UCEAP London Spring 2017
Program in Global Cities Urban Realities
Elective Course

LANDSCAPES OF HEALTH AND DISEASE

Timetable, Assignments, Presentation, Exam, Resources
ABOUT THE COURSE

'Nobody is healthy in London, nobody can be', worries Mr Woodhouse in Jane Austen’s Emma (1815). London is the original sick city, the first modern industrial capital, and the place where all of the big questions about healthcare and sickness in modern urban life were tackled for the first time. Since the mid-eighteenth century medicine has become a major economic and political concern for those who have governed London, and a profession with extraordinarily far-reaching authority in the management and even definition of human life.

Amongst many other themes, this course will examine the politics of public health, the changing relationship between practitioners, patients and the state, the role of institutions like hospitals and asylums, and the way in which medicine and medical ideas have shaped the lives of ordinary Londoners. We'll watch films that celebrate and critique the texture of life in this infinite city. And we'll step out of the classroom to explore the history of health, disease and medicine in four very different London landscapes.

Your overall grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Assignment 1 (1,500 words): 20% Due Thursday 7th April, 10.00pm
Assignment 2 (1,500 words): 20% Due Wednesday 20th April, 10.00pm
Presentation in class: 15%
Exam: 30%
Participation and progress: 15%

ABOUT THE PROFESSOR

Dr Richard Barnett is a writer, teacher and broadcaster on the cultural history of science and medicine. He studied medicine in London before becoming a historian, and teaches the cultural histories of disease and evolutionary theory at Pembrooke College, Cambridge. In 2011 he received one of the first Wellcome Trust Engagement Fellowships. He writes for the Lancet and the London Review of Books, and has made many appearances on British and American TV & radio.

His first book, Medical London: City of Diseases: City of Cures, was a Book of the Week on BBC Radio 4, and Will Self called his The Sick Rose 'superbly lucid and erudite'. His latest book, Crucial Interventions: An Illustrated Treatise on the Principles and Practice of Nineteenth-Century Surgery, is out now. Seashouses, his award-winning first poetry collection, came out in 2015. Find him online at richardbarnettwriter.com.

Dr Barnett does not have office hours, but will be available for a few minutes after each session, and will be happy to arrange meetings via email. If you are running late for a field trip, please let him know by calling / texting +44(0)7759 883780.
TIMETABLE

1. INTRODUCTION: SICK CITY

Readings:

2. LONDON LANDSCAPES: SOHO

Please note this session is a field trip. We will meet at 14.00 sharp outside the John Snow pub, 39 Broadwick St, W1F 9QJ (nearest tube stations are Oxford Circus & Piccadilly Circus).

Readings:

3. RETHINKING RESPONSIBILITY

Readings:


4. LONDON LANDSCAPES: GREENWICH

Please note this session is a field trip. We will meet at 10.00 sharp at Mudchute station (Docklands Light Railway).

Readings:

DR RICHARD BARNETT
5. DEATH, BODIES & BURIALS

Assignment 1 due today.
Presentations in class after the lecture.

Readings:

Film: Harry B Parkinson & Frank Miller, Wonderful London, 1924.

6. LONDON LANDSCAPES: THE FLEET RIVER

Please note this session is a field trip. We will meet at 14.00 sharp at the southern end of Argyle Square, WC1H 8AP (nearest tube station is Kings Cross / St Pancras).

Readings:

7. HOSPITALS

Presentations in class after the lecture.

Readings:


8. LONDON LANDSCAPES: CHELSEA

Please note this session is a field trip. We will meet at 14.00 sharp outside Sloane Square tube station (District & Circle lines).

Readings:
Richard Ellman, Oscar Wilde, Alfred A Knopf, 1988, chapter 10, ‘Mr and Mrs Wilde’.
9. **THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE**

Assignment 2 due today.
Presentations in class after the lecture.

Readings:


10. **SEX IN LONDON**

Presentations in class after the lecture.
I will be making some time to discuss the exam, so please reflect on any subjects you’d like to go over and any questions you want to ask.

Readings:

**EXAM**
ASSIGNMENT 1

The British love to argue about their National Health Service – this is one subject that is never out of the headlines. Your task in Assignment 1 is to review and analyse the coverage of the NHS and the wider subject of healthcare in three articles from different British national daily newspapers published within the past year.

Many public libraries, and the Wellcome Library (see ‘Resources’, p 9), have online and paper subscriptions to a range of British papers. It’s easy to find out a little about the political and cultural leanings of different papers, and this information should inform (but not dominate) your analysis.

Please note: London has two free daily newspapers, handed out in tube stations and on the street – the Metro and the London Evening Standard. They are, frankly, dull, and have little of value to say on the bigger issues of politics. You may not use these papers in your assignment.

THE RULES:

Your assignment must be submitted electronically, on Lore.com on Thurs 7 April by 10.00pm. Essays submitted any later than this will not be marked. You will receive a brief comment and a grade out of 100, which will contribute 20% to your overall grade for the course.

Your essay must be properly referenced, with footnotes and a bibliography of sources. It must be no longer than 1,500 words, excluding a short bibliography and footnotes. This word limit is absolute and you will be penalised if you break it. Your essay must be set in 11pt text and double-spaced. It should be written in prose: no bullet points or unfinished notes. Plain presentation is encouraged: elaborate typography or layout suggests that you are trying to distract the reader from weaknesses in your writing.

