

Health, Healing, and Medicine in Africa
A Freshman Seminar
AS 100.205, Spring 2016

Professor

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Class Meeting Time & Place

W 2:30-4:50, Gilman 186

Scope and Purpose

This course is a reading seminar on health, healing, and medicine in Africa. Reading seminars are *not* comprehensive introductory courses to particular subjects. Rather, they introduce students to *some* themes and the ways in which *some* scholars approach them. In this seminar we will read and discuss six recent books of history and anthropology on several topics relevant to health, healing, and medicine in Africa. These range from historical forms of healing in South Africa, to the training of African medical students in Malawi, to the history of malaria in Africa, to the complexity of pharmacological discoveries and patenting on the continent, to psychiatry and decolonization in Nigeria. No prior courses on Africa are required for this seminar. We will typically read half of a book each week and spend the class period discussing the required reading.

Required Books (Available in hard copy or electronically)

*Note on books: You may purchase hard copies in the JHU bookstore or from online vendors. Hard copies are on reserve in MSEL and may be checked out for short periods and read or photocopied. If you plan correctly, you may be able to secure library hard copies via "Borrow Direct" using the library catalog. MSEL may also have electronic versions of some of these books available for reading at no charge. You may also purchase electronic copies of most of these books via an online vendor such as Amazon Kindle, Google Play books and the like. **A combination of these strategies will help minimize your book costs.***

Karen E Flint, *Healing Traditions: African Medicine, Cultural Exchange, and Competition in South Africa, 1820-1948* (Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2008).

Julie Livingston, *Debility and Moral Imagination in Botswana* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2005). 1-141 & 142-241.

Claire L. Wendland, *A Heart for the Work: Journeys through an African Medical School* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010).

James Webb, *The Long Struggle Against Malaria in Tropical Africa* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2014).

Abena Dove Osseo-Asare, *Bitter Roots: The Search for Healing Plants in Africa* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2014).

Heaton, Matthew M. *Black Skin, White Coats: Nigerian Psychiatrists, Decolonization, and the Globalization of Psychiatry* (Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2013).

Course Requirements

1. Attendance. Attend every class. You must notify the professor *beforehand* by email if you are going to miss a class. Please do not wait until after your absence to explain it.

2. Blackboard Posts. Each week, students will post responses to the course readings on the course Blackboard site. These should be between two and three paragraphs in length. An effective response will open up avenues for thinking about the reading and pose thoughtful questions for discussion: What was the argument of the assigned reading? What did you find interesting about it? New? Provocative? Questionable? Surprising? How does the reading relate to other things we have read? Posts are due Tuesday before class by 8pm. Students are encouraged to review each other's posts before class on Wednesday.

3. Reading the "Past in the Present." Twice during the semester, each student will give a 5-minute in-class presentation on a recent article and/or post found in a newspaper, blog, or social media that relates to the readings for that week. Students must upload a copy or link to the article on the class Blackboard discussion page by 8pm on Tuesday of their assigned week. The presentation should explain what the article is about and provide context, including where and when it was posted. You should also explain its relevance to the readings for the class.

4. Map. A map quiz of modern African country names. This will be administered in class on February 10. You will find the map and a list of the countries you are expected to identify on Blackboard.

5. Review 1. A critical review of one of the required books for the course (weekly reading): 5 full pages, typed, double spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt, one inch margins. Due in class (and at turnitin.com) on the week *after* the book is completed in class (this allows you the benefit of the course discussion of the readings). The review should first briefly *describe* the argument/plot of the readings and how they relate to decolonization and citizenship. Then the review should critically *analyze* the works from your perspective. What are the implications of the arguments? How do the ideas in the works relate to other readings you have conducted for the class? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the argument/plot?

5. Review 2. Review of *one* book listed under the “Review Books” at the end of the syllabus: 5 full pages, typed, double spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt, one inch margins. Due in class on March 30 and electronically to turnitin.com before class. The review should first *describe* the argument/plot of the book and how it relates to decolonization and nationalism. Then the review should critically *analyze* the book from your perspective. What are the implications of the argument? How do the ideas in the book relate to other readings you have conducted for the class? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the argument/plot?

6. Final Exam. A take-home final examination. This will consist of two 5-page essay answers to two general questions relating to the required readings and course discussions. Ten pages total. Exam questions will be distributed as hard copy at the end of class on April 27 and essays may be turned in to the professor’s History Department mailbox (301 Gilman Hall) at any time, but at the latest on Thursday, May 12, at noon (the deadline). The essays must also be uploaded to turnitin.com. *The conception and writing of these essays must be entirely your own; working with another person on the exam in any way will be interpreted as academic dishonesty and reported.*

Summary of the requirements and grading (1000 points):

- attendance (unexplained absences will reduce your final grade)
- weekly blackboard posts (2-3 paragraphs) 100 points
- two 5-minute in-class presentations 100 points
- map quiz of African country names 100 points
- one required reading paper (5 pages, double spaced) 200 points
- one review book paper (5 pages, double spaced) 200 points
- final take-home exam (10 pages, double spaced) 300 points

Reading Schedule/Themes

Jan 27: Introduction

Health, Healing, and Medicine have History: “Traditional” & Biomedical Healing in Africa

Feb 3: Flint: *Healing Traditions*, Introduction – Chapter 2.

