

HIST 585-3: Special Topics in History

Topic: Medicine & Empire (OPUS title)
Medicine and Empire, 1500-1800 (Complete course title)

Instructor	Day(s)	Time(s)	Maximum Enrollment
Strocchia	M	1:00 – 4:00 pm	12

Semester Description:

What role did medicine play in the expansion of global trade networks and the establishment of early colonial projects between 1500 and 1800? How did the circulation of peoples, medicinal commodities, therapeutic knowledge and healing practices create new, hybridized medical cultures, on the one hand, and advance European interests on the other? Among the questions we will explore is the ways in which local healing knowledge and practices—both European and indigenous—were transformed as they moved between continents. Our readings will introduce us to the wide range of knowledge brokers involved in these exchanges, from physicians, apothecaries and traditional healers to slaves, sailors, gardeners, merchants and missionaries. We also will consider how European medical thinking about tropical climates and bodily complexions contributed to constructions of race, especially in the Atlantic World. Readings include primary sources in translation as well as recent secondary works. Students will write a final research paper of approximately 5000 words geared toward their programmatic interests.

Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources:

1. Pablo F. Gomez, *The Experiential Caribbean: Creating Knowledge and Healing in the Early Modern Atlantic*. University of North Carolina Press.
ISBN: 978-1469-630878.
2. Marcy Norton, *Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures: A History of Tobacco and Chocolate in the Atlantic World*. Cornell University Press.
ISBN: 978-0-8014-7632-7.
3. Londa Schiebinger, *Secret Cures of Slaves: People, Plants, and Medicine in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World*. Stanford University Press.
ISBN: 978-1503-602915.
4. James Sweet, *Domingos Alvares, African Healing, and the Intellectual History of the Atlantic World*. University of North Carolina Press.
ISBN: 978-1-4696-0975-1.
5. Selections from Garcia de Orta, *Colloquies on the simples and drugs of India* (1563); excerpts from Hans Sloane’s Jamaican medical journals (1707); and other primary texts, all available online. Other assigned readings will be posted on our course site.

Fall 2018

Grading:

Class participation	35%
Weekly Canvas posts	10%
Discussion leader	5%
Primary source analysis	10%
Final class presentation	5%
Research paper (5000 words)	35%