

**WST6935/4930 (class # 29014/30029)**  
**History of Women's Medicine**

*Wednesdays*  
*12:50pm - 3:50pm*

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Dr. Olivia Adams

**Office hours:** Mondays 2pm to 4pm or by appointment

Please Note: Office location (and zoom link if applicable), instructor email, and phone contact are provided on the course Canvas page.

### COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

#### Course Description

This course explores Western mainstream medicine and doctoring within the context of women's health during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Students will engage with a variety of primary source documents and secondary texts that feature diagnostic and etiological theories regarding specific medical conditions like hysteria, neurasthenia, and vaginismus. This course will also examine historical debates regarding the role of medical authority in patient care outcomes, and the co-constitutive influences of mainstream medicine and U.S. social policy, particularly in reproductive health contexts.

#### Course Objectives

- ❖ Understand the differences between hysteria, frigidity, and neurasthenia as they relate to nineteenth century mainstream U.S. medicine
- ❖ Analyze the relationships between nineteenth century norms of medical practice and the dominant economic and political structures of the U.S. with special attention to the role of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, ability, and other identity categories in these relationships
- ❖ Draw comparisons between nineteenth and twentieth century gynecology and psychiatry as both competing and interacting medical specialties

### COURSE MATERIALS

- Required texts:

- Cooper Owens, D. (2017). *Medical Bondage: Race, Gender, and the Origins of American Gynecology*. University of Georgia Press.
- Clare, E. (2017). *Brilliant Imperfection: Grappling with Cure*. Duke University Press.
- Gill-Peterson, J. (2018). *Histories of the Transgender Child*. University of Minnesota Press.
- Lorde, A. (2020). *The Cancer Journals*. Penguin Classics.
- All other assigned material available through Canvas
- Materials and Supplies Fees: n/a

## ASSESSMENT AND GRADES

### Graded Course Activities

#### Participation, Reading Reflections, and Discussion Lead = 300 points

Please see the course Canvas page for additional instructions.

#### Abstract Assignment = 150 points

Please see the course Canvas page for additional instructions.

#### Citation Assignment = 150 points

Please see the course Canvas page for additional instructions.

#### Final Project Proposal = 100 points

Please see the course Canvas page for additional instructions.

#### Final Project = 300 points

Please see the course Canvas page for additional instructions.

### Grading Scale and Policies

Please see the grading scale for this course listed below. At the end of the semester, final grades will be determined by this chart. View this link (see: "Grades" dropdown) for more information on UF graduate grade policies:

<https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/>

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
S	<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. Additional information, including course readings, can be found on the course Canvas site.

DATE	TOPIC	Assignment or Activity Due
Aug. 23	Historical Analysis in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies	Complete assigned reading before class <b>Complete discussion lead sign-up sheet by Aug. 29</b>
Aug. 30	Nineteenth Century Womanhood	Reading Response due by 11:59pm on Tuesday
Sep. 6	Constructing the Patient: Nineteenth Century Sexual Science	Reading Response due by 11:59pm on Tuesday
Sep. 13	Clinical Case History: Freud and Frau Emmy Von N.	Reading Response due by 11:59pm on Tuesday
Sep. 20	Clinical Knowledge Production: Charcot and Freud	Reading Response due by 11:59pm on Tuesday
Sep. 27	Neurasthenia: Treating the Illness of Civilization	Reading Response due by 11:59pm on Tuesday
Oct. 4	Psychosomatic Illness, Frigidity, and Vaginismus	Reading Response due by 11:59pm on Tuesday <b>Abstract assignment due by 11:59pm on Oct. 8</b>
Oct. 11	Nineteenth Century American Gynecology	Reading Response due by 11:59pm on Tuesday

DATE	TOPIC	Assignment or Activity Due
Oct. 18	Reproductive Control in the Twentieth Century	Reading Response due by 11:59pm on Tuesday
Oct. 25	Eugenics and the Politics of Medical "Cures"	Reading Response due by 11:59pm on Tuesday <b>Citation assignment due by 11:59pm on Oct. 29</b>
Nov. 1	Medical Authority Pt. 1: Reproductive Medicine	Reading Response due by 11:59pm on Tuesday
Nov. 8	Medical Authority Pt. 2: Misdiagnosis	Reading Response due by 11:59pm on Tuesday
Nov. 15	Technological Developments in Women's Medicine	Reading Response due by 11:59pm on Tuesday <b>Final project proposal due by 11:59pm on Nov. 19</b>
Nov. 22	THANKSGIVING BREAK - NO CLASS	
Nov. 29	Flex week	Listen to podcast episode before class Work on final project
Dec. 6	Illness Narrative	Reading Response due by 11:59pm on Tuesday
Finals Week	N/A	<b>Final project due by 11:59pm on Dec. 13</b>

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

### Attendance and make-ups

Because this is a small, discussion-based seminar, attendance is required. One absence is allowed, and students do not need to provide any official documentation (doctor's note, etc.) to verify their absence from class. After the first absence, 10 points will be subtracted from the student's final grade per absence (for example, 3 absences = 20 missed points).

### Late assignments

Assignments will be considered late if they are submitted after the assignment due date. 1/3 of a letter grade will be deducted each day of lateness, and any assignments that are more than 5 days late will receive a 0. Exceptions will be made that align with the broader UF grading and absence policies. These exceptions may include make-up work where applicable.

Please Note: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. Follow this link for more information: <https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/>

### **Accommodations**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### **Course Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **UF Honesty Policy**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### **In-Class Recordings:**

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All

other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

**For a list of additional campus resources, see section C 5 here:**

[https://syllabus.ufl.edu/media/syllabusufledu/syllabi\\_policy\\_09\\_09\\_2022.pdf](https://syllabus.ufl.edu/media/syllabusufledu/syllabi_policy_09_09_2022.pdf)

**The Office for Accessibility and Gender Equity** <https://titleix.ufl.edu/>

**UMatter:** <https://umatter.ufl.edu/>

**UF Counseling and Wellness Center:** <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>

**Hitchcock Field & Fork Pantry:** <https://pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu/>

**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)