Feb 10: Flint: *Healing Traditions*, Chapter 3 – Epilogue

Debility, Home, & Care: The Challenges of Managing Disease

Feb 17: Livingston: *Debility*, Introduction – Chapter 3

Feb 24: Livingston: *Debility*, Chapter 4 - Conclusion

Becoming Biomedical Doctors: Medical Schools and Hospitals

Mar 2: Wendland: *A Heart for the Work*, Prologue – Chapter 4

Mar 9: Wendland: *A Heart for the Work*, Chapter 5 – Epilogue

Battling an Infectious Disease (for Health): Malaria

23: Webb: *The Long Struggle*, Preface/Introduction – Chapter 2.

30: Webb: *The Long Struggle*, Chapter 3 – Chapter 7.

Studying & Patenting African Medicines: Biomedical Prospecting

Apr 6: Osseo-Asare: *Bitter Roots*, Introduction – Chapter 2.

Apr 13: Osseo-Asare: *Bitter Roots*, Chapter 3 – Conclusion.

Struggling with the Mind: A Psychiatry for Africa

Apr 20: Heaton: *Black Skin, White Coats*, Introduction – Chapter 3.

Apr 27: Heaton: *Black Skin, White Coats*, Chapter 4 – Conclusion.

Review Books

Akyeampong, Emmanuel, Allan G. Hill, and Arthur Kleinman, eds. *The Culture of Mental Illness and Psychiatric Practice in Africa*. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2015.

Bell, Heather. *Frontiers of Medicine in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 1899-1940* (Oxford, Eng.: Clarendon Press, 1999).

Crozier, Anna. *Practising Colonial Medicine: The Colonial Medical Service in British East Africa* (London, Eng.: I. B. Tauris, 2007).

Echenberg, Myron J. *Africa in the Time of Cholera: A History of Pandemics from 1817 to the Present* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2011).

Echenberg, Myron. *Black Death, White Medicine: Bubonic Plague and the Politics of Public Health in Colonial Senegal, 1914-1945* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 2002).

Good, Charles. *The Steamer Parish: The Rise and Fall of Missionary Medicine on an African Frontier* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004).

Harper, Janice. *Endangered Species: Health, Illness, and Death among Madagascar's People of the Forest* (Durham, N.C.: Carolina Academic Press, 2002).

Hoppe, Kirk Arden. *Lords of the Fly: Sleeping Sickness Control in British East Africa, 1900-1960* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 2003).

Hunt, Nancy Rose. *A Colonial Lexicon of Birth Ritual, Medicalization, and Mobility in the Congo* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1999).

Hunter, Mark. *Love in the Time of AIDS: Inequality, Gender, and Rights in South Africa* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2010).

Illiffe, John. *East African Doctors: A History of the Modern Profession* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1999).

Illiffe, John. *The African AIDS Epidemic: A History* (Oxford, Eng.: James Currey, 2006).

- Jackson, Will. *Madness and Marginality: The Lives of Kenya's White Insane* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2013).
- Janzen, John M. *The Quest for Therapy in Lower Zaire* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1978).
- Keller, Richard C. *Colonial Madness: Psychiatry in French North Africa* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).
- Kodesh, Neil. *Beyond the Royal Gaze: Clanship and Public Healing in Buganda* (Charlottesville, Va.: University of Virginia Press, 2010).
- Langwick, Stacey A. *Bodies, Politics, and African Healing: The Matter of Maladies in Tanzania* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2011).
- Livingston, Julie. *Improvising Medicine: An African Oncology Ward in an Emerging Cancer Epidemic* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2012).
- Lyons, Maryinez. *The Colonial Disease: A Social History of Sleeping Sickness in Northern Zaire, 1900-1940* (Cambridge Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1992).
- Marks, Shula. *Divided Sisterhood: Race, Class and Gender in the South African Nursing Profession* (Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press, 1994).
- McCann, James. *The Historical Ecology of Malaria in Ethiopia: Deposing the Spirits* (Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2015).
- McCulloch, Jock. *Asbestos Blues: Labour, Capital, Physicians & the State in South Africa* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2003).
- Nguyen, Vinh-Kim. *The Republic of Therapy: Triage and Sovereignty in West Africa's Time of AIDS* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2010).
- Packard, Randall M. *White Plague, Black Labour: Tuberculosis and the Political Economy of Health and Disease in South Africa* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989).
- Parle, Julie. *States of Mind: Searching for Mental Health in Natal and Zululand, 1868-1918* (Pietermaritzburg: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, 2007).
- Patterson, Donna. *Pharmacy in Senegal: Gender, Healing, and Entrepreneurship* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2015).
- Phillips, Howard. *Epidemics: The Story of South Africa's Five Most Lethal Human Diseases* (Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2012).
- Renne, Elisha P. *The Politics of Polio in Northern Nigeria* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2010).
- Sadowsky, Jonathon. *Imperial Bedlam: Institutions of Madness in Colonial Southwest Nigeria* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999).
- Schneider, William H. *The History of Blood Transfusion in Sub-Saharan Africa* (Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2013).
- Setel, Philip w. *A Plague of Paradoxes: AIDS, Culture, and Demography in Northern Tanzania* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999).
- Silla, Eric. *People are not the Same: Leprosy and Identity in Twentieth-Century Mali* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1998).
- Vaughan, Megan. *Curing their Ills: Colonial Power and African Illness* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1991).