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**Professor Okezi T. Otovo**  
**Florida International University**  
**Department of History**  
**LAH 4722: Health, Medicine, and Disease in Latin American Social History**  
**Fall 2015**

**Class Meetings: Tues and Thurs, 12:30-1:45pm**  
**GC 132**

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Tues 10:00am-12:00pm, M 392

### **Course Description and Objectives**

This course is a comparative exploration of the modern history of public health and the social/cultural history of medicine across several national case studies. The readings will provide an introduction to how historians utilize the history of health and illness to write about Latin American politics, social relations, and states over time. We will investigate the various ways that the study of health, medicine, and disease illustrates larger historical trends, relations of power, persistent inequalities, and intersections of state and society. Rather than the history of institutions, our readings analyze interactions between state actors and average people and the politics behind public health reform and medical ideologies. Through themes such as public health; traditional healers; disease and citizenship; international organizations; and gender, race, and ethnicity, we will examine how the study of health and medicine affords a dynamic and nuanced perspective on the experiences of individuals, communities, and nations during this vital period in the region's history. We will explore in depth the consequences of ideas about health and illness as well as medical/political movements. Chronologically, this course moves from the early 19th century through the late 20th century. Students will also leave this course with an understanding of how historians tackle research, analysis, and interpretation.

### ***Student goals and skill objectives for this course include:***

- gaining an introduction to a vibrant and cutting-edge subfield in Latin American historiography
- understanding the critical intersection of health politics and nation, as well as change over time
- improving reading comprehension of scholarly texts, including drawing comparisons across texts
- identifying and articulating historical themes and questions
- practicing and sharpening critical-thinking skills
- writing critical, well-crafted responses to a work of history
- practicing analysis orally through class discussion

### ***GLOBAL LEARNING & OUTCOMES***

- **Global Awareness:** Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of diverse experiences of Latin American nations over time as they grappled with public health issues and contextualized their national identity within changing global and local narratives of science, biomedicine, and illness/wellness.

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- **Global Perspective:** Students will be able to conduct a multi-perspective analysis of the social impact of health, illness, and disease and understand the origins and implications of transnational health organizations and public health policies.
- **Global Engagement:** Students will demonstrate a willingness to conceptualize problems from multiple angles and identify how historians approach reconstructing social, political, and health policy issues in their time and context.

Please note that we will use Blackboard extensively in this course. After each lecture, you can access the corresponding power point presentation on our Blackboard site. This class is taught in a mixed lecture and discussion format. You will use Blackboard to prepare for class discussion sessions by reviewing the “Discussion Questions.” Paper assignments can be found on Blackboard, and you will also submit your papers through that system. If you need help or training on how to use Blackboard, visit this link [fiu.blackboard.com](http://fiu.blackboard.com). Please make sure that you are comfortable with using Blackboard from the beginning of the class so you have full access to course content and assignments.

### **Required Readings**

The following books are available for purchase in the university bookstore. All four books are also available on reserve in the library. Articles and book excerpts can be found on our Blackboard page.

- Marcos Cueto and Steven Palmer, *Medicine and Public Health in Latin America: A History* (ISBN 9781107633018)
- Diego Armus, *Disease in the History of Modern Latin America: From Malaria to AIDS* (ISBN 9780822330691)
- Mariola Espinosa, *Epidemic Invasions: Yellow Fever and the Limits of Cuban Independence, 1878-1930* (ISBN 9780226218120)
- Raúl Necochea López, *A History of Family Planning in Twentieth-Century Peru* (ISBN 9781469618098)

### **Recommended Text on Latin American History**

If you have no background in Latin American history, I recommend that you read through a general survey over the course of the first month of class. This book is on reserve at Green Library.

- John Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America* (Any year, any edition)

### **Recommended Text on Writing**

- William Strunk, Jr. and E.B. White, *The Elements of Style* (Any year, any edition)

### **Assignments and Expectations**

**Class Participation, 20%.** Class attendance is **mandatory** for this course as is informed and thoughtful participation in our weekly discussions. All assigned reading should be completed prior to the date of the corresponding discussion. Active participation is more than mere attendance and is obligatory for passing this class. Students will be graded on participation during every discussion session. If you own the books bring them with you to the corresponding discussion.

