This undergraduate seminar meets in Furman Hall 311 on Wednesdays from 2:10 P.M. to 4:40 P.M. The course surveys disparities in the health and health care of African Americans, the training of black professionals, the role of black medical institutions, the intersection between black civic involvement and health care delivery, and the disproportionate impact of disease and epidemics within the African American population. Student will choose a class reading and lead a discussion on that day for up to 15 minutes. You will summarize the readings in a two page paper to be circulated to your classmates at least 48 hours before the class session. In addition, to the summary of the readings, you should identify the two (2) or three (3) issues raised in the readings and the two (2) or three (3) questions embedded in the assignment that the class should consider.

Students also will complete three 5-7 page papers drawn exclusively from course materials. They are due in class on September 7th, October 19th, and November 16th respectively. The first short paper, due in class on 9/27, will explore how a particular disease affected the black population. Explain what resources, whether individual, organizational or institutional, were mobilized to address the presence or spread of the disease. Discuss to what extent the impact of the disease was ameliorated, eliminated, or exacerbated. The second short paper, due in class on 10/19, will examine the establishment and impact of an African American health institution or organization. What circumstances led its founding, how was health care for blacks affected, what initiatives were undertaken and were they effective. Also, what were the strengths and weaknesses of the group. The third short paper, due in class on 11/16, will discuss a particular health care practitioner. Discuss the person’s training, the individual’s impact on the black population, how racial disparity affected the person’s institutional access to education, practice, and treatment of patients. Evaluate, overall, the person’s specific impact on health care for African Americans.

Students also will submit a 15 -20 page seminar paper drawn from primary sources. The research paper is due on the last day of class on December 7th. Moreover, the instructor must approve the topic. The resources at Vanderbilt University in Heard Library and in the Medical History Collection at the Eskind Biomedical Library and the Meharry Medical College Archives are available to students. Students may consider these sample subjects as to spur thinking about they would like to consider. These topics could include “Slave Medicine,” “Charles R. Drew and Modern Medicine,” “The National Medical Association and the Crusade Against Tuberculosis,” “The Medical Career of Charles V. Roman,” “Meharry Medical College and HIV/AIDS Research,” “The Experience of Selected African American Female Physicians,” “Matthew Walker,

Required Texts

Savitt, MEDICINE AND SLAVERY: THE DISEASES AND HEALTH CARE OF BLACKS IN ANTE BELLUM VIRGINIA
Savitt, RACE AND MEDICINE IN NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY AMERICA
Jones, BAD BLOOD: THE TUSKEGEE SYPHILLIS EXPERIMINT
Beardsley, HISTORY OF NEGLIGENCE: HEALTH CARE FOR BLACKS AND MILL WORKERS IN THE 20TH CENTURY SOUTH
Gamble, MAKING A PLACE FOR OURSELVES: THE BLACK HOSPITAL MOVEMENT, 1920-1945
Love, ONE BLOOD: THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHARLES R. DREW
Roberts, INFECTION FEAR
Wailoo, DYING IN THE CITY OF THE BLUES: SICKLE CELL ANEMIA AND THE POLITICS OF RACE AND HEALTH

Reserve readings and Handouts will supplement these assignments.

The instructor’s office is located in Benson #209. His office hours are Mondays from 11:00 A.M.-12:30 A.M., Tuesday from 11:00 A.M. to 12 P.M., and by appointment. His telephone number is 3-4329 and his e-mail address is dennis.c.dickerson@vanderbilt.edu

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

August 24    Black Immunities

Wood, BLACK MAJORITY, pp. 63-91

Allen/Jones, A NARRATIVE OF THE COLORED PEOPLE DURING THE AWFUL CALAMITY IN PHILADELPHIA, IN THE YEAR 1793; AND A REFUTATION OF SOME CENSURES THROWN UPON THEM IN SOME PUBLICATIONS (1793) HO

August 31    Slavery and White Medicine

Savitt, MEDICINE AND SLAVERY, pp. 7-148; 219-307
Savitt, RACE AND MEDICINE, pp. 3-15; 53-100

September 7  Slavery and Black Medicine

Savitt, MEDICINE AND SLAVERY, pp. 149-184
Covey, AFRICAN AMERICAN SLAVE MEDICINE,
pp. 41-146

1st PAPER IS DUE IN CLASS

September 14  Post Bellum Health/Health Care Providers

Savitt, RACE AND MEDICINE, pp. 101-117; 269-337

Du Bois, “The Health & Physique of the Negro American”
(1906) R

Hine, “’Co-Laborers in the Work of the Lord’:
Nineteenth Century Black Women Physicians” HO

Vandervall, “Some Problems of the Colored Women
Physicians” (1917) HO

Gamble, “I am a Negro Woman, Graduate of the Woman’s
Medical College of Pennsylvania, 1910”: The Life and
Career of Dr. Melissa Evelyn Thompson” ACR 2001

SLIDE PRESENTATION ON BLACK PHYSICIANS

September 21  African American Medical Education

Flexner, THE FLEXNER REPORT, pp. 202; 230; 232; 280-281;
303-305; 307 HO

Savitt, RACE AND MEDICINE, pp. 121-266

September 28  Archival Presentation at Meharry Medical College Archives

October 5  Summerville, EDUCATING BLACK DOCTORS:
A HISTORY OF MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE, pp. 60-105 HO
Presentation on the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance
Dr. Vera C. Chatman
Professor of the Practice of Human and Organizational Development, Vanderbilt University

October 12
Proletarian Medicine

Savitt, RACE AND MEDICINE, pp. 18-38
Beardsley, HISTORY OF NEGLECT, pp. 11-41; 77-100; 128-155


October 19
Partners of the Heart

Thomas, PARTNERS OF THE HEART R

View “Partners of the Heart”

2\textsuperscript{nd} PAPER IS DUE IN CLASS

October 26
Sick in the City

Roberts, INFECTIOUS FEAR

November 2
Taking Care of Ourselves

Gamble, MAKING A PLACE FOR OURSELVES

Beardsley, HISTORY OF NEGLECT, pp. 245-309


November 9
Black Physicians and the Challenge of Modern Medicine

Brothers, “Charles D. Watts, M.D.: A Legacy of Service in North Carolina” ACR 2001


patton, “Elizabeth B. Davis, M.D.: Commitment and Continuity in Harlem” ACR 2004

November 16 Scandal

jones, BAD BLOOD

3rd PAPER IS DUE IN CLASS

November 30 Race and the Politics of Health

savitt, RACE AND MEDICINE, pp. 39-49

wailoo, DYING IN THE CITY

presentation on addressing contemporary black health disparities

Dr. George C. Hill
Levi J. Watkins Jr., M.D. Professor for Diversity in Medical Education, Professor of Pathology, Microbiology & Immunology, & Associate Dean for Diversity in Medical Education, Vanderbilt University

December 7 Conceptualizing Race and Medicine

williams & Johnson, “Eliminating African American Health Disparity via History-based Policy” HO

dickerson, “Sexually Transmitted Diseases: A Challenge For Church Action” ACR 2004


fischman, “The Pressure of Race: The Plague of Hypertension That Afflicts African-Americans may be Driven by Bigotry, not Biology” HO
SEMINAR PAPER IS DUE IN CLASS