

HIST 335 - Health and Healing in the Ancient Greek World Summer Session 2024

Course Instructor(s): Prof. Cynthia Patterson

Email cpatt01@emory.edu

Hours Available - tba

Class Meetings: Day MTWThF (usually)
Hours (will vary according to travel and museum visit schedule)

Course Description

The course focuses on key themes and issues in the Ancient Greek experience of health and healing / death and disease within the broad chronological scope of ancient Greek history from Homer to Hadrian. A central project will be discovering and understanding the contemporaneous emergence and continued success of both Hippocratic medicine and Asclepian religion/cult, two distinct but related ways of thinking about health and healing. The course will approach these topics through themed topics and case histories, with close interpretation of primary sources (textual, material, and architectural) and frequent visits to museums and archaeological sites. A special feature of the course will be six days spent on the island of Kos, known as the birthplace of Hippocrates, where we will study together several of the most influential texts of the Hippocratic corpus [texts attributed to Hippocrates in antiquity] and also visit the site of one of antiquity's most popular sanctuaries of Asclepius. Our days on Kos will bring us directly into engagement with two distinct approaches to health and disease, while days spent in Athens will give us the opportunity to study our subject (beginning with the case history of the late fifth century plague) in the best known and documented ancient Greek city. We will also visit the Sanctuary of Asclepius in Epidaurus and stop to see the sanctuary in Corinth on the way back to Athens, allowing us to appreciate the way in which the healing god's sanctuaries have common yet also distinctive features in different Greek urban settings. Finally, we consider briefly the continuity of Greek medical and religious traditions in the Roman and early Christian Greek world (primary texts of Galen of Pergamum and the Greek New Testament)

Some of the questions that we will engage are:

1. How did ancient Greeks describe and understand disease? What causes disease? Where does disease originate?
2. How and to whom did the Greeks grant healing authority? Does this change in the eras we are studying?
3. How scientific is Hippocratic medicine? What unity can we see in this multi-vocal tradition? What is its lasting value?
4. What is the source of Asclepius' extraordinary success as a healing god?

Course Resources and Activities

To investigate these questions, we will read; analyze and interpret texts, evidence, and experience; work and think with others; and write.

Reading: Reading, interpretation and discussion of primary sources, both literary and material, are fundamental to the course. Secondary source bibliography will be provided for course topics, and selected secondary reading will be required or suggested for final papers.

Analyzing and interpreting: See above

Working and thinking with others: the course is discussion based and depends on the contributions of all members. There are two required oral presentations (with hard copy handout). Students may work/present with a partner or individually.

Writing: There is no final exam, but rather a final research essay of c. 6-8 pages (roughly 1500-2000 words) with an oral presentation at the final class symposium on the last morning of the session (Friday June 14)

Learning Objectives: Skills and knowledge students gain.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

Appreciate the realities of health and disease in the ancient Greek world
Reflect on the different ways in which ancient Greeks understood disease and the possibility of healing.
Analyze key texts relating to the emergence of Hippocratic medicine – and the religious and philosophical issues these texts raise.
Evaluate the influence and legacy of Greek ideas of health and healing – Hippocratic and Asclepian.

Course Requirements

Attendance at all class meetings, reading of assignments, and participation in discussion.
Two class reports with hard copy handout
Final research essay with oral presentation

Grading and Evaluation

Your grade for this course will be based on the following distribution:

Participation (essential!)	– 30%
2 oral reports with hard copy hand out	-- 30%
Final essay and oral presentation	– 40%

Use of Laptops: In-class or on-site use of laptops and other devices is permitted if it facilitates course-related activities such as note-taking, looking up references, etc. Laptop or other device privileges will be suspended if there are not used for class-related work.

Attendance: Students are expected to report for classes promptly. CYA regards attendance in class and on-site as essential. Absences are recorded and will result in the lowering of participation grade.

Policy on Original Work: Unless otherwise specified, all submitted work must be your own, original work. Any excerpts from the work of others must be clearly identified as a quotation, and a proper citation provided.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you are a registered (with your home institution) student with a disability and you are entitled to learning accommodation, please inform the Director of Academic Affairs and make sure that your school forwards the necessary documentation.

Books, Course Materials, Moodle

Required books:

Hippocratic Writings, ed. G.E.R. Lloyd (Penguin)

Cure and Cult in Ancient Corinth (ASCSA picture book)

Other readings will be provided digitally or on loan from the CYA library.

Note: Readings should be completed by the class meetings for which they are listed.

Class Schedule (Preliminary - subject to revision):

