

CS 2902 A: Ancient Medicine  
Final Course Outline



The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Classical Studies  
Term: Fall  
Marina Schmidt

**Asynchronous Online**  
**NOTE THAT ALL TESTS ARE IN-PERSON**

We acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (Ah-nish-in-a-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-ahpay-wuk) and Attawandaron (Add-a-won-da-run) peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples (e.g. First Nations, Métis and Inuit) whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society.

# Course Outline

## **Welcome and Course Description:**

Welcome to CS 2902: Ancient Medicine!

This course will trace the development of ancient medicine from the earliest evidence of Egyptian and Mesopotamian medical practices, the development of Greek concepts of health and disease, through to the flourishing of Greco-Roman medicine at the height of the Roman Empire. Of particular interest to this course is the social dimension of ancient medicine, including questions of ethics, the social standing of medical practitioners (and their patients), and the role of women, both as healers, and patients. This course will also highlight the influence of ancient medicine on medical theories and practices during the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and up to early modern times.

## **Class Meeting Time:** Asynchronous online (2 lecture hours per week)

It is your responsibility to complete the readings and lecture viewings on a weekly basis. I would strongly advise you that you organize your time appropriately so that you are able to complete the readings prior to listening to each lecture. All lectures for the week will be uploaded by the end of the day on Friday of the preceding week (e.g. “Week 1” lectures will be uploaded by the Friday before the start of classes and so on).

## **Instructor:**

My name is Marina Schmidt and I am your instructor for this course. Please call me Marina. I came to Western in 2019 to pursue my PhD in Classical Studies. I received my Bachelors Degree with Honours in Classics, as well as my Masters Degree in Classics at Memorial University of Newfoundland. In my research I focus on Ancient Greek and Roman medicine, the representation of women in Late Antiquity, and Imperial Roman literature. My favorite authors include Hippocrates, Pliny the Elder, Martial, and Galen.



## **Contact Information:**

Email: [hschmid8@uwo.ca](mailto:hschmid8@uwo.ca)

## **Office hours:** via Zoom (by appointment)

I will happily meet with anyone who wishes to discuss concerns or questions about the material or any aspect of the course evaluation. Please check Brightspace for available meeting times. If there is no available slot that fits your schedule, please do not hesitate to contact me to schedule an appointment. All appointments will take place over Zoom. You can also contact me any time via email if you are more comfortable with that option. I strive to respond to emails within 24 hours (48 on the weekends).

**Required Texts:**

- 1) K. Upson-Saia, H. Marx, and J. Secord, *Medicine, Health, and Healing in the Ancient Mediterranean (500 BCE-600 CE)*, University of California Press, First edition, 2023.

Additional reading material will be assigned and made available to students on the course website on Brightspace.

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

Those who successfully complete this course will be able to do the following:

- Learn how to read and analyze ancient sources (in an English translation)
- Learn about the development of theories of medicine in the Greco-Roman world
- Learn about the practice of medicine in antiquity and how it was affected by considerations of wealth, status, and gender

Students in this course will acquire the following skills:

- Be able to critically read source texts and extract relevant data from those texts
- Have an understanding of the major schools of medicine in the ancient world, including the origins of the Hippocratic Oath and its influence on modern notions of medical ethics and the medical profession in general
- Gain a substantial understanding of using primary evidence (archaeological, artistic, literary), including its potential and limits, in the reconstruction of ancient societies and their medical systems

**Course Website:**

All course content can be found on the Brightspace course site. Students are responsible to regularly check our Brightspace site for this class for reminders about upcoming tests, to read announcements, and to access class PowerPoints and other resources to prepare and review material for this course. If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

**Course Evaluation:**

Test 1	October 4 (in-person)	25%
Test 2	November 15 (in-person)	35%
Final Exam	TBA, during the exam period (in-person)	40%

**Tests will be discussed in more detail closer to the date of each test. Make sure to check Brightspace for announcements.**

**Tests and Final Exam:**

There will be two tests, consisting of multiple-choice and true/false questions. The tests (timed one hour) will focus on material covered in the weeks leading up to each test (Test #1: weeks 1-5; Test #2: weeks 6-11). Tests will be administered **in-person**. The tests will **not be cumulative**. The tests will test your knowledge of the material covered in the lectures AND will test your comprehension of the primary sources (from the assigned readings) and your ability to extract information from the excerpts given to you.

**Formal Documentation Designation statement**

Please note that this assessment (i.e. the tests) is central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for this assessment will be provided with the following opportunity to make up this work: **All makeup exams will be held in-person one week after the original test (i.e. on the following Friday). The format of makeup assessments may vary.**

The final exam will be scheduled by the registrar during the exam period. The final exam will be **cumulative**, and consist of multiple-choice and true/false questions, based on the lectures and assigned readings. It will be timed (2 hours max.) and administered in-person. No outside resources are permitted and it is considered an academic offence to use outside resources on this exam. If you have questions about academic integrity or academic offences please see the notes at the end of the syllabus.

Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams).

