

HIST 620

Disease, Public Health, and the Modern State
University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2017
Instructor: Prof. Alex Chase-Levenson
Office Hours: T—1:30-3:00; W—12:00-1:30
Class Time: Wednesday, 2-5 PM

This course will explore the birth of public health as a field of concern and inquiry around the world and its link to the expansion of the state from 1789 through the interwar period. How did conceptions of the nation as a sanitary unit align with the growth of government? Is health a privileged category in terms of justifying governmental intervention? In what ways has the birth of international health intersected with national public health movements? Topics include epidemics and quarantines, urban health, and public health and imperialism. We will move roughly chronologically, though many of the weeks devoted to a theme consider readings that transcend one historical period. Though this is formally a European history colloquium and the readings tilt very slightly in that direction, the emphatic goal is to consider the intersection of public health and the growth of the state all around the world. We will study phenomena not only in Europe, but also the United States, the Caribbean, North Africa, the Middle East, and East Asia. To some extent, the themes and readings emphasized in the course will be dependent on student interest.

Assignments: Presentation (20%), Participation and Weekly Response Questions (30%), Final Paper (50%)

Preliminary Schedule (SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

Jan. 18th: Introduction

Jan. 25th: Defining the State and Defining Public Health

Reading: Peter Mandler, ed. *Liberty and Authority in Victorian Britain* (Chs. 1 and 2
Peter Mandler, "Introduction" and Phil Harling "The Powers of the
Victorian State")

Dorothy Porter, *Health, Civilization, and the State* (Intro., Chs. 3, 4, 6, and 8)

Michel Foucault, "Governmentality" in *Security, Territory, Population*

James Scott, *Seeing like a State* (Intro., Chs. 1–3)

Feb. 1st: State Medicine in the Napoleonic Era: Medical Police and Military Medicine

Reading: J.P. Frank, *A Complete System of Medical Police* (Selections)

George Rosen, "The Fate of the Concept of Medical Police, 1780-1890" (1957)

Roger Cooter, 'Of War and Epidemics: Unnatural Couplings, Problematic
Conceptions', *Social History of Medicine*, 16 (2003): 283-302.

Catherine Kelly, *War and the Militarization of British Army Medicine*
(Selections)
First Report of the Board of Health (1805)

Feb. 8th: Quarantine

Reading: Birsan Bilmus, *Plagues, Quarantines, and Geopolitics in the Ottoman Empire*
(2014) (Chs. 1, 5, and 6)
Andrew Roberts, "Quarantine Construction, Anti-disease Legislation, and the
Re-centralization of the pre-Tanzimat Ottoman State" in *Plague
and Contagion in the Islamic Mediterranean* (2014)
Mark Harrison, *Contagion: How Commerce Spreads Disease* (2012)
(Chs. 3 and 4)
Alex Chase-Levenson, "Early Nineteenth-Century Quarantine as a European
System" in Alison Bashford, ed. *Quarantine: Local and Global Histories*
(2016)
Patrick Zylberman, "Civilizing the State: Borders, Weak States, and
International Health in Modern Europe," in Alison Bashford, ed. *Medicine
at the Border* (2006)

Feb. 15th: The Contagion Debate

Reading: Erwin Ackerknecht, "Anticontagionism between 1827 and 1861" *Bulletin of the
History of Medicine* (1948)
Margaret Pelling, "The Meaning of Contagion: Reproduction, Medicine, and
Metaphor" in Alison Basford and Clare Hooker, eds. *Contagion* (2002)
Margaret Pelling, *Cholera, Fever, and English Medicine* (Selections)
Michael Brown, "From Foetid Air to Filth" *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*
(2008): 515-544.
C. Hamlin, "Ackerknecht and Anticontagion: A Tale of Two Dichotomies"
International Journal of Epidemiology Vol. 38, No. 1 (2009): 22-27.
Roger Cooter, "Anticontagionism and History's Medical Record" in Andrew
Treacher and Peter Wright, eds. *The Problem of Medical Knowledge*.
(1982).

