

# Syllabus for OLLI Course

## Battlefield Medicine

Spring 2023 Semester

### Introductory Note:

Thank you for registering for this course.

Much of the information may be dry facts, but I will always try to 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 Pediatrics and a sub-specialty in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine (care of premature and ill newborn infants). See the OLLI Classes catalogue for more details. You can contact the instructor at [nestorbabydoc@gmail.com](mailto:nestorbabydoc@gmail.com) before, during and after the course.

### 2. General Course Information:

#### Purpose and Plan of this Program

The purpose of this course is to inform the participants about the intimate relationship between War and Medicine. As War and its tools of death become more efficient in their lethality, Medicine has reacted to create better, safer and more efficacious tools, techniques and procedures to improve the care of combatants and reduce their morbidity and mortality.

### 3. Course objectives:

- ❖ After this course, participants should be able to explain the relationship between medical progress and its response to warfare advancements.
- ❖ Participants will verbalize the great advances in the decrease in morbidity and mortality.
- ❖ Course-takers will be able to grasp how medicine (especially in US) has gone from a weak profession almost practiced by quacks to a highly specialized and efficient group of people serving the needs of the armed forces in war and peace.

### 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 which will be available at least one week before each session from the OLLI website. Out of respect for the time of all participants, short questions and comments during the session are permitted and encouraged. I usually intersperse at least two question intervals (first and second thirds)) during the presentation, and one at the end. Longer discussions should be done after the end of each session.

### **5. Grading and Evaluation:**

There is no required reading material. 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 many of the graphics, you will need the PowerPoint version of the presentation. If you email me, I can send you the PowerPoint lecture. If you don't have PowerPoint, in the Internet you can find free software to watch PowerPoint presentations on your device.

A suggested optional supplementary list of reading or viewing materials is attached and will also be posted on the website. This is alphabetized by title, and is not a formal bibliography. This is intended only to provide references for members who want to dig deeper into a topic. This is totally voluntary. Most of the titles are available at the U of I library and/or the Champaign and Urbana Public libraries.

### **7. Course Calendar:**

Duration: 8 weekly sessions, Tuesdays from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM, from January 31<sup>st</sup> to March 21<sup>st</sup> 2023, only Live at OLLI. (Unfortunately, no ZOOM or hybrid option is available.)

### **8. Short description of the course sessions:**

- ❖ Session 1 January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023:
  - Definitions of types of injuries.
  - Prehistoric man and his weapons, battles and healing techniques.
  - Ancient Egypt, Rome and Greece.
  - The Iliad as a chronicle of war.
  
- ❖ Session 2 February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - The Middle Ages
  - Injuries by sable, bayonets, bows & arrows, firearms.
  - Cavalry

- Medicine linked with religion.
  - ❖ Session 3 February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023
    - American Revolutionary War.
    - American Civil War.
    - Surgery in the battlefield.
    - Rifles and ammunitions.
  - ❖ Session 4 February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023
    - World War I.
    - Trench warfare.
    - Ambulances, field hospitals.
    - Poison gases.
    - Advent of sulfas.
    - Birth of plastic reconstructive surgery.
  - ❖ Session 5 February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023
    - World War II.
    - Antibiotics.
    - Transfusions.
    - Air transport.
    - Regionalization of care.
    - The Atomic Bomb.
  - ❖ Session 6 March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023
    - Korean War.
    - Helicopter evacuation and transfer.
    - Vietnam War.
    - Treatment of shock.
    - Chemical warfare.
  - ❖ Session 7 March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023
    - Conflicts in Asia, Africa, Afghanistan and Arabia in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
    - Changes in wounds due to changes in weapons.
    - Long-term damage to soldiers.
    - Field interventions and rapid evacuation.
  - ❖ Session 8 March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023
    - A peek into future wars.
    - Long-distance indirect warfare.
    - Changes in medicine and surgery.
    - Nuclear War?
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# OLLI Spring 2023 Semester

