



HISTORY OF SCIENCE 2220

671

Summer 2026

Introduction to the History of Medicine

Instructor Information:

Professor:	Mark Sholdice	Office #:	TBA
Email:	msholdi@uwo.ca	Ext:	TBA

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1-2pm (on Zoom)

Class Times and Location(s):

Online distance course
May 4-July 26, 2026

Course Description:

An overview of the development of medicine from antiquity to the present, including the growth of medical sciences, concepts of disease, therapies, and the history of medical practice and institutions.

Course Format:

This is a fully online course that will use King's learning platform, Brightspace, and other educational resources based on the needs of the course. This class is designed to be **asynchronous**, meaning we will not have a regular, mandatory time when the entire class must be online.

Antirequisites: None

Prerequisites: None

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

HIS 2220 (671)

Introduction to the History of Medicine

This course provides an overview of the development of medicine from antiquity to the present, including the growth of medical sciences, concepts of disease, therapies, and the history of medical practice and institutions. We will approach the subject matter from both chronological and thematic angles. The first term will provide a historical overview of medical thought and key areas of practice (anatomy, physiology, pathology, surgery, etc.). The second term will cover important issues involving medical ethics, technologies, public health, empire, and gender. Students will be expected to attend lectures and complete assigned article readings, which will be available online.

Instructor: Dr. Mark Sholdice

Contact: msholdi@uwo.ca (please include 'HIS 2220' in subject line of emails)

Prerequisite: None

Antirequisite: None

Readings:

There are no required textbook purchases for this course. However, students are expected to read assigned articles, which will be available online through the course website on Brightspace.

As a supplementary reading, students may wish to consult Jacalyn Duffin, *History of Medicine: A Scandalously Short Introduction*. 3rd edition. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2021.

Course Assignments:

Assignment #1 (online take-home; available 27 May, due 29 May)	15%
Assignment #2 (online take-home; available 17 June, due 19 June)	25%
Assignment #3 (online take-home; available 8 July, due 10 July)	25%
Final exam (see Brightspace)	35%

* Note that the final exam will be due during the official exam period (27-30 July). Accordingly, you should not make travel plans until the exam schedule has been finalized.

Information from lectures and readings will appear on the assignments and the final exam. Students will be required to synthesize information in short- and essay-answers questions. You will have 72 hours to complete each assessment, but they are designed to take a few hours to finish. Because of their flexibility, formal supporting documentation is necessary for academic consideration for each assessment.

Other course policies

- following Western policy, all missed assessments will require accommodation requests from academic advisors or accessibility advisors
- late policy: all late assessments are subject to a 5% late penalty on the first day, followed by 1% for each day thereafter, up to a maximum of 11%; assignments over one week late will not be accepted
- all test and examination answers will be scanned using Turnitin
- within this course, use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT, translation tools, and grammar-checking tools) is not permitted for written work submitted for evaluation. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline

List of expected learning outcomes

- through lectures and course readings, students will gain an introductory knowledge of the history of medicine
- students will use note-taking during lectures and while reading to record and synthesize key information
- through preparation for tests and the final exam, students will develop organizational skills and ability to express and synthesize key information
- students will analyze the history of medicine both to value the past on its own terms, and to monitor and solve conditions of the present
- students will learn to identify a broad range of theories in the history of medicine
- students will learn to confront and challenge academic and non-academic ideas, arguments, and assumptions, while locating them within sound historical methodology
- students will understand the value of continuing to expand their historical knowledge base and to apply critical methods to knowing

Statement on Gender-Based Sexual Violence

King's (Western) is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

Mental Health and Wellness at King's - King's University College

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by email or by calling 519-661-3568.

Class Schedule

NOTE: all lectures and readings can be found on OWL Brightspace, to be viewed at any time

Week 1, 4-10 May

- **Introduction**
On studying the history of medicine
Reading: Bliss, “Medical Exceptionalism,” and Foucault, “The Crisis of Medicine or the Crisis of Antimedicine?”

Week 2, 11-17 May

- **Faith, Fantasy, and Reason in Medical History (I)**
Antiquity-Middle Ages
Reading: Gundert: “Parts and their Roles in Hippocratic Medicine”
- **Faith, Fantasy, and Reason in Medical History (II)**
Antiquity-Middle Ages
Reading: Joesse and Pormann, “Decline and Decadence in the Age after Avicenna?”

Week 3, 19-24 May

- **Medieval Preoccupations: Bodies, Blood, and Epidemics**
Middle Ages
Reading: McVaugh, “Bedside Manners in the Middle Ages”
- **Early Modern Medicine**
14th-18th centuries
Reading: Stolberg, “Emotions and the Body in Early Modern Medicine”

Week 4, 25-31 May

- **Medical Care and Professionalization**
14th-20th centuries
Reading: Connor, “A Sort of Felo-De-Se”
- **Assignment #1** (online take-home; available 27 May, due 29 May)

Week 5, 1-7 June

- **The Rise of Scientific Medicine**
19th century
Reading: Gucciardo, “Nature’s Tonic”
- **Anatomy**
Antiquity-20th century
Reading: MacGillvray, "Body-Snatching in Ontario"

Week 6, 8-14 June

- **Physiology**
Antiquity-20th century
Reading: Potter and Soltan, “Murray Llewellyn Barr”
- **Pathology**
Antiquity-20th century
Reading: McCuaig, “A Social Disease with a Medical Aspect”

Week 7, 15-21 June

- **Surgery**
Antiquity-20th century
Reading: Ladino, Rizvi, and Téllez-Zenteno, “The Montreal Procedure”
- **Assignment #2** (online take-home; available 17 June, due 19 June)

Week 8, 22-28 June

- **Empire and Medicine: Pathologizing Race/"World" Diseases**
15th-20th centuries
Reading: McLaren, “Stemming the Flood of Defective Aliens”
- **Public Health**
18th-20th centuries
Reading: Carstairs and Elder, “Expertise, Health, and Popular Opinion”

Week 9, 29 June-5 July

- **Medical Technologies**
Antiquity-20th century
Reading: McKellar, “Negotiating Risk”
- **Pharmacology**
Antiquity-20th century
Reading: Bliss, “Resurrections in Toronto”

Week 10, 6-12 July

- **Women's Health**
Antiquity-20th century
Reading: Cross, “A Midwife at Every Confinement”
- **Assignment #3** (online take-home; available 8 July, due 10 July)

Week 11, 13-19 July

- **Psychiatry (I)**
Antiquity-20th century
Reading: Foucault, “Experiences of Madness”
- **Psychiatry (II)**
19th-20th centuries
Reading: Mitchinson, “Gynecological Operations on Insane Women”

Week 12, 20-26 July

- **Medical Ethics: Human Experimentation**
19th-20th centuries
Reading: Mosby, “Administering Colonial Science”
- **Modern Epidemics: HIV/AIDS, Ebola, and COVID-19**
20th-21st centuries
Reading: McKay, “Patient Zero”

Exam Period

- **Final Exam** (see Brightspace)

King's University College

General Course Policies

2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at [here](#).

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course. Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course. For further information, please see:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising/academic-consideration-requests-and-student-absence-portal>

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details
https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/exams/index.html.

Please note, Friday Make-Up Exams may only be written with the instructor's consent.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/personal-counselling>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:
<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising>

GBSV Support:

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:
<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/campus-safety-and-reporting/gender-and-sexual-violence>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by email or by calling 519-661-3568.

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/campus-safety-and-reporting/student-code-of-conduct>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at [here](#).

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see

<https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member.

Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.