**No aids are permitted for any of the assessments in this course. Electronic devices of any kind (including cell phones and smart watches) are not permitted.**

**Tentative Course Schedule (preliminary and subject to change):**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assessments</b>
Week 1	Introduction	p. 1-15; Text 5 (101-106)	
Week 2	Egyptian and Mesopotamian Medicine	p. 16-30; see Brightspace	
Week 3	Medical Evidence in Epic Poetry & The Pre-Socratic Philosophers	Text 1 (p.55-66); see Brightspace	

Week 4	Hippocratic Medicine & Creating a Profession	Text 2 (p. 61-77); Text 3 (p. 80-86); Text 42 (p. 333-336)	
Week 5	Hippocratic Medicine: Philosophy, Methods and Practice	Text 18 (p.209- 212); Text 20 (p. 228-231); Text 31 (p. 273-275); Text 36 (p. 308-310); Text 40 (p. 330-331)	Test #1
Week 6	Anesthesia & Known drugs	Text 12 (p. 161-164)	
Week 7	READING WEEK		
Week 8	Surgery & Ancient Persian Medicine	Text 14 (p. 180-185); Text 29 (p. 261-267); Text 39 (p. 324-325);	
Week 9	Ancient Indian & Chinese medicine	See Brightspace	
Week 10	Female "Health" in the Hippocratic Corpus; Women as Healers	Text 9 (p. 138-142); Text 10 (p. 142-148); Text 35 (p. 304-305); Text 44 (p. 344-356)	
Week 11	Alexandrian Medicine	Text 13 (p. 174-175) Text 23 (p. 242-244)	Test #2
Week 12	Etruscan & Roman medicine	Text 25 (p. 248-251); Text 28 (p. 254-256); Text 48 (p. 379-382); see Brightspace	
Week 13	Epilepsy & disability in antiquity	Text 17 (p. 192-205)	
Week 14	Healing Sanctuaries & Bathing for health	Text 30 (p. 271-273); Text 32 (p. 275-278); Text 39 (p. 322-323)	

#### NOTES TO STUDENTS:

1. All course materials and additional readings will be posted on Brightspace. It is the student's responsibility to regularly check our course website for announcements and to review our course material.
2. Lectures, PowerPoint presentations, and additional reading materials are protected by copyright. You may make copies of course materials for your own educational use and to take

notes. You may not reproduce, post, or otherwise distribute course materials to the public and/ or for commercial purposes without the instructor's consent.

3. Only on the documented basis of illness or other extreme circumstance will students be permitted to write a make-up test. If you miss a test, you must contact the instructor within 48 hours to arrange a make-up test. If you do not, the grade of F will stand. The format and type of questions of the make-up exams may vary.
4. **Appropriate written documentation is required for all missed tests.** If you miss a test **due to illness**, you must obtain supporting documentation (i.e., a medical note) and then **submit it to the Academic Counselling Office of your home faculty.**
5. All tests are multiple choice tests. The tests are **not** cumulative. The tests cover the material of the weeks preceding the test. The final exam will be **cumulative**. The questions will be based on lectures and assigned readings.
6. All tests are administered in-person. **Make-ups will not be granted without extenuating circumstances and the consultation of Academic Counselling.**
7. The final grade is calculated based on your performance on the tests and final exam only. You cannot do an extra assignment to make up for a poor performance on a test. There is no extra credit or re-weighting of grades.

## Important Policies

### Note from the Dean of Arts and Humanities

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

### Plagiarism

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

### Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:  
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/scholasticdisciplineundergrad.pdf>.

### Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):

In this course, the use of AI (automatic translation tools, grammar checkers, ChatGPT...) is prohibited. If

AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. Students are expected to retain these materials until after final grades have been entered. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, students may be asked to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against them.

## **Western Policy on Academic Consideration for Absences**

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs* posted on the Academic Calendar:

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/academicconsiderationSep24.pdf>

This policy does not apply to requests for academic consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person. The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult: [Accessible Education](#).

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:

<https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academicconsiderations/>

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made **within 48 hours** after the assessment date or submission deadline.

All academic consideration requests must include supporting documentation; however, recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the policy allows students to make one Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** in this course. However, the following assessments are excluded from this, and therefore always require formal supporting documentation:

- Examinations scheduled during official examination periods (Defined by policy)
- Midterm Test

## **Evaluation Scheme for Missed Assessments**

When a student misses a **Test** and their Academic Consideration has been granted, they will be allowed to write a make-up test (scheduled on the Friday following the originally scheduled assessment). The format of makeup tests may vary.

When a student misses the **Final Exam** and their Academic Consideration has been granted, they will be allowed to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam). See the Academic Calendar ([Special Examinations](#)), especially for those who miss multiple final exams within one examination period.

## **Special Examinations**

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for

students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found [here](#).

### **Policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays**

Students should review the [policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#) . Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

### **Academic Counselling**

Your Home Faculty's Academic Counselling or Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here: [https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty\\_academic\\_counselling.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html).

### **Western Accessibility Policy**

Western has many services and programs that support the personal, physical, social and academic needs of students with disabilities. For more information and links to these services: <http://accessibility.uwo.ca/>

**Academic Accommodation** is “a means of adjusting the academic activities associated with a course or program of student in order to permit students with disabilities to participate in those activities at the University and to fulfill the essential requirements of a course or program.” <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodationdisabilities.pdf>. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with **Accessible Education** at the earliest opportunity. Accessible Education plays a central role in Western's efforts to ensure that its academic programs are accessible for all students. <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessibleeducation/index.html>

### **Mental Health**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western [https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **Gender-based and sexual violence**

Western University is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:



<https://www.uwo.ca/health/studentsupport/survivorsupport/get-help.html>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

## **Copyright**

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent.