

**ARTH 2101-D230 Healing the Body: The Visual Culture of Medicine
Fall 2015**

SYLLABUS

This course is team-taught by three professors from three different departments. It is critical that you attend every lecture to gain the most benefit from the course. Please pay careful attention to the schedule.

Professors: Sandra Cheng, Gwen Cohen Brown, Aida Egues (see below for Contact Info)
Class Time/Location: Tuesday 2:30 pm – 5 pm, Pearl 503 (3 credits)

Prerequisite: ENG 1101

Course Description: This interdisciplinary course examines the imagery of medical practice, the role of visuality in shaping medical knowledge, artistic representations of the healthy and ailing body, and the emergence and increasing dependence on visual technologies. The course is designed as a lecture course of three modules that focus on the medical body, disease and illness, and treatment and healing. Students will acquire skills to better analyze images, and will attain greater awareness of variables in cultural values that underlie medical practice across history.

Required Readings: M. Samuels and M. Rockwood Lane, *Healing with the Arts: A 12-Week Program to Heal Yourself and Your Community*. New York: Atria, 2013 (this text is for the last 5 weeks of class), plus online reader. Articles and excerpts are located under “Readings” on the class website

Recommended: Purchase or access to Plague Inc. app

Learning Outcomes:

Students will,

- connect and integrate across-discipline knowledge between the humanities and medicine; and learn and apply cross-disciplinary skills to solve problems
- synthesize and transfer knowledge across disciplinary boundaries through the lens of morality, ethics, socio-economic factors, cultural bias, and changing environment
- collaborate on team project and presentation
- learn the analytical techniques used by art historians and health professionals
- enhance their visual literacy and critical thinking skills

Class Expectations: *Look and think about what you're looking at!*

Students are responsible for the learning and analyzing the images, concepts, and information presented in lecture and assigned readings.

*Syllabus is subject to change.

Contact Info for Professor Sandra Cheng (module 1: Weeks 1-5)

Office Hours: Mon 10:00-11:00 am, Tu/Th 9:00-10:00 am, by appointment

Office: Namm 602B

Email: scheng@citytech.cuny.edu (best way to contact me)

Phone: 718-260-5003 (not a good way to contact me)

Contact Info for Professor Gwen Cohen Brown (module 2: Weeks 6-10)

Office Hours: Monday 5:30 – 6:30 pm, Tuesday 12:00 – 1:00 pm, and by appointment

Office: Pearl 201

Email: gcohen-brown@citytech.cuny.edu (best way to contact me)

Phone: 718-260-5070 (not a good way to contact me)

Contact Info for Professor Aida Egues (module 3: Weeks 11-15)

Office Hours: Wed 4:10-6:10 pm, and by appointment

Office: Pearl 505

Email: aegues@citytech.cuny.edu

Phone: 718-260-4918

Website: You must access the class website by logging into [CityTech's OpenLab](#) via <http://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/>. Instructions on how to signup are on the OpenLab homepage. To access the OpenLab, you will need to register with your CityTech email account (if you have not activated your CityTech email, you need to go to a student helpdesk—6th Floor Computer Lab in the General Building). Once you register on the OpenLab, locate our course (Humanities Department, Fall 2015).

Readings for the lectures will be posted online. Go to the **Readings** tab on the class website. The readings are password-protected (passwords will be provided in class).

Grading:

Short Paper Assignments	40%
Homework	30%
Group Project: Presentation and Final Paper	30%

PLEASE NOTE: Failure to turn in a paper or submit an exam/assignment will result in a zero (0).

Class participation will be considered in determining final grades.

Writing Assignments: Students are required to write short papers or essays through out the course. Information on required papers will be given on the **class website**.

Group Presentation and Project: Students will be assigned a group to work on a small project. Each group will present their findings in a 15-min presentation. Information on the required project will be given in **separate handout**.

Homework: Your homework consists of submitting blog posts and comments on the class website. Your instructors will post a **Homework Topic** for you to post on and comment on. Instructions on how to *post* are located online under **Blogging Guidelines**. *Participation on the blog is mandatory.*

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes. **More than 2 absences will result in course failure.** Excessive lateness will affect your grade. Three late marks equal one absence.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Presenting work by others as your own is completely unacceptable. Plagiarism includes using material from books or the Internet without acknowledging the source as well as submitting something written by someone else. **Either will result in a 0 (zero) for that particular assignment/exam. A second instance will result in an automatic F for the course.**

Decorum: Please turn off your cell phones, beepers, alarms, etc. and **no sleeping, internet surfing, txt msgs** while in lecture.

New York City College of Technology Policy on Academic Integrity:

Students and all others who work with information, ideas, texts, images, music, inventions, and other intellectual property owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting, and citing sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the College recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in information literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice, and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and at New York City College of Technology and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion.

