

# CS 2902B: Ancient Medicine Preliminary Course Outline



The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Classical Studies  
Term: Winter  
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**Asynchronous Online**

We acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (Ah-nish-in-a-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-ahpay-wuk) and At-tawandaron (Add-a-won-da-run) peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples (e.g. First Nations, Métis and Inuit) whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society.

# Course Outline

## Welcome and Course Description:

Welcome to CS 2902: Ancient Medicine!

This course will trace the development of ancient medicine from the earliest evidence of Egyptian and Mesopotamian medical practices, the development of Greek concepts of health and disease, through to the flourishing of Greco-Roman medicine at the height of the Roman Empire. Of particular interest to this course is the social dimension of ancient medicine, including questions of ethics, the social standing of medical practitioners (and their patients), and the role of women, both as healers, and patients. This course will also highlight the influence of ancient medicine on medical theories and practices during the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and up to early modern times.

**Anti-requisite:** CS 2902A

**Class Meeting Time:** Asynchronous, online

It is your responsibility to complete the readings and lecture viewings on a weekly basis. I would strongly advise you that you organize your time appropriately, so that you are able to complete the readings prior to listening to each lecture.

**Office hours:** via Zoom (by appointment)

I will happily meet with anyone who wishes to discuss concerns or questions about the material or any aspect of the course evaluation. I will hold drop-in office hours for one hour every week. If you want to schedule a meeting, please click on the Zoom tab on OWL and, under the appointment tab, select a date and time. If there is no available slot that fits your schedule, please do not hesitate to contact me to schedule an appointment. All appointments will take place over Zoom. You can also use the Forum on our OWL site, or contact our TA or me via email if you are more comfortable with that option. I strive to respond to emails within 24 hours (48 on the weekends).

## Required Texts:

- 1) K. Upson-Saia, H. Marx, and J. Secord, *Medicine, Health, and Healing in the Ancient Mediterranean (500 BCE-600 CE)*, University of California Press, First edition, 2023.

Additional reading material will be assigned and made available to students on the course website on OWL.

## Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

Those who successfully complete this course will be able to do the following:

- Learn how to read and analyze ancient sources (in English)
- Learn about the development of theories of medicine in the Greco-Roman world
- Learn about the practice of medicine in antiquity and how it was affected by considerations of wealth, status, and gender

Students in this course will acquire the following skills:

- Be able to critically read source texts and extract relevant data from those texts
- Have an understanding of the major schools of medicine in the ancient world, including the origins of the Hippocratic Oath and its influence on modern notions of medical ethics and the medical profession in general
- Gain a substantial understanding of using primary evidence (archaeological, artistic, literary), including its potential and limits, in the reconstruction of ancient societies and their medical systems

**Course Website:**

All course content can be found on the OWL course site. Students are responsible to regularly check our OWL site for this class for reminders about upcoming quizzes/ tests, to read announcements, and to access class PowerPoints and other resources to prepare and review material for this course. It is your responsibility to complete the tests for this course by their due date through the “Tests & Quizzes” tab on OWL.

**Course Evaluation:**

Quizzes	5 total (worth 3% each; online asynchronous)	15%
Test 1	February 16 (online asynchronous)	25%
Test 2	March 22 (online asynchronous)	25%
Final Exam	TBA, during the exam period (online synchronous)	35%

**Quizzes and tests will be discussed in more detail in the lectures closer to the date of each test/ quiz. Make sure to check OWL for announcements as well.**

**Quizzes:**

The quizzes test the primary source material covered in the preceding weeks, consisting of multiple choice and true/false questions, designed to test your comprehension of the primary sources and your ability to extract information from the excerpts given to you. There will be no proctoring. **Quizzes will run on Fridays during the weeks indicated on the schedule below.**

### Tests and Final Exam:

There will be two tests, consisting of multiple-choice and true/false questions. The tests will focus on material (lectures and readings) covered in the weeks leading up to each test (Test #1: weeks 1-6; Test #2: weeks 7-12). Tests will be taken asynchronously on the “Tests & Quizzes” tab on OWL. The tests will **not be cumulative** and there will be no proctoring.