**6 Reading Responses, 30%.** On six dates, you are responsible for answering questions based on the readings prepared for discussion. These responses (1-2 pages) will be submitted via Blackboard following the instructions in the “Discussion Questions and Responses” folder. Each submission is worth 5% of the final grade. There are nine possible submission dates for the responses; choose any six. You

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may skip the written response for three discussion dates, BUT you must still complete the reading. The questions are due before class and cannot be turned in late. Absolutely no late submissions accepted.

**2 Short Analytical Essays: worth 50% (25 points for each).** We will write an essay after reading each of our two monographs. In each essay, you will analyze the book in light of the material we learn in our lectures. All essays require material from the book and the lectures. The full essay assignment with writing guidelines is available on our Blackboard site. 5-6 pages each.

### Late Policy

Both of our essays are due via Blackboard by 7pm on the date indicated. Late papers will be marked down for each day late. For example, a B paper becomes a B- after one day late and an A- after 2 days. Exceptions will be made only in cases of documented medical or other emergency.

### Academic Honesty

All assignments submitted for the course must be the sole creation of the student in accordance with the FIU Standards of Student Conduct [http://www2.fiu.edu/~sccr/student\\_conduct/index.html](http://www2.fiu.edu/~sccr/student_conduct/index.html). Violations including plagiarism, cheating, or academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Plagiarism, cheating, and any type of academic dishonesty will be officially reported and likely result in failure of the course.

### Writing Resources

FIU has a writing center whose mission is to help students improve their writing. I encourage all students to make use of this service. The Center for Excellence in Writing also offers individual help on your course writing assignments. Visit <http://writingcenter.fiu.edu>.

### Disabilities

If you have a disability-related need for modifications or accommodations, please contact and register with the Disability Resource Center 205-342-532, GC 290 and <http://drc.fiu.edu/>.

### Electronic Devices

Out of respect for the professor and for the other students in the course, I require that all cell phones, ipods, and other wireless devices be turned off for the duration of class. Texting during class is disrespectful and disruptive. I expect that laptop computers be used for the purpose of taking notes, not for surfing the web or checking email during class. I will ask students to leave class if I find that you are not following these policies.

### Class Schedule

<b>WEEK 1</b> 8/25 & 8/27	<b>Themes:</b> Course introduction, Understanding health in history  <b>Thursday Discussion</b> <i>MPHLA:</i> Conclusion, pp. 259-268. AND Mariola Espinosa, "Globalizing the History of Disease, Medicine, and Public Health in Latin America," <i>Isis</i> 104, no. 4 (December 2013): 798-806. <b>Bb Read and Prepare.</b>
<b>WEEK 2</b> 9/1 & 9/3	<b>Themes:</b> Health and nation-building in the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century <i>MPHLA:</i> Introduction and Chapter 1, pp. 1-57. <i>Read and Prepare.</i>

