

CONTINUITY OF INSTRUCTION REVISED REMOTE LEARNING SYLLABUS

March 20, 2020

HPS 515/ HIST 89: Magic, Medicine, & Science

Instructor: Jacob Neal
Email: jpn17@pitt.edu
Office Hours: TBD and by appointment

1. INTRODUCTION: DIFFICULT TIMES

As you know, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been asked to complete our previously in-person course online. I know that the uncertainty and sudden change in all our situations has increased everyone's stress. My first priority is your health and safety, so please contact me at any point if you are feeling overwhelmed or if you are unable to complete assignments on time, for instance, because you lack reliable internet access. You may also contact the University Counseling Center (412-648-7930 x1) to schedule a virtual appointment or you can access their online tools (<https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/cc/>), if you need additional emotional or psychological support during this time. To give you flexibility and further reduce your stress, the Provost has given all students the option to convert their letter grades into Satisfactory (S)/No Credit (NC) after your grade has been assigned at the end of term.

Although these are unprecedented circumstances, we as a class should be able to manage this transition to remote learning. I have revised the syllabus and schedule so that you can still practice and learn the skills you need to achieve the course objectives and pass the class. Luckily, most of our assignments are already submitted electronically, and you already receive most feedback from me via CourseWeb. All assignments and feedback will be mediated through CourseWeb going forward. We already have an ongoing discussion board where remote learning takes place. Also, some of the assignments we were scheduled to complete in class—namely, the Peer Paper Workshop and Peer Podcast Workshop—should be easy for you to do with your assigned partners via email and/or video chat. Finally, we will still have a chance for an hour of virtual face-to-face discussion, in our new small weekly seminars, and the new pre-seminar reading questions will help everyone prepare to fully participate in these seminars. We are, therefore, well-positioned to enable you to get the most out of the remainder of the course.

As we transition to a remote learning format, I want to advise you of a few things. First, I have posted a new schedule of readings and assignments. The weekly readings have been shifted back by one week, and we will no longer have our final wrap up class, in which we would have listened to a few of your podcasts. Instead, you will now be given credit for listening to two podcasts and commenting on them on your own. Second, I have now worked to streamline your assignments and due dates. The primary deadline is now on Sunday night at midnight, Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), for assignments not related to our class discussion, and the secondary deadline is Wednesday at midnight EDT, for assignments related to our weekly seminars. (The only exception is your final assignments, which will be due at midnight on the Friday of exam week.) I will do my best to make available all the guidelines and rubrics for the remaining assignments in the next couple of days. In addition, I will post the submission folders, so that you can pace yourself. Many of these assignments are not related to our weekly seminars, so you should feel free to work ahead. Hopefully, with this additional flexibility, you will be able to better manage your workload for our class.

2. CHANGE TO CLASS STRUCTURE: DISCUSSION SEMINARS

To continue discussion of the weekly readings, we will transition to one-hour seminars, in which roughly a third of you will participate at a time. These will be conducted remotely over Zoom, and you will be assigned based on your self-reported availability. I will send you more information about Zoom early next week, but you can go ahead and download the software from Pitt and begin to familiarize yourself with it. We will likely begin each session with small break-out sessions of 2-3 students, and these will be followed by whole group discussion. These small seminars or discussion sections will provide ample opportunity for all students to speak and engage with the course material. In fact, the student-teacher ratio is likely to be something you might more typically find in a graduate seminar!

In order to prepare for robust discussion, I am asking you to do two things in addition to completing the readings. I will be posting short PowerPoint lectures (10-15 min) on a key topic or theme that I want to highlight from that week's reading. I will also provide you with pre-seminar reading questions. Both the PowerPoint and the questions will be posted to CourseWeb by 9AM each Monday. You should watch the mini-lecture and complete and submit the reading questions at least 30 min before your seminar section. These two additional tasks will help you prepare for the seminar, but should take you no longer than 90 min to complete (i.e., the time you would normally have spent in class).

3. COMMUNICATION PLAN

One way to facilitate our transition to remote learning is to implement a clear and regular communication plan. On my end, I will message each seminar section every Wednesday with the Zoom link for our Thursday seminar. I also plan to email the entire class with a recap, reminders, and any updates every Friday. Finally, I will make every effort to respond to your emails within 24h during the work week and within 36h over the weekends. I have also started a Course Mechanics Q&A discussion forum on CourseWeb. You should use this to ask any questions you have about the assignments, due dates, submission folders, etc. By using this forum, all students will benefit from your question and my answers. On your end, you should check your Pitt email and our CourseWeb site daily. You should also feel free to email me or stop by my remote office hours with any questions or concerns. Importantly, if at any point you fall behind, please contact me to let me know your situation. To the extent that I am able, I will be generous with granting short extensions, *if you notify me in advance*.

4. OVERVIEW OF MAJOR CHANGES TO ASSIGNMENTS

- *What Will Stay the Same*
 - **Active Readings (10%).** Those of you who did not submit your second active reading earlier in the term will still need to complete the active reading on Cadden (1993), "Hildegard of Bingen," due Thursday, March 26th uploaded 30 min prior to your discussion section.
 - **Discussion Board SOP and RPs (10%).** We will continue with the SOPs in the same order as before, but we will be behind by one week. You will now have an extra week, until Wednesday April 1st to complete your first RP.
 - **Term Paper (25%).** Only the deadlines for this assignment have changed. Complete draft and Peer Paper Workshop handout due by midnight, Sunday, March 29th. Final paper submission due by midnight, Sunday, April 5th. Optional final paper revision due by midnight, Friday, April 24th.