Feb. 22nd: Cholera

Reading: Charles Rosenburg, *The Cholera Years* (1987) (Selections)
Peter Baldwin, *Contagion and the State* (2000) (Intro. and Part I)
Richard Evans, *Death in Hamburg* (Selections)
Thomas Beggs, "The Cholera: The Claims of the Poor Upon the Rich"

Mar. 1st: Class Conflict and Public Health

Reading: Louis Chevalier, *Classes Laboreux, Classes Dangereux* (Selections)
Andrew Aisenberg, *Disease, Government, and the Social Question in
Nineteenth-Century France* (Selections)

LaVerne Kunke, *Lives at Risk: Public Health in Nineteenth-Century Egypt*
(Selections)

David Barnes, "The Rise or Fall of Tuberculosis in *Belle-Époque* France"
Social History of Medicine 5 (1992): 279–290

Allan Mitchell, "Tuberculosis Statistics and the McKeown Thesis: A Rebuttal to
David Barnes" *Social History of Medicine* 5 (1992): 291–296

Mar. 8th: NO CLASS (Spring Break)

Mar. 15th: Public Health Reform

Reading: Christopher Hamlin, *Public Health and Social Justice in the Age of Chadwick*
(Chs. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9)

Alan Mitchell, *The Divided Path* (Selections)

Graham Mooney, *Intrusive Interventions* (Part I)

David Barnes, *Great Stink of Paris* (Chs. 2–4)

Mar. 22nd: Selves, Bodies, States

Reading: John Pickstone, "Bureaucracy, Liberalism and the Body in Post-Revolutionary
France: Bichat's Physiology and the Paris School of Medicine," *History of
Science* 19 (1981): 115–142.

Judith R. Walkowitz, *Prostitution and Victorian Society* (Intro., Chs. 1–4)

Margot Canaday, *The Straight State* (Chs. 1–3)

Laura Engelstein, *The Keys to Happiness: Sex and the Search for Modernity in
Fin-de-Siècle Russia* (Selections)

Ann Laura Stoler, "Sexual Affronts and Racial Frontiers," *Comparative Studies
in Society and History*, Vol. 34, No. 3 (Jul., 1992), pp. 514–551

Mar. 29th: Public Health and Nationalism

Reading: Nancy Gallagher, *Medicine and Power in Tunisia* (Entire)

Ruth Rogaski, *Hygienic Modernity* (Intro., Chs. 1–5)

Ka-Che Yip, "Health and Nationalist Reconstruction: Rural Health in
Nationalist China, 1928–1937," *Modern Asian Studies* 26 (1992): 395–415

David Barnes, *Great Stink...* (Ch. 5)

Apr. 5th: Imperial Medicine

Reading: David Arnold, *Colonizing the Body* (Intro., Chs. 1, 2, and 6)

Warwick Anderson, *Colonial Pathologies* (Intro., Chs. 1–4)

Philippa Levine, *Prostitution, Race, and Politics* (Chs. 1–6)

John Farley, *Bilharzia: A History of Imperial Tropical Medicine* (Selections)

Apr. 12th: Professionalization, Bureaucratization, and the Bacteriological Revolution

Reading: Nancy Frieden, “Physicians in Pre-Revolutionary Russia: Professionals or Servants of the State?” *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 49 (1975)
Bruno Latour, *The Pasteurization of France* (Selections)
Laura Otis, *Membranes* (Selections)
Michael Worboys, “Was there a Bacteriological Revolution in Late Nineteenth-Century Medicine?” *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 28 (2007): 20–42.

Apr. 19th: The Third Plague Pandemic and the Spanish Flu

Reading: William Summers, *The Great Manchurian Plague* (Selections)
Nayan Shah, *Contagious Divides: Epidemics and Race* (Selections)
Alfred Crosby, *America’s Forgotten Pandemic* (Selections)
David Arnold, “Touching the Body: Perspectives on the Indian Plague, 1896–1900” in *Selected Subaltern Studies* (1988)

Apr. 26th: The Idea of International Health

Reading: William F. Bynum, “Policing Hearts of Darkness: Public Health at the International Sanitary Conferences”
Joao Alameida, “Panic, Quarantines, and the 1851 International Sanitary Conference” in Robert Peckham, ed. *Empires of Panic*
Amir Afkhami, “Defending the Guarded Domain: Epidemics and the Emergence of International Sanitary Policy in Iran”
Michael Worboys, “The Colonial World as Mission and Mandate”
A.M. Stern, “Yellow Fever Crusade: US Colonialism, Tropical Medicine, and the International Politics of Mosquito Control, 1900–1920” in Alison Bashford, ed. *Medicine at the Border*