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MEHU 6320: Narratives of Medical Catastrophes

Spring Term 2017
(Revised 12/22/2016)
Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **(Except as noted)**
PCP 2.264

* Books that students must order
+ Articles available on BlackBoard
URL: Readings available online

PART I: Plagues, Influenza, and Nuclear War

Week 1 - Tues Jan 10 :

Introduction to the course; (will be rescheduled due to IPE day)

URL: Thucydides, *The History of the Peloponnesian War*, trans. David Grene (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1989), 115-118, http://www.historyguide.org/ancient/athenian_plague.html;

URL: Lucretius, "The Plague Athens," from *Poems*, book 6, part 4, <http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/book-vi-part-04-the-plague-athens/>;

+ Lee T. Percy, "Diagnosis as Narrative in Ancient Literature," *American Journal of Philology* 113, no. 4 (Winter 1992): 595-616;

+ Alexander D. Langmuir, Thomas D. Worthen, Jon Solomon, C. George Ray, and Eskild Petersen, "The Thucydides Syndrome—A New Hypothesis for the Cause of the Plague of Athens," *New England Journal of Medicine* 313, no. 16 (October 17, 1985): 1027-1030;

+ Bernard Dixon, "Ebola in Greece?" *British Medical Journal* 313, no. 7054 (August 17, 1996): 430; and

URL: Manolis J. Papagrigrorakis, Christos Yapijakis, Philippos N. Synodinos, Effie Baziotopoulou-Valavani, "DNA Examination of Ancient Dental Pulp Incriminates Typhoid Fever as a Probable Cause of the Plague of Athens," *International Journal of Infectious Diseases* 10, no. 3 (May 2006): 206-214,

<http://www.academia.dk/MedHist/Sygdomme/Pest/PDF/DNAexaminationOfAncientDentalPulp.pdf>

- Week 2 – Tues Jan. 17: + Barbara W. Tuchmann, “‘This Is the End of the World’: The Black Death,” in *A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous Fourteenth Century* (New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1978), 101-137;
 URL: Giovanni Boccaccio, “Proem,” “First Day-Argument,” and “First Day-Introduction,” to *The Decameron*, trans. J. M. Rigg (1903), *Decameron Web*, http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Italian_Studies/dweb/index.php (copy and paste);
 URL: Edgar Allan Poe, “The Masque of the Red Death” (1842), Project Gutenberg, <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1064>; and
 URL: David Cope, Introduction, *Thomas Dekker: Selections from Two Pamphlets* (2000), 1-30,
https://cms.grcc.edu/sites/default/files/docs/shakespeare/historical/thomas_dekker_selections_from_two_pamphlets.pdf
- Week 3 - Tues Jan. 24: **FIRST ESSAY ASSIGNMENT GIVEN;**
 * Daniel Defoe, *A Journal of the Plague Year*, ed. Paula R. Backscheider, Norton Critical Edition (New York, NY: Norton, 1992); and
 + Catherine Rubincam, “Thucydides and Defoe: Two Plague Narratives,” *International Journal of the Classical Tradition* 11, no. 2 (Fall 2004): 194-212.
- Week 4 - Tues Jan. 31: American Experience, “1918 Influenza,” DVD (viewed in class);
 + Katherine Anne Porter, “Pale Horse, Pale Rider,” in *The Collected Stories of Katherine Anne Porter* (New York, NY: Harcourt, Brace, and World, 1965), 269-317;
 + David A. Davis, “The Forgotten Apocalypse: Katherine Anne Porter’s ‘Pale Horse, Pale Rider,’ Traumatic Memory, and the Influenza Epidemic of 1918,” *Southern Literary Journal* 43, no. 2 (Spring 2011): 55-74;
 + Pat Barker, excerpts from *The Ghost Road* (New York, NY: Plume/Penguin, 1996), 133-137, 230-239, 259-276; and
 URL: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *Pandemic Influenza Storybook*, <https://www.cdc.gov/publications/panflu/index.html>
- Week 5 – Tues Feb. 7: * Masuji Ibuse, *Black Rain*, trans. John Bester (New York, NY: Kodansha USA, 2012)