- **Historical Podcast (20%).** The deadlines for this assignment have changed. We will have a remote Historical Podcast Peer Workshop and you will need to listen to and comment on two completed podcasts. Proposal due by midnight, Sunday, March 29th (with no penalty extension available until Wednesday, April 1st). Complete draft and Peer Podcast Workshop due by midnight, Sunday, April 12th. Final podcast due by midnight, Sunday, April 19th. Required Podcast comments due by midnight, April 24th.
- **End-of-Class Reflections (10%).** You will continue to submit these for our four remaining class sessions.
- **Extra Credit Office Hour Visit (+1%).** You will be able to earn this if you ‘stop by’ my remote office hours or schedule another time to chat with me via Zoom.
- *What Has Changed and What is New*
 - **Pre-Seminar Reading Questions (4 x 1.5%).** You will now need to answer reading questions before each session to prepare you for your discussion section. These will be due on Wednesday by midnight.
 - **Participation Paper (0%).** You will no longer be required to complete the participation paper. Instead, I am asking you to complete a different metacognitive task (see next entry).
 - **End of Course Reflection on Learning Paper (4%).** This paper will let you reflect on your learning across the course, especially focusing on the transition to remote learning. It will be due midnight, Friday, April 24th.

5. GRADED ASSIGNMENTS: WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION ON CHANGES

- *Consult ORIGINAL Rubric with These Modifications*
 - **Active Reading.** If you have not yet submitted your second active reading, you will need to complete this assignment on Cadden (1993), “Hildegard of Bingen.” It will be due by midnight this coming Wednesday, March 25th. Since we will not be meeting in person, you will need to upload an electronic copy to the folder on CourseWeb. You may scan your copy with your handwritten flags, notes, and summary/critique using a scanner or a scanning app on your smartphone, such as Scannable, or you may make all your notations electronically using an editing program, such as Adobe Acrobat or Preview. Please make sure that however you submit, it is one pdf document and your notations are legible. (If you anticipate any difficulty, please contact me ASAP.)
 - **End-of-Class Reflections.** You will be able to submit an EOC reflection for each of our four remaining class sessions. Now, you will have up to three hours after your discussion section ends to submit your reflection electronically to the folder on CourseWeb. You may type directly into the text box or submit a pdf or Word document. As before, these are worth one point apiece, and they can only be earned if you attend (remotely, in this case) a given class. The points you earn in the remaining sessions will be summed with the points you earned before spring break. There are 12 possible points, but you can earn a maximum of 10/10.
- *Consult UPDATED Rubric and Guidelines*
 - **Term Paper**
 - **Historical Podcast**
 - **End of Course Reflection on Learning Paper** (This document will be posted soon.)
 - **Discussion Board Posts** (The only changes to this document are in the schedule and deadlines. I will email to remind those responsible for posting SOPs the Friday before they are due.)

Revised Remote Learning Schedule – March 20, 2020

SCHEDULE OF READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS

Week 10 Mar. 19 th	Class cancelled during transition to remote instruction	
Students were advised to continue drafting their Term Paper		
Week 11 Mar. 26 th	Late Middle Ages – Monastic and Medical Thought	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cadden (1993), “Hildegard of Bingen: Extension and Integration” in <i>MSD</i>, pp. 70-88 (19 pgs) 2. St. Hildegard of Bingen, <i>Causes and Cures</i>, moralized explanation of menstruation in Black (2020), pp. 243-244 (2 pgs) 3. Copho, “Anatomy of the Uterus” from <i>Anatomia Porci</i> in Black (2020), pp. 238-9 (2 pgs) -- Optional
Mar. 26 th	2nd Active Reading Option 2 on Cadden (1993), “Extension and Integration,” uploaded 30min before your seminar start time	
Mar. 29 th	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete draft of Term Paper, uploaded by midnight 2. Completed Peer Paper Workshop Handout, uploaded by midnight 3. Historical Podcast proposal, uploaded by midnight (no penalty extension available for submission by midnight on Wednesday, April 1st) 	
Week 12 Apr. 2 nd	Renaissance – Humanism and Sex Difference	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marie De Gournay, (1622) <i>The Equality of Men and Women</i>, selection in King (2014) pp. 289-295 (7 pgs) 2. LaBrada (2017), “Unsexing Subjects: Marie de Gournay’s Philosophy of Sex Eliminativism,” pp. 51-72 (22 pgs)
Apr. 5 th	Term Paper , uploaded by midnight	
Week 13 Apr. 9 th	Likely Topic: Sex, Gender, and the Black Plague Paper: TBD	
Apr. 12 th	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete draft of Historical Podcast, uploaded by midnight 2. Completed Peer Podcast Workshop Handout, uploaded by midnight 	
Week 14 Apr. 16 th	Topic: Sex Bias and Modern Medicine Paper: TBD	
Apr. 19 th	Historical Podcast , uploaded by midnight	
Week 15 Apr. 23 rd	Exam Week – No Class and No Exam	
Apr. 24 th	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Peer Podcast Comments, uploaded by midnight 2. End of Course Reflection on Learning Paper, uploaded by midnight 3. Optional Term Paper Revisions, uploaded by midnight 	

Additional Weekly Deadlines:

1. **Pre-Seminar Reading Questions** should be uploaded each week by midnight on the Wednesday prior to class seminars.
2. **Substantial Original Posts (SOPs)** should be posted (by the members of the assigned group) to the discussion board by midnight on the Sunday prior to class seminars.
3. **Reply Posts (RPs)** should be posted to the discussion board by midnight on the Wednesday prior to class seminars.