

Medicine and the Five Senses

Meetings: Online via Zoom, Thursdays, 5-6pm, March 2-April 5, 2023

Course Instructor: Gideon Manning, Ph.D (Gideon.Manning@csmc.edu)

Course Description: Medicine studies the senses. It works to repair them when they are lost or damaged. It utilizes them in training, diagnosis, and therapy. This course will focus on the latter cluster of activities to examine medicine's reliance on the five senses. Moving quickly from Greek Antiquity and the European Renaissance to the rise of the modern physical exam in the nineteenth-century, and then to the present, where technology has stepped into the space between healthcare providers and their patients, we will study technology's expanding footprint, how it has both elevated sight and visualization and, ultimately, effected less direct contact between doctors and nurses with their patients. In addition to learning about these changes and consequences, we will consider the positives and negatives we might assign to the ever changing and current role of the five senses in medicine. We will also ask such questions as: what comes next and what do we stand to gain (or lose) as we rely less on the senses?

Learning outcomes:

1. Understand the evolution of our reliance on the senses in medical theory and practice.
2. Appreciate the technological changes driving development of 21st-century medicine and patient care.
3. Apply medical history to understand the current state of medicine and its likely future.

Schedule of Topics (subject to revision)

Week 1. Introduction (March 2, 2023)

Readings: V. Nutton, "Galen at the bedside: The methods of a medical detective," and J. Bylebyl, "The manifest and the hidden in the Renaissance clinic"

Week 2. The art of anatomy (March 9) – Guest: Monique Kornell, PhD, Cedars-Sinai

Readings: M. Kemp, "'The mark of truth': looking and learning in some anatomical illustrations from the Renaissance and eighteenth century"

Week 3. The physical exam and the rise of technology (March 15, ** Wednesday class **)

Readings: R. Porter, "The rise of the physical exam," and M. Nicolson, "The introduction of percussion and stethoscopy to early nineteenth-century Edinburgh"

Week 4. The senses in nursing; from the bedside to advanced practice (March 23) – Guest: Jennifer Elad, NP, DNP, Cedars-Sinai

Readings: M. Sandelowski, *Devices & Desires: Gender, Technology, and American Nursing* (Selections)

Week 5 The senses in surgery (March 30) – Guest: Michael L. Marin, MD, Mount Sinai, New York

Readings: G. Brieger, "Sense and sensibility in late nineteenth-century surgery in America," and E. Henderson, "Surgical robots to incorporate senses comparable or even superior to humans"

Week 6. 20th/21st-Century Technology (April 5, ** Wednesday class **) – Likely Guest: Melissa Wong, MD, MHDS, Cedars-Sinai

Readings: J. Greene, *The Doctor Who Wasn't There: Technology, History, and the Limits of Telehealth* (Selections)