FRIDAY, FEB. 10:**FIRST ESSAY DUE BY 5 PM****PART II: Hurricane Katrina**

- Week 6 - Tues. Feb. 17: * Richard E. Deichmann, *Code Blue: A Katrina Physician's Memoir* (New York, NY: iUniverse Star, 2008);
 + URL: Jeffrey Meitrodt, "For Dear Life," *New Orleans Times Picayune*, 5-part series, August 20-24, 2008, http://www.nola.com/katrina/index.ssf/2006/08/for_dear_life_part_1.html; and
 + "Memorial Medical Center" in *Nursing in the Storm: Voices from Hurricane Katrina*, ed. Denise Danna and Sandra Cordray (New York, NY: Springer, 2009), 95-146.
- Week 7 - Tues Feb. 21: * Lori Budo, *Katrina through Our Eyes: Stories from inside Baptist Hospital* (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2010);
 URL: Sheri Fink, "The Deadly Choices at Memorial," ProPublica, August 27, 2009, <http://www.propublica.org/article/the-deadly-choices-at-memorial-826> or *New York Times Magazine* (August 30, 2009), <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/30/magazine/30doctors.html?emc=eta1&r=0>;
 URL: "Was It Murder?" *60 Minutes*, September 24, 2006, transcript of interview of Anna Pou by Morley Safer, www.cbsnews.com/news/was-it-murder/;
 URL: "Reporting Alleged Euthanasia," August 26, 2009, video interview of Sherry Fink by Bruce Shapiro, http://dartcenter.org/content/sheri-fink-katrina-euthanasia-pou-new-york-times-pro-publica#.USNI_ehs2AY;
 URL: Carrie Kahn, "New Orleans Hospital Staff Discussed Mercy Killings," *NPR*, February 16, 2006, with interview of Angela McManus, <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5219917>;
- Week 8 - Tues Feb 28: **SECOND ESSAY ASSIGNMENT GIVEN;**
60 Minutes: Was It Murder? (September 24, 2006), DVD (viewed in class);
 + Karla F. C. Holloway, *Private Bodies, Public Texts: Race, Gender, and a Cultural Bioethics* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2011), xv-xx, 156-171, and 196-197;
 URL: Kenneth Kipnis, "Forced Abandonment and Euthanasia: A Question from Katrina," *Social Research* 74, no. 1 (Spring 2007): 1-22, www.stanford.edu/~mvr2j/sfsu09/extra/Kipnis.pdf;
 + S. W. Swann, "Euthanasia on the Battlefield," *Military Medicine* 152 (1987): 545-549;
 URL: David L. Perry, "Battlefield Euthanasia: Should Military Mercy-Killings Be Allowed?" presented at the International Society for Military Ethics annual meeting, January 27, 2011, isme.tamu.edu/ISME11/Perry-ISME2011.pdf (copy and paste);
 + Matthew D. Sztajnkrycer, Bo E. Madsen, and Amado Alejandro Baez, "Unstable Ethical Plateaus and Disaster Triage," *Emergency Medicine Clinics of North America* 24, no. 3 (2006): 749-768;
- URL: Susan Okie, "Dr. Pou and the Hurricane—Implications for Patient Care

During Disasters,” *New England Journal of Medicine* 358, no. 1 (January 3, 2008): 1-5, <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp0707917>;
URL: Anna Maria Pou, “Hurricane Katrina and Disaster Preparedness,” *New England Journal of Medicine* 358, no. 14 (April 3, 2008): 1524, <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc086028>.

Week 9 - Tues Mar. 7:

* Bill Carey, *Leave No One Behind: Hurricane Katrina and the Rescue of Tulane Hospital* (Nashville, TN: Clearbrook Press, 2006);
Special eight-part series, “Perspective: Hurricane Katrina,” in *New England Journal of Medicine* 153, no. (October 13, 2005):
URL: Hilarie H. Cranmer, “Volunteer Work—Logistics First,” 1541-1544, <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp058234>;
URL: Gregory S. Henderson, “Finding Supplies,” 1542, <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp058230>;
URL: P. Gregg Greenough and Thomas D. Krisch, “Public Health Response—Assessing Needs,” 1544-1546, <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp058238>;
URL: Edward D. Frohlich, “Aftershocks,” 1545, <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp058231>;
URL: Phillip Nieburg, Ronald J. Waldman, and Donald M. Krumm, “Evacuated Populations—Lessons from Foreign Refugee Crises,” 1547-1549, <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp058237>;
URL: Andrew J. Cohen, “Lethal Levels,” 1549, <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp058250>;
URL: Ruth Berggren, “Unexpected Necessities—Inside Charity Hospital,” 1550-1553, <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp058239>;
URL: G. S. Henderson, “Triaging Tragedy,” 1551, <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp058252>;
URL: David P. Sklar, Michael Richards, Mark Shah, and Paul Roth, “Responding To Disasters: Academic Medical Centers’ Responsibilities and Opportunities,” *Academic Medicine* 82, no. 8 (August 2007): 797-800, http://journals.lww.com/academicmedicine/Fulltext/2007/08000/Responding_to_Disasters_Academic_Medical_Centers_.11.aspx.