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	<p><b>Thursday Discussion:</b> David Sowell, "Contending Medical Ideologies and State Formation: The Nineteenth-Century Origins of Medical Pluralism in Contemporary Colombia," <i>Bulletin of the History of Medicine</i> 77:4 (2003): 900-926. <b>Bb Read and Write.</b></p>
<p><b>WEEK 3</b> 9/8 &amp; 9/10</p>	<p><b>Themes:</b> "Naming" disease, independence, and abolition</p>
	<p><b>Thursday Discussion:</b> <i>DHMLA:</i> Armus, pp. 1-24 and Sidney Chalhoub, "The Politics of Disease Control: Yellow Fever and Race in Nineteenth Century Rio de Janeiro," <i>Journal of Latin American Studies</i> 25:3 (1993): 441-463. <b>Bb Read and Write.</b></p>
<p><b>WEEK 4</b> 9/15 &amp; 9/17</p>	<p><b>Themes:</b> International cooperation and/or empire building: Cuba and Panama <i>MPhLA:</i> Chapter 2, pp. 58-105. <i>Read and Prepare.</i></p>
	<p><b>Thursday Discussion:</b> Espinosa, Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-54. <i>Read and Prepare.</i></p>
<p><b>WEEK 5</b> 9/22 &amp; 9/24</p>	<p><b>Tuesday Discussion:</b> Espinosa, Chapters 4-Conclusions, pp. 55-124. <i>Read and Prepare.</i></p>
	<p><b>No class on Thursday 9/24. Use this time to work on Paper 1 and read for Week 6.</b></p>
<p><b>WEEK 6</b> 9/29 &amp; 10/1</p>	<p><b>Themes:</b> Disease eradication, professionalization, and the Rockefeller Foundation <i>MPhLA:</i> Chapter 3, pp. 106-156.</p>
	<p><b>Thursday Discussion:</b> José Amador, "The Pursuit of Health: Colonialism and Hookworm Eradication in Puerto Rico," Chapter 3 in <i>Medicine and Nation Building in the Americas</i> (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 2013), 68-94. <b>Bb Read and Write.</b></p>
<p><b>WEEK 7</b> 10/6 &amp; 10/8</p>	<p><b>Themes:</b> Health policy as national identity: eugenics, race, and integration (Part 1)</p>
	<p><b>Thursday Discussion:</b> <i>DHMLA:</i> Stepan, pp. 25-50 and Coutinho, pp. 76-100. <i>Read and Write.</i> <b>PAPER 1 on Espinosa due MONDAY 10/5.</b></p>
<p><b>WEEK 8</b> 10/13 &amp; 10/15</p>	<p><b>Themes:</b> Health policy as national identity: eugenics, race, and integration (Part 2) <i>MPhLA:</i> Chapter 4. <i>Read and Prepare.</i></p>
	<p><b>Thursday Discussion:</b> <i>DHMLA:</i> Armus, pp. 101-129 and Julia Rodriguez, "Inoculating against Barbarism? State Medicine and Immigrant Policy in Turn-of-the-Century Argentina," <i>Science in Context</i> 19 no.3 (September 2006): 357 - 380. <b>Bb Read and Write.</b></p>
<p><b>WEEK 9</b> 10/20 &amp; 10/22</p>	<p><b>Themes:</b> Codifying gender and sexuality</p>
	<p><b>Thursday Discussion:</b> <i>DHMLA:</i> Bliss, pp. 183-208 and April Mayes, "Tolerating Sex: Prostitution, Gender,</p>

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	and Governance in the Dominican Republic, 1880s-1924," in <i>Health and Medicine in the Caribbean: Historical Perspectives</i> , ed. Juanita De Barros, Steven Palmer and David Wright (New York: Routledge Press, 2009): 121-141. <b>Bb Read and Write.</b>
<b>WEEK 10</b> 10/27 & 10/29	<p><b>Themes:</b> Family, society, and welfare states</p> <p><b>Thursday Discussion:</b> DHMLA: Blum, pp. 209-236 and Okezi T. Otovo, "From Mãe Preta to Mãe Desamparada: Maternity and Public Health in Post-Abolition Bahia," <i>Luso-Brazilian Review</i> 48, no. 2 (2011): 164-191. <b>Bb Read and Write.</b></p>
<b>WEEK 11</b> 11/3 & 11/5	<p><b>Tuesday Discussion:</b> Necochea, Introduction-Chapter 3, pp. 1-78. <i>Read and Prepare.</i></p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Reproduction and population control</p>
<b>WEEK 12</b> 11/10 & 11/12	<p><b>Tuesday Discussion:</b> Necochea, Chapters 4-Epilogue, pp. 79-154. <i>Read and Prepare.</i></p> <p><b>Special Thursday session:</b> Virtual visit of Dr. Raúl Necochea Lopez</p>
<b>WEEK 13</b> 11/17 & 11/19	<p><b>Themes:</b> Neoliberalism, democracy and new social movements MPHLA: Chapter 5. <i>Read and Prepare.</i></p> <p><b>Thursday Discussion:</b> Gabriela Soto Laveaga, "Let's Become Fewer:" Soap Operas, The Pill and Population Campaigns, 1976-1986, <i>Sexuality Research and Social Policy Journal</i> 4:3 (2007): 19-33 and Natalie Kingball, "Navigating Choice and Obligation: Experiences of Induced Abortion in Highland Bolivia, 1955-2007" unpublished text presented at the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women (June 2011). <b>Bb Read and Write.</b></p>
<b>WEEK 14</b> 11/24 & 11/26	<b>No class this week for Thanksgiving holiday.</b>
<b>WEEK 15</b> 12/1 & 12/3	<p><b>Tuesday Discussion:</b> MPHLA: Cueto, pp. 268-289 and Larvie, pp. 290-313. <i>Read and Write.</i></p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Review of major course themes</p> <p><b>PAPER 2 on Necochea due FRIDAY 12/4. May be submitted early but NOT LATE.</b></p>

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