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LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
		Weeks 1-5: The Medical Body	The module on the medical body focuses on the “screening of the body” from early dissection to modern-day medical imaging. This section begins with the intersection between art and science in the Renaissance period, when scientists and artists worked simultaneously to better understand the body through the study of anatomy. Other topics within this module will include an investigation of the 19 th -century application of the new medium of photography to the medical sciences. The module will end with an investigation devoted to medical imaging as modern practice becomes increasingly reliant on images of the body produced via CT scans, MRIs, sonograms, and other models of digital scanning.
1	9/1	Introduction: What is Visual Culture? What is the Visual Culture of Medicine?	Nicholas Mirzoeff, “What is Visual Culture?”
2	9/8	Examining the Body	Martin Kemp, “Medicine in View: Art and Visual Representation” Introduction, Boccaccio, <i>The Decameron</i> (http://legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/source/boccaccio2.asp)
	9/15	NO CLASS – HOLIDAY – UNIVERSITY CLOSED	
	9/22	NO CLASS – HOLIDAY – UNIVERSITY CLOSED	
3	9/25	FRIDAY RUNNING ON A TUESDAY SCHEDULE Intersections between Art and Anatomy	BBC <i>Beauty and Anatomy</i> episode I “Galen and Leonardo” TBA
4	9/29	The Impact of Photography on Medical Knowledge	Required: Marita Sturken and Lisa Cartwright, “Scientific Looking, Looking at Science” in <i>Practices of Looking</i> Recommended: Brian Wallis, “Black Bodies, White Science: Louis Agassiz’s Slave Daguerreotypes”
5	10/6	Digital Imaging and BioTech Frontiers	Todkill, “The Art of Self Examination”, TED Talk: Virgil Wong and the Medical Avatar Fred Ritchin, “Of Synthesis and Cyborgs”
		Weeks 6-10: Disease and Illness	This module investigates the role of images in disease and illness and emphasizes the representation of epidemics from the late middle ages until now. Issues to be considered may include the impact of the Black Death. The twentieth century part of the unit will include an examination of Jonas Salk’s development of the vaccine for polio and the heroic portrayal of medical doctors in pictorial magazines such as <i>Life</i> . The module ends with a careful study of the depiction of AIDS in

			fine art, popular imagery, the news media, and activism.
6	10/13	Medical Mapping and Epidemiology	http://blogs.plos.org/publichealth/2013/03/11/john-snow-the-first-epidemiologist/ Broad Street Pump Outbreak: http://www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow/broadstreetpump.html
7	10/20	Remembered, Recovered and Invented History	Steven Johnson's TEDTalk " How the 'ghost map' helped end a killer disease. "
8	10/27	How are Medical Providers presented, Heroes or Villains	TBA
9	11/3	STDs, HIV and the AIDS Epidemic	TBA
10	11/10	Forensics	Peter Paul Brio, Forensics and Microscopy in Authenticating Works of Art Corey Kilgannon, "Through Art and Forensics, Faces of Unidentified Victims Emerge", http://tinyurl.com/ofwlj3k
		Weeks 11-15: Treatment and Healing	The third module covers visual imagery associated with treatment and healing from the middle ages to today's multi-billion dollar pharmaceutical advertising industry that strives to present drugs in a positive light. This module is divided into two sections that are devoted to places of treatment (such as clinics, hospitals, and asylums) and on treatment methods. Students will examine concepts of harm reduction and alternative therapies.
11	11/17	Dealing with Health Challenges Through Art	Lelchuk Staricoff, R. (2004). <i>Arts in health: a review of the medical literature</i> . London: Art Council England. Retrieved from http://www.artscouncil.org.uk <i>Rockwood Lane, M., & Samuels, M. Stuckey, H.L., & Nobel, J. (2010, February). The connection between art, healing, and public health: A review of current literature. American Journal of Public Health, 100(2), 254-263. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2008.156497.</i>
12	11/24	Places of Healing: From Monasteries to Asylums to Community	The Real Story Behind 'The Soloist.' www.npr.org <i>Excerpts from Movies and Books:</i> <i>The Soloist, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Wasted, Girl Interrupted, Prozac Nation, I've Never Promised You a Rose Garden, A Beautiful Mind</i>
13	12/1	Creative Expression as a Means of Enhancing Health and Wellness	Van Cleve Speer. (2012). <i>Things of the Spirit: Art and Healing in the American Body Politic, 1929-1941</i> . Oxford England: Peter Lang International Academic Publishers.
14	12/8	The Culture of Healing	Wainwright, S.P. (2005, December). "Culture and aging: Reflections on the arts and nursing." <i>Journal of Advanced Nursing, 52</i> (5), 518-525.
15	12/15	Creating a Healing Environment: Webs of Causality	Samuels, M., & Rockwood Lane. (2013). <i>Healing with the Arts: A 12-Week Program to Heal Yourself and Your Community</i> . Altria Books/Beyond Words.