

## HH2027 BLOOD, GEMS, & SICK BODIES: BIOMEDICINE IN HISTORY

Course Instructor: Park Hyung Wook ([hwpark@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:hwpark@ntu.edu.sg) / + 65 6592 3565)

### **Course Aims:**

Biomedicine has considerably changed the modern human life in the globalizing world. This course offers a topic survey in the history of global biomedicine and its cultural impacts. You will learn the histories of the rise of the biomedical industries which include pharmaceutical companies, their patrons, and the network of hospitals, physicians, and biomedical scientists, alongside another rising power, the patient activist groups.

### **Course Contents:**

The course content includes the birth of germ theories of disease, use of humans in biomedicine, organ transplantation, tissue culture, birth control, holism in medical research, the relations between the normal and the pathological, managing health, biocapitalism, immunology, and contemporary virological research.

### **Description of Assessments:**

Pre-class question (10%): Before beginning the class, you should post a question on the theme of the class based on your readings into the course portal in iNTULearn. This question must reflect your effort to compare and contrast different readings in a week.

Group Response Paper and Oral Presentation (20%): You are required to gather in groups to answer a question that you or other students created for the pre-class question assignment. Based on your discussions with your group members, you should orally present your conclusion in front of other students in the class. Afterwards, you will also have to submit a report to the course portal of iNTULearn.

Midterm Paper (20%): You are required to write a historical essay on biomedicine. The topics for the paper will be announced later.

Final Exam (50%): In the final exam, you will analyse several themes regarding the major problems of biomedicine in history. Based on your interpretation and analysis of the problems, you must provide your own answers that also reflect your understanding of the seminar content and the readings.

**Course Readings** (tentative):

Harry Marks, *The Progress of Experiment* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997).

Susan Lederer, *Subjected to Science* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994).

Nancy Tomes, *The Gospel of Germs* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1999).

Steven Epstein, *Inclusion: The Politics of Difference in Medical Research* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).

Margaret Lock, *Twice Dead: Organ Transplants and the Reinvention of Death* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002), chapters 2.

Christopher Lawrence and George Weisz (eds.), *Greater than the Parts: Holism in Biomedicine, 1920-1959* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998).

Peter Keating and Alberto Cambrosio, *Biomedical Platforms: Realigning the Normal and the Pathological in Late-Twentieth Century Medicine* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2003).

Nikolas Rose, *The Politics of Life Itself: Biomedicine, Power, and Subjectivity in the Twenty-First Century* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007).

Emily Martin, *Flexible Bodies: Tracking Immunity in American Culture* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1994).

Kaushik Sunder Rajan, *Biocapital: The Construction of Postgenomic Life* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006).

Hyung Wook Park, *Old Age, New Science: Gerontologists and Their Biosocial Visions, 1900-1960* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press).

Angela Creager, *The Life of a Virus* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001).