Class Day	Day/Date	Topic / Readings (preliminary)
1	Tuesday May 21	<p>Opening week theme and case history: Living and Dying in an Ancient Greek city / The Plague in Athens: context, causes, consequences</p> <p>9:00 - 11:00 AM Visit the Athenian Agora and Agora Museum [walk there together as a group, return on your own] 3:00-4:00 PM (in CYA classroom)</p> <p>Reading: TBA (on demographic realities of ancient cities et al.) Maria Liston and John Papadopoulos, "The 'Rich Athenian Lady' Was Pregnant: The Anthropology of a Geometric Tomb Reconsidered" (<i>Hesperia</i> 2004). OR Maria Liston and Susan Rotroff, "Babies in the Well" in <i>Childhood and Education in the Classical World</i>, ed. Parkin and Evans Grubbs, 2013.</p>
2	Wednesday May 22	<p>Prepare for afternoon class [Find a good place "with a view" to read about Athens!]</p> <p>3:00-5:00 PM (in CYA Classroom)</p> <p>Pericles and the Imperial Athenian Democracy</p> <p>Reading: Thucydides, <i>The Great War between Athens and Sparta</i> (selections on Pericles)</p> <p>Plutarch, Pericles, selections TBA</p> <p>Documents of Athenian Democracy and Athenian Empire</p>
3	Thursday May 23	<p>The Acropolis and the Acropolis Museum</p> <p>8:30-10:00 -- The Periclean Building Program (self-guided tour with a plan and things to find with a partner or two)</p> <p>10:30- Noon -- The Acropolis Museum</p> <p>PM - Free</p>
4	Friday May 24	<p>The Kerameikos and Kerameikos Museum</p> <p>8:30 AM -- Travel together on the Metro</p> <p>9:00-10:00 AM -- At the Kerameikos</p> <p>Burial and Commemoration in Ancient Athens: the tombs of the Kerameikos; discussion of the "communal graves" [not visible]</p> <p>3:00 - 4:30 PM (in CYA classroom)</p> <p>The Athenian Plague -- what was it?</p> <p>Reading: Thucydides, Pericles Funeral Oration, Description of the Plague</p> <p>Selected journal articles on the Plague from literary, medical, and epidemiological perspectives</p>

Class reports and Discussion.		
5	Monday May 27	<p>Enter Asclepius</p> <p>The Introduction of Asclepius to Athens</p> <p>9:00-10:30 (CYA Classroom)</p> <p>[possible PM visit to site of Asclepieion on South Slope of Acropolis and return to Acropolis Museum to see artifacts from the Asclepieion]</p> <p>Reading: Bronwen Wickkiser, <i>Asklepios, Medicine, and the Politics of Healing in Fifth-Century Greece (2008)</i>, "Introduction" (pp. 1-9) and chapter 4 "Documenting Asklepios' Arrival in Athens" (pp. 62-76).</p> <p>Jessica Lamont, "Asklepius in the Piraeus and the Mechanisms of Cult Appropriation," in <i>Autopsy in Athens</i>, ed M. Miles (2015) pp. 37-50.</p> <p>Plus selection from Aristophanes, <i>Wealth</i> (on healing the blindness of the god of wealth)</p>
6	Tuesday May 28	<p>National Archaeological Museum:</p> <p>Morning: Self-guided tour, looking for</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) representations of the "life cycle" and demographic diversity of the Greek community 2) portraits of Asclepius (if gallery is open) 3) the sculpture from the Sanctuary of Asclepius at Epidaurus <p>Afternoon: short gathering to discuss morning visit to NAM.</p>
7	Wednesday May 29	<p>TO EPIDAUROS</p> <p>Reading: R.A. Tomlinson, <i>Epidaurus</i> (selections); Lynn LiDonnici, trans, "<i>Iamata</i>" healing inscriptions (a selection); Isyllos, "Hymn to Asclepius".</p>
8	Thursday May 30	<p>CORINTH - and return to Athens</p> <p>Visit Corinth Asclepieion and Museum (with Ioulia Tzonou, Asst. Director of Corinth Excavations)</p> <p>Reading: <i>Cure and Cult in Ancient Corinth</i>; Melina Melfi (on Roman Asclepieion)</p>
9	Friday May 31	<p>Hippocrates and the Hippocratic Tradition</p> <p>Early Greek Philosophy, Science, History - and the emergence of Hippocratic Medicine</p> <p>9:00-11:00 (CYA classroom)</p> <p>Reading: TBA (including selections from Pre-Socratic philosophers and Herodotus, and the "Hippocratic Oath")</p>
10	Sat-Sun June 1-2	<p>TO KOS</p> <p>June 1 - Travel by air to Kos [details TBA]</p> <p>June 2 - full day tour of Island of Kos</p> <p>Including Asclepieion (with reports/discussion)</p> <p>Reading on Kos Asclepieion TBA</p>
11-15	Monday June 3 through Friday June 7	<p>The International Hippocratic Center, Kos</p> <p>AM Seminar (9:00-11:30) on Hippocratic Writings, including "On the sacred disease," "Airs, Waters, Places," "The Seed and Nature of the Child" and more! Student led discussions, with close analysis of the Hippocratic texts.</p> <p>Lunch provided M-F at a local taverna</p>

		Afternoon and evenings free
		Saturday June 8 -- return to Athens (details TBA)
16	Monday June 10	Visit to Weiner Lab at American School of Classical Studies (Time TBD)
17	Tuesday June 11	<p>The continuing story of ancient Greek medicine and healing traditions</p> <p>9:00 - 11:30 AM</p> <p>Alexander (a celebrity case history)</p> <p>Alexandria and Alexandrian medical discoveries (dissection and vivisection)</p> <p>Reading: Plutarch, <i>Alexander</i> (selections)</p> <p>Heinrich von Staden, "Body and Machine: Interactions between Medicine, Mechanics, and Philosophy in Early Alexandria" or</p> <p>Rebecca Fleming, ""Empires of Knowledge: Medicine and Health in the Hellenistic World"</p>
18	Wednesday June 12	<p>Greek Medicine in the Roman World/Asclepius in the Roman World [Galen of Pergamon and the Asclepieion at Pergamon]</p> <p>9:00-11:30</p> <p>READING: Galen, TBD [might include "On my Own Books"; "The Best Doctor is also a Philosopher"; "The Construction of the Embryo"; "The Pulse for Beginners" or other texts depending on interests of the class]</p> <p>Aelius Aristeides, Sacred Tales (short selection)</p>
19	Thursday June 13	<p>AM - Healing in early Christianity</p> <p>PM - Possible visit to Museum</p>
20	Friday June 14	Class symposium