Week 10 - Tues Mar. 14:

*Sheri Fink, *Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital* (New York: Crown, 2013), Part I.

Week 11 - Tues Mar. 21:

*Fink, *Five Days at Memorial*, Part 2.

FRIDAY, MAR, 24:

SECOND ESSAY DUE BY 5 PM

PART III: Contemporary and Potential Medical Catastrophes

Week 12 - Tues Mar. 28: * Paul Farmer, *Haiti after the Earthquake* (New York, NY: PublicAffairs, 2011).

Week 13 - Tues Apr. 4: Ebola: *Outbreak* (Warner Brothers, 1995, DVD).

Week 14 - **Tues. Apr. 11:**
Will need to be rescheduled * Lucy Birmingham and David McNeill, *Strong in the Rain: Surviving Japan's Earthquake, Tsunami, and Fukushima Nuclear Disaster* (Basingstoke, Hampshire, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012).

Week 15 - Tues Apr. 18: Pandemic flu: *Contagion* (Warner Brothers, 2011, DVD); and
Presentations of Final Paper.

Friday, Apr. 21: FINAL COURSE PAPERS DUE BY 5 PM

Class Discussion:

Students will be expected to have read the assigned works before coming to class and be ready and able to participate fully in a discussion—that is, to listen and respond to others; to ask questions as well as posit ideas; and to strive to see that all members of the group contribute equally to the conversation.

Components of Final Grade:

First Essay	20%
Second Essay	20%
Final Course Paper	40%
Seminar Participation	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Course Evaluations:

End-of-course evaluations are required for all GSBS courses that are graded A-F. End-of-course evaluations for GSBS courses that are graded S-U can also be requested but are not mandatory. The GSBS Executive Committee voted in July and August 2007 to reaffirm this policy, which is required for accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). **Beginning with the fall semester 2007, students are required to complete evaluations in any course graded A-F in order to receive a grade in the course. If a completed evaluation form is not received from a student, an Incomplete (I) grade will be reported to the Office of Enrollment Services. If the course evaluation is not completed within thirty days, grade of I automatically converts to a grade of F (failure in the course).** The evaluations are anonymous and are available to the course director and instructor(s) only after grades have been assigned.

Honor Pledge:

On my honor, as a member of the UTMB community, I pledge to act with integrity, compassion and respect in all my academic and professional endeavors.

Required Book List:

A Journal of the Plague Year, Daniel Defoe, Norton Critical Ed., ed. Paula R. Backscheider
New York: W. W. Norton, 1992 (paperback)
ISBN-10: 0393961885
ISBN-13: 978-0393961881

Black Rain, Masuji Ibuse, translator John Bester
New York: Kodansha USA, 2012
ISBN-10: 1568364179
ISBN-13: 978-1568364179

Code Blue: A Katrina Physician's Memoir, Richard E. Deichmann
New York: iUniverse Star, 2008 (paperback)
ISBN: 978-1-4401-1031-3

Katrina through Our Eyes: Stories from Inside Baptist Hospital, Lori Budo
CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2010 (paperback)
ISBN-10: 1456357611
ISBN-13: 978-1456357610

Leave No One Behind: Hurricane Katrina and the Rescue of Tulane Hospital, Bill Carey
Nashville, Tennessee: Clearbrook Press, 2006 (paperback)
ISBN-10: 0972568034
ISBN-13: 978-0972568036

Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital, Sheri Fink
New York: Crown, 2013
ISBN-10: 0307718964
ISBN-13: 978-0307718969

Haiti after the Earthquake, Paul Farmer
New York, NY: PublicAffairs, 2011
ISBN-10: 1586489739

Strong in the Rain: Surviving Japan's Earthquake, Tsunami, and Fukushima Nuclear Disaster, Lucy Birmingham and David McNeill
Basingstoke, Hampshire, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012
ISBN-10: 0230341861
ISBN-13: 978-0230341869