COURSE OUTLINE
Department of History and Political Science
Georgia Southwestern State University
HISTORY OF MEDICINE

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the relationship between human health and disease and the environment in which we as humans exist. The content focuses on how medical approaches have changed from the Neolithic period to the present and the main theories and discoveries influencing contemporary medicine. (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: World Civilization (1111 or 1112)

Learning Objectives: The student will

a. develop the ability to discuss and critique historical trends in the social history of medicine

b. be able to understand the historiographical theories and theoretical works contained in major medical treaties throughout the ancient, medieval, and modern periods

c. learn to discuss in an informed way, the relation between medicine and health within specific historical time periods and settings

d. learn to appreciate that many diseases are ancient in their origins

e. be able to draw connections between ancient diseases and modern human populations

f. enhance his/her ability to explain medical phenomena in lay terms

g. be adept in making connections between cultural values and medical practice

h. understand the possible future of the medical profession based on current research

Required Texts:

Herlihy, David. The Black Death and the Transformation of the West
Leavitt, Judy and Numbers, Ronald L. Sickness and Health in America
Porter, Roy Blood and Guts: A Short History of Medicine

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance: Attendance at all class meetings is required along with completion of all assignments on time. More than 3 unexcused absences will result in the failure of the attendance portion of the student’s grade.

2. Reading: All reading should be done according to the “Course Outline” and is to be completed prior to class on Monday.
3. *Writing Assignments:* Students will be responsible for writing one scholarly research paper due the last week of class. Although paper topic may be selected by the student, a detailed outline must be approved by the instructor to ensure an in-depth analysis of the subject.

4. *Exams:* The student will be given 3 in class essay exams (2 midterms and 1 final). The final is not comprehensive.