If you use another person’s words, arguments or ideas (including mine, as presented in my lectures) you must acknowledge them with a footnote, and at the end of your essay provide a full bibliography of your sources (including online sources, if you have used them). If you do not do this, you open yourself to an accusation of plagiarism. Use any referencing style you’re familiar with, so long as it is effective. In the interests of brevity, I suggest using short references in footnotes – ‘Porter 1997, p 243’ – and providing full citations in a bibliography.
ASSIGNMENT 2

London has a remarkably rich and diverse set of museums telling the story of the city and those who have lived here. Your task in Assignment 2 is to write a review of a gallery in one of the museums listed below.

Museum of London (www.museumoflondon.org.uk/london-wall/)
Museum of London Docklands (www.museumoflondon.org.uk/docklands/)
Imperial War Museum (www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-london)
National Maritime Museum (www.rmg.co.uk/national-maritime-museum)

Choose a gallery that deals specifically with part of London’s history, and pay particular attention to health and disease. How does the material we’ve encountered in the course relate to the themes and stories on display in the gallery? Whose voices are represented, and whose are missing? How would you improve it? You may like to discuss one or two objects, cases or panels in detail – and if you get the chance, talk to other visitors and find out their impressions.

Please remember: though you are welcome to choose any gallery in any of the museums, and to visit it whenever you have the time, you are not allowed to collaborate with classmates in researching or writing your assignment.

THE RULES:

Your assignment must be submitted electronically through LAYF. Essays submitted any later than this will not be marked. You will receive a brief comment and a grade out of 100, which will contribute 20% to your overall grade for the course.

Your essay must be properly referenced, with footnotes and a bibliography of sources. It must be no longer than 1,500 words, excluding a short bibliography and footnotes. This word limit is absolute and you will be penalised if you break it. Your essay must be set in 11pt text and double-spaced. It should be written in prose: no bullet points or unfinished notes. Plain presentation is encouraged: elaborate typography or layout suggests that you are trying to distract the reader from weaknesses in your writing.

If you use another person’s words, arguments or ideas (including mine, as presented in my lectures) you must acknowledge them with a footnote, and at the end of your essay provide a full bibliography of your sources (including online sources, if you have used them). If you do not do this, you open yourself to an accusation of plagiarism. Use any referencing style you’re familiar with, so long as it is effective. In the interests of brevity, I suggest using short references in footnotes – ‘Porter 1997, p 243’ – and providing full citations in a bibliography.
PRESENTATION

Your task, working in pairs, is to choose a street, square or neighbourhood in London, and to prepare a ten-minute presentation on its social history, showing how the area has changed from the eighteenth century to the present day. You may choose any location that has a separate entry in Weinreb and Hibbert (see below).

Pay particular attention to health and disease: what factors have affected the lives of residents, and what kinds of healthcare have been available to them? For example: was the area badly affected by cholera in the nineteenth century, or bomb damage in the Second World War? Was it rich or poor, industrial or residential, and how has this changed?

Visit the area, and see how its history is reflected in the present-day landscape. Talk to some locals, if you get the chance. What factors are shaping its development now? Where do you think it will go next? Be prepared to take five minutes of questions from your audience (including me) after your presentation.

Some resources you may find useful:


Bomb Sight (bombsight.org): An interactive map of bomb damage during the 1940-41 Blitz.

Charles Booth Online Archive (booth.ise.ac.uk): Maps and reports relating to Charles Booth’s surveys of life and labour in London, 1886-1903.


London’s Pulse (wellcomelibrary.org/moh/): Reports by local Medical Officers of Health 1848-1972.

London Street Views 1840 (crowd.museumoflondon.org.uk/lsv1840/): A Museum of London work-in-progress, mapping Victorian street guides to the city.

Old Bailey Online (www.oldbaileyonline.org): Records of criminal trials held at the Central Criminal Court 1674-1913.

THE RULES:

You will make your presentations in class in sessions 5, 7, 9 and 10, and I will circulate a schedule shortly after the beginning of the course. You will receive a brief comment and a grade out of 100, which will contribute 15% to your overall grade for the course.

If you use another person’s words, arguments or ideas (including mine, as presented in my lectures) you must acknowledge them in your presentation. If you do not do this, you open yourself to an accusation of plagiarism.
RESOURCES

THE WELLCOME LIBRARY

The Wellcome Library (wellcomelibrary.org; 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE) is the world’s greatest collection of books, manuscripts and images on the history of health, disease and medicine. Wellcome Images (wellcomeimages.org) holds hundreds of thousands of historical and contemporary images, many of which are free to use under a Creative Commons licence. The Library is a short walk from ACCENT, and is free to join, with free wifi, extensive space for quiet working, and copies of all the works listed below. You are strongly recommended to use it.

FURTHER READING

Journals:

Medical History: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/journals/228/
Social History of Medicine: shm.oxfordjournals.org/content/by/year
Bulletin of the History of Medicine: muse.jhu.edu/journals/bhm/

Books:

Richard Barnett, The Sick Rose: Disease and the Art of Medical Illustration, Thames and Hudson for Wellcome Collection, 2014.
Richard Barnett & Mike Jay, Medical London: City of Diseases, City of Cures, Strange Attractor for Wellcome Collection, 2008.
Roger Cooter & John Pickstone (eds), Companion To Medicine In The Twentieth Century, Routledge, 2003.
Andrew Cunningham & Perry Williams (eds), The Laboratory Revolution In Medicine, Cambridge University Press, 1992.
Anne Hardy, Health and Medicine in Britain since 1860, Macmillan, 2000.
Roy Porter, Quacks: Fakers and Charlatans in English Medicine, NPI Media Group, 2000.
Mick Worboys, Spreading Germs: Disease Theories And Medical Practice In Britain, 1865-1900, Cambridge University Press, 2000