

Syllabus for Spring 2020 OLLI course: **The Good, the Bad and the Ugly**

1. Instructor Information:

Néstor A. Ramírez, MD, MPH, FAAP is a retired physician with a specialty in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine (care of premature and ill newborn infants) and a Master's Degree in Public Health (See the OLLI Classes Spring 2020 catalogue for more detailed information).

2. General Course Information:

This course is an exploration of the many frequent, wondrous and illuminating episodes in the history of Medicine and of the men and women who have toiled to make the discoveries and create the tools that improve the health of mankind ("the GOOD"). We will also review the infrequent but reproachable cases when Medicine has committed inappropriate and unethical actions that have hurt parts of the population (the "BAD"). We cannot overlook the rare but real overwhelmingly cruel events when Medicine's inhumanity to man has purposely harmed large segments of racial or ethnic populations as part of wars, or for evil in the name of science ("the UGLY"). Our course will round out by talking about the failure of our governmental agencies to protect US Citizens, a review of US healthcare compared to other countries', and a stark evaluation of the US Medical education system.

3. Course objectives:

- Briefly trace the history of Medicine as an Art and as a Science.
- Throughout periods in the history of Medicine, highlight the bright stars.
- For those same periods, show the dark areas and events.
- Take a deep look at issues of Human Experimentation.
- Review the genesis and evolution of the doctrine of informed consent.
- Evaluate the benefits and risks of technological advances in Medicine.
- Analyze the role of women and minorities in Medicine and healthcare.
- Explore the US Healthcare system, its costs and dysfunctions.
- Evaluate the Medical education system in the USA, its errors and fallacies.

4. Course policies:

Out of respect for you and your time, I will begin promptly at 3:30 PM and end by 5:00 PM. Registered OLLI members can participate in any or all sessions of the 8-week course. If special accommodations are required, they must be requested from and arranged through OLLI administration. Short pertinent questions and comments during the session will be permitted. Longer interventions should be done after the end of the class.

5. Grading and Evaluation:

There will not be any type of testing or grading. An evaluation of the course material and the instructor will be given to the participants by OLLI according to their policy. If important modifications or suggestions are given, an email to me at any time would be very productive and helpful:

nestorbabydoc@gmail.com

6. Learning Resources:

The she syllabus and PowerPoint presentations will be available on the OLLI website. Attendees may download the presentation materials from the OLLI website about one week before the respective course session. A suggested optional supplementary list of reading materials will also be posted on the website. This list will alphabetized by title. Many of the books are available at the U of I library and/or the Champaign and Urbana Public libraries.

7. Course Calendar:

Duration: 8 weekly sessions on Tuesdays from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM.

Session 1: January 28, 2020 — Medicine as Art and Science

- Concepts of disease
- Prehistory, Greek era, India, China
- Age of Anatomy, Age of Surgery, Age of Microbiology
- Misconceptions about the body and its ills.

Session 2: February 4, 2020 — Invention of instruments, tools and diagnostic procedures

- Microscope.
- Stethoscope.
- Diagnostic Imaging (X -rays, ultrasound, CT, MRI).
- Laparoscopic surgery.
- Genetics.

Session 3: February 11, 2020 — Rivalries between scientists and/or their countries.

- Pasteur and Koch.
- Salk and Sabin (Polio).
- Ross, Grassi and Koch (Malaria).
- Gallo and Montagnier, USA vs France, (AIDS).
- Spallanzani and Needham (spontaneous generation).
- Watson and Crick, Rosalind Franklin (DNA).
- Cooley and DeBakey (Cardiac Surgery).
- Neisser and Hansen (Leprosy).
- Long, Wells and Norton (Ether anesthesia).

Session 4: February 18, 2020 — Role of Women and minorities in Medicine.

- Discrimination
- Restriction
- Exclusion

Session 5: February 25, 2020 — Behavior of society towards disease.

- Reclusion (mental health)
- Banishment and segregation (leprosy)
- Isolation (tuberculosis, polio)
- Medical exclusion of AIDS

Session 6: March 3, 2020 — Human experimentation through history

- Prehistoric
- Dark and Middle Ages
- 18th and 19th Centuries
- World War I
- World War II
- Post-Nuremberg Trials

Session 7: March 10, 2020 — The US Healthcare system, comparison with other countries.

- Problems, flaws
- Specialization
- Costs, consequences
- Lack of equity and equality

Session 8: March 17, 2020 — The US system of Medical Education: basis, issues, problems.

- The Flexner Report
- The apprenticeship model
- Cost

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