in the term. To be fair to all students in this class, anyone seeking an assignment extension and/or a late penalty exemption **must request this through Academic Counselling.**

Course Schedule and Readings:

Week	Date	Topic	Duffin Textbook Chapters
1	9 Jan	Introduction - Why Objects as an Entry Point into the History of Medicine?	Chapter 1
2	16 Jan	Artificial Leg (Object #1) - History of the Body	Chapter 2, Chapter 3
3	23 Jan	Microscope (Object #2) - History of Pathology & Disease Theories	Chapter 4
4	30 Jan	Penicillin (Object #3) - History of Pharmacology Online Quiz #1 opens -- Students responsible for material covered & assigned during classes of Jan 9, Jan 16, Jan 23, and Jan 30 inclusively; this quiz to be completed before the beginning of next class: 9:30 a.m. Feb 6)	Chapter 5
5	6 Feb	Scarificator (Object #4) – History of Bloodletting	Chapter 8
6	13 Feb	WORKSHOP in the Medical Artifact Collection (LwH 2262) *** workshop session held in LwH 2262 – the Teaching Classroom connected to the Collection Storage Space <i>Students will examine artifacts, make notes, and take photos for the Medical Object Reflection Assignment. Make sure to bring your phone or other technology to take photos and something with which to make notes. A workshop sheet guiding you through your examination will be provided. No pens, no food, and no drink are allowed in the collection.</i>	M.A. Hamilton & S. McKellar, “Learning through Objects,” <i>Canadian Bulletin of Medical History</i> 23, 1 (2006): 219-243
	20 Feb	Spring Reading Week – NO CLASS MEETING	
7	27 Feb	Thermometer (Object #5) - History of Measurement & Diagnosis Workshop Assignment due (Students to upload a digital copy of their assignment to OWL course site <u>by 11:59 p.m. on Feb 27</u> to avoid late penalty)	Chapter 9
8	5 Mar	X-ray (Object #6) - History of Hospitals	Chapter 9

9	12 Mar	Amputation Saw (Object #7) - History of Surgery Online Quiz #2 opens (Students responsible for material covered & assigned during classes of Feb 6, Feb 27, Mar 5, and Mar 12 inclusively; this quiz <u>to be completed before the beginning of next class: 9:30 a.m. Mar 19</u>)	Chapter 10
10	19 Mar	Obstetric Forceps (Object #8) - History of Childbirth & Pediatrics Research Essay Assignment due (Students to upload a digital copy of their assignment to OWL course site <u>by 11:59 p.m. on Mar 19</u> to avoid late penalty)	Chapter 11, Chapter 13
11	26 Mar	The DSM or Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (Object #9) - History of Psychiatry	Chapter 12
12	2 Apr	Acupuncture Needle (Object #10) – Numerous Healing Practices in History Breakout Session Assignment due (Students to upload a digital copy of their assignment to OWL course site <u>by 11:59 p.m. on Apr 2</u> to avoid late penalty)	Chapter 6, pp.162-3 (2 pages only)

Additional Statements:

All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may not make use of generative AI tools like ChatGPT for any assignments in this course.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.