

Syllabus for OLLI course: Women and Medicine

What Women have Brought to Medicine and

What Medicine has wrought upon women

Fall 2021 Semester

Introductory Note:

Thank you for registering for this course.

Much of the information may be dry biographical facts, but I will always emphasize the human aspect, the historical perspective or the significant anecdote.

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). See the OLLI Classes Fall 2021 catalogue for more details. You can contact the instructor at nestorbabydoc@gmail.com

2. General Course Information: Purpose and Plan of this Program

Historical review of women physicians in ancient times, detailing the multiple roles played by women in healthcare through the ages, emphasizing both the progression and permanence of some of these formal and informal roles. The main purpose is to inform the participants about the difficulties, struggles, degradations, discriminations and the truly disgraceful behavior of men towards women in the health professions, even today. We will look at the misconceptions of the psychology and physiology of women by men due to their extreme misogyny and male chauvinism. We will also survey the way women and their conditions have been mishandled, misdiagnosed, mistreated and disregarded, and how pregnancy and childbirth have become medicalized to support the profits of the healthcare industry. Finally, a possibly cloudy gaze into my crystal ball to look at the future of women in the medical fields.

3. Course objectives:

- ❖ Create an interest in women's evolving roles in Medicine.
- ❖ Show how male-dominated societies have hurt women throughout history.
- ❖ Understand present-day discrimination in medical care.

4. Course policies:

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. Attendees may download all presentation materials from the OLLI website, usually during the week before each session. Out of respect for the time of all participants, short questions and comments during the session (through the session host only) are permitted and encouraged. Longer discussions should be done after the end of the class.

5. Grading and Evaluation:

There will not be any type of testing or grading.

6. Learning Resources:

The class presentations will be available on the OLLI website several days before each session as a PDF version. (In order to get the full effect of the graphics, you will need the PowerPoint version of the presentation. If you email me, I can send you the PowerPoint lecture. In the Internet, you can find free software to watch PowerPoint on your device.)

A suggested optional supplementary list of reading materials is attached and will also be posted on the website. This is alphabetized by title. Most of the references are available at the U of I library and/or the Champaign and Urbana Public libraries.

7. Course Calendar:

Duration: 8 weekly sessions, Mondays from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM, from September 13th to November 1st 2021 by ZOOM meeting.

8. Short description of the course sessions:

- ❖ Session 1 September 13, 2021: Overview, medical women in history.
 - Primitive medical care and evolution of roles
 - Egypt Greece, Rome, Arabia
 - Middle ages
 - Women physicians in the US frontier

- ❖ Session 2 September 20, 2021: Blocking women from Medical school.
 - Women cannot matriculate, or not allowed to graduate
 - Degradation by male colleagues
 - If you can't beat them, join them: dress like a male to study!

- ❖ Session 3 September 27, 2021: Struggles, triumphs, firsts.
 - First graduates in US, UK, Europe
 - Acceptance (or lack thereof) by communities and colleagues
 - Racial and ethnic first graduates.

- ❖ Session 4 October 4, 2021: Rise and fall of Women's Medical Schools
 - Women Medical schools in UK, US
 - Success and Failure
 - Famous graduates

- ❖ Session 5 October 11, 2021: Women in Medicine, Research & Science
 - Medicine, physics, chemistry
 - Known and unknown pioneers and greats
 - The Matthew effect and the Matilda effect

- ❖ Session 6 October 18, 2021: Medical injustices, unethical surgeries, unequal treatments.
 - Medical experiments on women
 - Unethical surgical procedures: female circumcision, infibulation
 - Women treated differently from men, Yentl syndrome

- ❖ Session 7 October 25, 2021: Medicalization of Pregnancy and Childbirth.
 - Masculinization of obstetrical care, taken from midwives
 - 20th Century technology complicates pregnancy and childbirth
 - Unequal distribution of resources increases morbidity & mortality

- ❖ Session 8 November 1, 202: Women in the medical careers, 21st Century and beyond.
 - What my cloudy crystal ball lets me see
 - The good, the bad, and the ugly of the future

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Optional Supplemental Reading/Viewing list

Alphabetical by Title (Not a formal bibliography)

1. **American Way of Birth (The)**. Mitford, Jessica. William Abraham Books, DUTTON/Penguin Group. New York, NY, 1992.
2. **Bad Faith**, When Religious Belief Undermines Modern Medicine. Offit, Paul A. Basic Books/ Perseus Books, New York, NY, 2015.
3. **BIRTH**, The Surprising History of How We Are Born. Cassidy, Tina. Atlantic Monthly Press, New York, NY, 2006.
4. **Changing Face of Medicine (The)**, Women Doctors and the Evolution of Health Care in America. Boulis, Ann K. and Jacobs, Jerry A. ILR Press/Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY, 2008.
5. **Doctors Blackwell (The)**. Nimura, Janice P. W.W. Norton & Company, New York, NY, 2021.
6. **Doing Harm**, The Truth About How Bad Medicine and Lazy Science Leave women Dismissed, Misdiagnosed, and Sick. Dusenberry, Maya. Harper One, New York, NY, 2018.
7. **Dressed Like a Man?** Of Language, Bodies, and Monsters in the Trial of Enrique/Enriqueta Favez and Its Contemporary Accounts. Martínez, Juliana. *Journal of the History of Sexuality* Vol. 26, No. 2 (May 2017). University of Texas Press, Austin, TX, 2017.
8. **For Her Own Good**, 150 Years of the Experts' Advice to Women. Ehrenreich, Barbara and English, Deirdre. Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, NY, 1978.
9. **Health and Wellness in Antiquity and through the Middle Ages**. York, William H. Greenwood/ABC-Clio, LLC, Santa Barbara, CA, 2102.

