Medicine and Empire: Germany and Japan, 1868-1945

Course Description:

Among the global issues which affect most industrialized countries in the world, the development of national medical education and public health systems is one of the most accessible windows for insight into the divergence and convergence of political cultures and states across the industrial world. Germany and Japan are in this sense the most intriguing cases. Due to the tragic, yet voluntary, participation of German physicians in the atrocities committed in the Holocaust, German medical science has been under academic and moral scrutiny since the end of the Second World War. What is less known is that Japan developed its modern medical system under the tutelage of German physicians, and had also been infected at an early stage with social Darwinism and racial theories, which eventually led to inhumane and unscrupulous medical practice during the Second World War. Why were Germany and Japan different from other industrialized countries? Or were they really different?

By defining empire in a dual sense—German/Japanese colonial expansion and the role of medical science and the internal subjugation of minorities and ‘less desirable elements of society’—this course is designed to introduce students to some of the main historiographical approaches and debates within the social and cultural history of medicine relating to Germany and Japan. It focuses on the development of modern medical science in Germany and Japan, the connection between medicine and colonialism, and the intersection of society, culture, and medical science. The misuse of medical science during the Nazi era and Japanese war-time empire deserves particular attention during this course. The course also deals with ethical issues of modern medical science.

Recommended Readings:

- For a quick and easy reading of the history of medicine

- For a general history of modern Germany
    (Also available for purchase at MSC)
• For a general history of modern Japan

Assignments

As a senior writing-intensive seminar, this course is designed to improve students’ oral presentation skill and writing skill.

Oral Presentation (10%): 20 points
- Each student will be responsible for giving an oral presentation of the readings of the week of his/her choice in addition to an extra article that the instructor will send out. The student should: (1) give an oral presentation which does not exceed 15 minutes; (2) formulate two or three key questions about the general topic and readings assigned for that week; (3) send out study questions in advance.
  - Please remember that the presentation should provide more than just a summary of the reading. You may also find it helpful to draw our attention to passages of writing that you find particularly intriguing or provocative.
  - A (20); A/B (18); B (16); B/C (14); C (12)

Participation (20%): 40 points
- Discussions constitute an essential part of the course. Participation during each class goes beyond simply showing up and pretending to pay attention. The instructor defines participation as active engagement in each class discussion, which includes demonstration of your thorough reading of the assigned reading materials, offering your opinion, and finally answering and asking relevant questions.
  - A (40); A/B (36); B (32); B/C (28); C (24)

Literature Review (10%): 20 points
- Due on 2/22 (Friday)

Final paper (60%): 15-20 pages research paper
- The final paper should utilize original sources available at Texas A&M. A separate library session will be arranged during the semester to help student identify materials at libraries.
  1) 3/3 (Mon): A Research Proposal Due (10% or 20 points)
  2) 3/24 (Mon): Introduction Due (10% or 20 points)
  3) 4/11 (Fri): Completed Drafts Due (20% or 40 points)
  4) 5/5 (Mon): Final Paper Due (20% or 40 points)

Grading Policy:
- A = 180-200 points; B = 160-179; C = 140-159; D = 120-139.
Unexcused late papers will be graded down 5 points for each day late. Students are encouraged to contact University Writing Center (http://writingcenter.tamu.edu/) for help with their writing.

Students are required to attend all class meetings. Please see http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule7.htm for current policy on university-excused absences. For illness- or injury-related absences of fewer than three days, a note from a health care professional confirming date and time of visit will be required in order to count the absence as university-excused; for absences of three days or more, the note must also contain the medical professional’s confirmation that absence from class was necessary (see Rule 7.1.6.1).

Additional Course Guidelines:

Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Support Services for Students with Disabilities in Room B-118 Cain Hall (845-1637).

Academic Integrity: "An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do." You are expected to be aware of the Aggie Honor Code and the Honor Council Rules and Procedures, stated at http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehon.

Office Hours: Students are strongly encouraged to fully utilize the office hours.

Course Schedule:

Week I: Introduction to Class and Requirement:

1/14 (M): Why Medicine? Why Germany and Japan?

1/16 (W): A Brief Overview of Modern German and Japanese History

Week II

1/21 (M): No Class – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

1/23 (W): Approaches to Social and Cultural History of Medicine


**Week III**

1/28 (M): **Development of Modern Medical Science in Germany**

1/30 (W): **How to Listen to the Voices of Historical Sources**
- AKUTAGAWA Ryūnosuke, *Rashomon and other stories*

**Week IV**

2/4 (M): **The Adoption of German Medical Science by Japan**
- Hoi-eun Kim, “Chapter 1. Borrowed Hands” (Manuscript: will be sent out as an email attachment.)

2/6 (W): **What is a Good Research Paper?**
- Peer review of previous final papers

**Week V**

2/11 (M): **German Colonialism and Medical Anthropology**

2/13 (W): Mandatory Library Session

**Week VI**

2/18 (M): **The Fight against Tuberculosis and Japan’s Hygienic and Eugenic War**

2/20 (W): Film, “In the Shadow of the Reich: Nazi Medicine”

*2/22 (Fri): Literature Review Due*

**Week VII**

2/25 (M): Discussion of Literature Review

2/27 (W): Time for Researching for a Proposal

* 3/3 (Mon): A Research Proposal Due

**Week VIII**

3/3 (M): *Anti-Semitism and Medical Science*

3/5 (W): Presentation and Discussion of Students’ Proposal

**Week IX**: Spring Break (3/10, 3/12)

**Week X**

3/17 (M): *Medical Science and Japanese Colonial Empire*

3/19 (W): *Japanese Colonial Empire in the Pacific*

*3/24: Introduction Due*

**Week XI**

3/24 (M): *Eugenics, “Euthanasia,” and Genocide*


3/26 (W): Discussion of Students’ Introductions

**Week XII**

3/31 (M): **US-German Connections**

4/2 (W): **Medicine and U.S. Imperialism**

**Week XIII**

4/7 (M): **Biological Warfare, Unit 731, and the Japanese Empire in Manchuria**

4/9 (W): **Time to Write a Draft**

* 4/11: Completed Drafts Due

**Week XIV**

4/14 (M): Discussion of Students’ Drafts
4/16 (W): Discussion of Students’ Drafts

**Week XV**

4/21 (M): **Medical Science, Empire, and Ethics**
4/23 (W): Time to Write Final Drafts

Week XVI
4/28 (M): Conclusion

* 5/5 (Monday): Final Paper Due