The final exam will be **scheduled by the registrar during the exam period**. The final exam will be cumulative, and consist of multiple-choice and true/false questions (based on lectures and readings). It will be timed (2 hours max.) and administered through OWL. No outside resources are permitted and it is considered an academic offence to use outside resources on this exam. If you have questions about academic integrity or academic offences please see the notes at the end of the syllabus. There will be no proctoring

### Tentative Course Schedule (preliminary and subject to change):

Date	Topic	Reading (TBA)	Assessments
Week 1	Introduction; Egyptian and Mesopotamian Medicine	p. 1-15; see OWL	
Week 2	Medical Evidence in Epic Poetry & The Pre-Socratic Philosophers	See OWL; <b>Text 1</b> (p.61-77); optional: p.16-30	Quiz #1 on Friday
Week 3	Hippocratic Medicine & Creation of a Profession	<b>Text 2</b> (p.61-77)	
Week 4	Hippocratic Medicine: Philosophical Connections; Methods and Practice	<b>Text 40</b> (p.330-331); <b>Text 35</b> (p. 308-310)	Quiz #2 on Friday
Week 5	Anaesthesia & Surgery	<b>Text 12</b> (p.161-164); <b>Text 29</b> (p.261-267);	
Week 6	Ancient Persian Medicine	p.324-325 (remainder of text 39)	Test #1
Week 7	Reading Week	ENJOY YOUR BREAK!	
Week 8	Ancient Indian & Chinese medicine	See OWL	Quiz #3 on Friday

Week 9	Female “Health” in the Hippocratic Corpus; Women as Healers	<b>Text 9</b> (p.138-142); <b>Text 10</b> (up to chapter 5; p. 142-145); <b>Text 44</b> (p.344-356)	
Week 10	Alexandrian Medicine	<b>Text 23</b> (p. 242-244)	Quiz #4 on Friday
Week 11	Etruscan & Roman medicine	<b>Text 25</b> (p.248-251); <b>Text 28</b> (p.254-256)	Test #2
Week 12	Epilepsy & disability in antiquity	<b>Text 17</b> (p.192-205)	
Week 13	Healing Sanctuaries & Bathing for health	<b>Text 30</b> (p. 271-273); <b>Text 39</b> (p. 322-323); p. 383-393	Quiz #5 on Friday
Week 14	Classes end April 8 (Monday)		

NOTES TO STUDENTS:

1. Only on the documented basis of illness or other extreme circumstance will students be permitted to write a make-up test. If you miss a test, you must contact the instructor within 48 hours to arrange a make-up test. If you do not, the grade of F will stand. The format of the make-up exams may vary.
2. **Appropriate written documentation is required for all missed tests.** If you miss a test **due to illness**, you must obtain supporting documentation (i.e., a medical note) and then **submit it to the Academic Counselling Office of your home faculty.**
3. All tests are multiple choice and true/ false tests. The tests are **not** cumulative. The tests cover the material of the weeks preceding the test. The questions will be based on lectures and assigned readings. The final exam will be **cumulative** and, similar to the tests, will be based on lectures and assigned readings.
4. All tests are administered through the Tests and Quizzes function on OWL. **It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that they have a strong, stable internet connection for the completion of this course and the assessments.** If you encounter technical difficulties while completing an assessment and that complication is not system-wide (i.e., an OWL shutdown), you should contact Western Technology Services (WTS). **Make-ups will not be granted once you have attempted an assessment without extenuating circumstances and the consultation of Academic Counselling.**
5. The final grade is calculated based on your performance on the quizzes, tests, and final exam only. You cannot do an extra assignment to make up for a poor performance on a test.

## Important Policies

### Note from the Dean of Arts and Humanities

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

### Plagiarism

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

### Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### Western Policy on Academic Consideration for Absences

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic\\_Consideration\\_for\\_absences.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf)

Students seeking academic accommodation for any missed tests, exams and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must either complete a Self-Reported Absence Form (provided the conditions for submission are met) or apply to the Office of the Dean of their home faculty and provide documentation. **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION CANNOT BE GRANTED BY THE INSTRUCTOR OR DEPARTMENT.**

In addition to completing a Self-Reported Absence Form or applying to the Office of the Dean of their home faculty, students seeking academic accommodation must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or Student Medical Certificate, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

### Western Accessibility Policy

Western has many services and programs that support the personal, physical, social and academic needs of students with disabilities. For more information and links to these services: <http://accessibility.uwo.ca/>

### Accessibility Options

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) plays a central role in Western's efforts to ensure that its academic programs are accessible for all students at the graduate and undergraduate levels. SAS arranges academic accommodation for classes, exams, internships and other course or program activities. SAS also provides digital and Braille textbooks, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction for students with learning disabilities, access to computer labs that are equipped with assistive technology, referrals for

assessments and other services, and bursaries for students who meet OSAP's eligibility criteria. You may wish to contact SAS at 519 661-2111 x 82147 or visit their website: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/> for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: [www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

## **Mental Health**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western [https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

## **Copyright**

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent.

## **STATEMENT ON GENDER-BASED AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

Western [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 gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).