10. **Hildegard Revolutionizes Traditional Medicine. Video** Lesson 29 in *Warriors, Queens and Intellectuals, 36 Great Women Before 1400*. Salisbury, Joyce E. The Great Courses /The Teaching Company, Chantilly, VA, 2018.
11. **His and Hers ... Healthcare**. Jonson, Paula. TED Talk, TedWomen2013, December 2013. (Accessed through You Tube.)
12. **History of Women in Medicine (A)**, Cunning Women, Physicians, Witches. Spearing, Sinéad. Pen & Sword History, Yorkshire, UK, 2019.
13. **How the US Medical Community Fails Black Mothers**, Irving, Wanda, TED Talk, TEDMED 2020. (Accessed through You Tube.)
14. **Immaculate Deception**, A New Look at Women and Childbirth. Arms, Suzanne. Bantam Books, New York, NY, 1975.
15. **Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (The)**. Skloot, Rebecca. Crown Publishers, New York, NY, 2010.
16. **In the Land of Invisible Women**, A Female Doctor's Journey in the Saudi Kingdom. Ahmed, Qanta. Sourcebooks Inc., Naperville, IL, 2008.
17. **Invisible Women**, Data Bias in a World Designed for Men. Criado Perez, Caroline. Abrams Press, New York, NY, 2019.
18. **Life of Sophia Jex-Blake (The)**. Todd, Margaret (aka Graham Travers). McMillan and Company Ltd, St. Martin's Street, London, UK, 1918.
19. **Magnificent Minds**, 16 Pioneering Women in Science & Medicine. Noyce, Pendred E., Tumblehome Learning, Inc., Boston MA, 2015.
20. **Medical Bondage**, Race, Gender and the Origins of American Gynecology. Cooper Owens, Deirdre. The University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA, 2017.
21. **No Man's Land**, The Trailblazing Women Who Ran Britain's Most Extraordinary Military Hospital During World War I. Moore, Wendy. Basic Books, New York, NY, 2020.
22. **Por Andar Vestida de Hombre** (Due to Going Around Dressed as a Man). González Pagéz, Julio César. Editorial de la Mujer, La Habana, Cuba, 2002.

23. **Sex Matters**, How Male-Centric Medicine Endangers Women's Health and What We Can Do About It. McGregor, Alyson J. Hachette Go Books, New York, NY, 2020.
24. **Sympathy and Science**, Women Physicians in American Medicine. Morantz-Sanchez, Regina. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC, 1985.
25. **To Believe in Women**, What Lesbians Have Done for America – A History. Faderman, Lilian. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston & New York, 1999.
26. **When Abortion Was a Crime**, Women, Medicine and Law in the United States, 1867-1793. Reagan, Leslie J. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA, 1997.
27. **Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors?**, The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell., Stone, Tanya Lee. Christy Ottaviano Books, Henry Holt and Company, New York, NY, 2013.
28. **Why Medicine Often has Dangerous Side effects for Women.** McGregor, Alyson J, TED Talk, TEDxProvidence, September 2014. (Accessed through You Tube.)
29. **Witches, Midwives and Nurses**, A History of Women Healers. Ehrenreich, Barbara and English, Deirdre. The Feminist Press at The City University of New York. New York, NY, 2010.
30. **Women Doctors in Greece, Rome and the Byzantine Empire. Parker, Holt N.** Chapter 7 in **Women, Physicians and Healers: Climbing a Long Hill.** Edited by Furst, Lilian R. University Press of Kentucky, Louisville, KY, 1997.
31. **Women Healers, Portraits of Herbalists, Physicians and Midwives.** Brooke, Elisabeth. Healing Arts Press / The Women's Press Ltd., Rochester, VT, 1995.
32. **Women, Health and Medicine in America**, A Historical Handbook. Apple, Rima D., editor. Garland Publishing Inc, New York, NY, 1990.
33. **Women in Medicine**, An Encyclopedia. Windsor, Laura Lynn. ABC-Clio, Santa Barbara, CA, 2002.

34. **Women in Medicine**, Women Then-Women Now. Garza, Hedda. Franklin Watts, New York, NY, 1994
35. **Women in Medicine**, A Bibliography of the Literature on Women Physicians. Chaff, Sandra F; Haimbach, Ruth; Fenichel, Carol and Woodside, Nina B., compilers and editors. The Scarecrow Press, Inc. Metuchen, NJ, 1977.
36. **Women in White Coats**, How the First Women Doctors Changed the World of Medicine. Campbell, Olivia. Park Row Books, Toronto, Canada, 2021.
37. **Women Physicians and Professional Ethos in Nineteenth-Century America** (Studies in Rhetorics and Feminisms). Skinner, Carolyn. Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale, IL, 2014. (Also available as Audio-book on Audible).