## Battlefield Medicine

### Suggested Optional Reading/Reference List

(Alphabetical by Title)

- 1) **Battlefield Medicine:** A History of the Military Ambulance from the Napoleonic Wars through World War 1. Haller, John S., Jr. Southern University Press, Carbondale, IL, 2011.
- 2) **Battlefield Medics:** How Warfare Changed the History of Medicine. King, Martin. Arcturus Publishing, London, UK, 2021.
- 3) **Blood and Germs,** The Civil War Battle against Wounds and Disease. Jarrow, Gail. Calkins Creek Books, a Division of Boyds, Mills and Crane, New York, NY, 2020.
- 4) **Bullets and Bandages:** The Aid Stations and Field Hospitals at Gettysburg. Gindlesperger, James. BLAIR Publishers, Durham, NC, 2020.
- 5) **Civil War Medicine:** A Surgeon's Diary. Hicks, Robert D., editor. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, IN, 2019.
- 6) **Great War (The),** and the Birth of Modern Medicine. Helling, Thomas. Pegasus Books, New York, NY, 2022.
- 7) **Healing Arts in Global War (The),** As Weapons Grow Deadlier, Scientific Medicine Pits Its Ever-rising Skill Against Them. Atwood, Albert W. National Geographic Magazine, Volume LXXXIV, Number 5, pp 599-618, November, 1943, The National Geographic Society, Washington, DC.
- 8) **Health and Wellness in Antiquity through the Middle Ages.** York, William H. Greenwood Publishing, an imprint of ABC-CLIO Inc. Santa Barbara CA, 2012.
- 9) **Intensely Human:** The Health of the Black Soldier in the American Civil War. Humphrey, Margaret, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD, 2018.
- 10) **Last Full Measure (The),** How Soldiers Die in Battle. Stephenson, Michael. Crown Publishers, New York, NY, 2012.
- 11) **Military Medicine,** Beyond the Battlefield. Woodruff, Bob, and Garner, Sally. Public Media NJ, Inc. for WNET, Englewood, NJ, 2016.
- 12) **Military Medicine** From Ancient Times to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. McCallum, Jake E. ABC CLIO, Oxford, England, 2008.
- 13) **No Man's Land:** The Trailblazing Women Who Ran Britain's Most Extraordinary Military Hospital During World War I. Moore, Wendy. Basic Books/Perseus Books, New York, NY, 2020.
- 14) **Out for Blood,** The Pursuit of Life for the Wounded on the Fighting Fronts of World War II. Lundquist, Anastasia Kirby. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. North Charleston, South Carolina, 2014.
- 15) **"Soldiers as Victims",** Video Lesson #13 in: *World War I, The Great War*, Liulevicius, V. Gabriel. The Great Courses, Chantilly, VA, USA, 2006.

- 16) **Surgeon in Blue**, Johnathan Letterman, the Civil War Doctor who Pioneered Battlefield Care. McGaugh, Scott. Arcade Publishing, New York, NY, 2013.
- 17) **Surgeon with Stillwell (A)**: Dr. John H. Grindlay and Combat Medicine in the China-Burma-India Theater of World War II. Lathrop, Alan K. Mcfarland & Co, Inc., Publishers, Jefferson, NC, 2018.
- 18) **Wardocs, Military Medicine Podcast**. Available on many Podcast platforms. Multiple episodes capturing the oral history, the legacy, and the honor of military medicine through interviews of current or past Armed Forces medical personnel. The Internet, 2022.
- 19) **War Surgery 1914-1918**, Heys, Steven and Scotland, Thomas, editors. Helion & Company Publishing, Warwick, UK, 2012.
- 20) **Women at the Front**, Hospital Workers in Civil War America. Schultz, Jane E. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC, 2004.
- 21) **Wounded**, A New History of the Western Front in World War I. Mayhew, Emily. Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK, 2014.
- 22) **Wounds in the Middle Ages**. Kirkham, Anne and Warr, Cornelia, editors. Ashgate Publishing Limited, Surrey, England, UK. 2014.

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