

WST3703 Section 3703 (#25072)

History of American Medicine: Race, Class, Gender, and Science

Fall 2025

Tuesdays 8:30-9:20am and Thursdays 8:30-10:25am via Zoom

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Mallory Szymanski

Instructor Office Hours via Zoom: Tuesdays 9:30-10:30am. Zoom link and contact information on Canvas.

Teaching Assistant: Upendo Mtataiko

Teaching Assistant Office hours: See Canvas.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This course offers an overview of the development of the medical profession in the US with attention to ways that class, gender, and race have shaped the idea of "scientific medicine."

NOTE: This course covers a variety of ideas and views about the topics of focus, taught as objects of analysis within the larger course of instruction. Emphasis is on critical thinking, examination of evidence, and evaluation of arguments. No lesson is intended to compel a particular feeling or belief. Endorsing or agreeing with a particular view is not expected or required.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Textbook: None. All materials are available free of charge through Canvas, Course reserves, or the internet.

Materials will be available through the following means: Course Canvas page

Materials Fees: N/A

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- Identify and explain historically significant events in the history of American medicine.

- Discuss and evaluate primary and secondary sources from different perspectives related to American medicine.
- Analyze evidence of people's experiences related to gender, race, class, science, and medicine in different social contexts.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADES

Perusall Assignments must be completed on time. If you anticipate needing an extension, contact the TA to make arrangements.

Response assignments have a 24-hour grace period; after that 10% of the grade will be deducted per day the assignment is late.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the [Catalog](#).

Graded Course Activities

Note: Additional assignment details are provided on the course Canvas page.

Social Annotation in Perusall = 3 points each x 16 = 48 points

Students will use Perusall through Canvas to annotate the readings for the course, respond to instructor and classmates, and pose questions about the material. Tutorial and further details are provided on Canvas. These occur weekly and the lowest grade is dropped.

Show & Tell - Primary Sources = 10 points each x 4 = 40 points

Students will write 4 Show and Tell response papers to help develop critical thinking and historical analysis skills. Students will link assigned materials with class discussion and lecture to develop their own conclusions. There are five opportunities for response papers, and the lowest grade is dropped.

Attend an Event = 12 points

Students will attend a live, in-person on-campus or community event related to health and medicine and write about the connections to the course. Contact the TA for advice about finding a relevant event.

Grading Scale and Policies

More information about UF grading policy: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Letter Grade	Points
A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-67
D	66-63
D-	62-60
E	<59

COURSE CALENDAR

This calendar is subject to change for pedagogical or logistical reasons. To the extent possible, students will be notified in advance of any such changes. See Canvas for detailed information about assigned materials, assignments, and announcements of any changes.

Date	Topic	Readings/Preparation	Work Due
8/20-8/22	Intro to Course		
8/25-8/29	Week 1 Intro to Course, Goals and themes		Making the Most of Learning in Perusall
9/1-9/5	Week 2 Defining Health and Disease in Early North America	Kelton Wisecup	Perusall Social Annotation
9/8-9/12	Week 3 Women and Medicine	Ulrich	Perusall Social Annotation Show & Tell 1
9/15-9/20	Week 4 Antebellum Epidemics and Public Health	Primary Source "A History Minute" Hogarth	Perusall Social Annotation
9/22-9/26	Week 5 Black Women, Slavery, and Medicine	Morgan Villarosa Roberts	Perusall Social Annotation
9/29-10/3	Week 6 Civil War Era	<i>Mercy Street</i> Ep. 1 Faust Primary sources	Perusall Social Annotation Show & Tell 2

Date	Topic	Readings/Preparation	Work Due
10/6-10/10	Week 7 Gender, Race, Bodies and Science in 19C	Smith-Rosenberg and Rosenberg	Perusall Social Annotation
10/13-10/17	Week 8 Germ Theory, Eugenics Public Health in the Progressive Era	Tomes Mundt + weblinks	Perusall Social Annotation
10/20-10/24	Week 9 Masculinity and WWI		Show & Tell 3
10/27-10/31	Week 10 "Golden Age of Medicine"	Washington Powers	Perusall Social Annotation
11/3-11/7	Week 12 HIV/AIDS & Public policy	<i>United in Anger. A History of ACT UP</i> Santelli et. all	Perusall Social Annotation Show & Tell 4
11/10-11/15	Week 13 Gender and Healthcare	Article	Perusall Social Annotation Attend an Event
11/17-11/22	Week 14 Pregnancy and Birth	M: Watch: <i>The Business of Being Born</i> W: Podcast: <i>"Love and Labor"</i>	Perusall Social Annotation
No class - holiday			
12/1-12/3	Week 15 Contemporary Resonances	TBD	Perusall Social Annotation Show & Tell 5

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/)." (The direct link is <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>.)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Office of Victim Services 1515 Museum Road, (352) 392-5648 (Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) (352) 392-1111 (after business hours and on weekends)

Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center 352-264-6760 Monday-Friday, 8:30AM - 5PM, some services available 24/7

Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network 352-377-8255 (24-hour helpline)