

BSC 3931
Special Topics in Biology: Renaissance Medicine and the Birth of Modern Anatomy
Natural Science Department

Instructor information

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Academic Department

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Important Dates:

Course Dates: May 15th – July 29th

Class Travel: May 16th – May 24th

STUDY ABROAD APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Approval for participation in the program is subject to the participant:

- Being a college student with a high school diploma
- being in good academic standing at the time of application (cannot be on academic warning, probation or suspension)
- being enrolled for credit in an approved study abroad program course
- interviewing with program's lead faculty member
- being approved by the Center for International Programs-paying all deposits and fees according to the fee schedule

The program plan for this class (class meetings and activities, etc.) meets the requirement of 47 contact hours for the course.

Requisites

Prerequisite: ENC 1101 with a minimum grade of C

Course Description

This course is an open format course designed to address the needs and interests of the students as well as provide an opportunity to focus on current biological science topics. Topics may vary from semester to

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semester but will be limited to a lecture or seminar series format. This course may not be repeated for credit towards major requirements.

This course explores the development of human anatomy, medicine, and public health through the historical and cultural context of the United Kingdom. Students examine anatomical knowledge, surgical practices, pathology, and the evolution of healthcare systems while studying key medical discoveries and ethical issues in medicine. The course culminates in a faculty-led study abroad experience in London and Edinburgh where students will engage with museums, historical medical sites, and cultural institutions related to the study of the human body and disease.

Course Requirements

Textbooks:

Required:

History of Anatomy: An International Perspective – Tubbs, Shoka, Loukas and Agutter
The Butchering Art – Fitzharris

Optional:

The citadel - Cronin
Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present – Washington
Unwell Women – Elinor Cleghorn
Explorers of the body – Lehrer
The History of Medicine: A very short introduction – Bynum

Technical requirements:

This course will use internet technologies for some content delivery, communication and assessment. Students who do not have a reliable computer or internet access at home **MUST** go to a campus location, a public library, or other public location to complete assignments. **There is free computer access in all SPC campus libraries, as well as other sites on SPC Campuses. Having a personal technical problem is NOT a reason to finish assignments late. However, if you do have technical problems during online assignments, it is important to report them to the instructor, immediately. Check to make sure that your [technical requirements](#) are met by your present computer system. Professional technical help can be obtained at the college's Helpdesk (call 727-341-4357 or email onlinehelp@spcollege.edu)

Live Online Technical requirements:

Students will be meeting through the Zoom platform for lecture and laboratory meetings. This will require the student to utilize a microphone and camera/webcam alongside their computer.

Course Content

Topics covered during the course (before, during and after the program)

- Basic human anatomical organization and anatomical terminology
- The historical development of human anatomy as a scientific discipline
- Renaissance medicine and the emergence of anatomical dissection
- Ethical and legal history of anatomical study and cadaver procurement

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- Scottish contributions to modern medicine and anatomical science
- Evolution of surgical techniques and anatomical knowledge
- Museums, medical collections, and the preservation of anatomical specimens
- Comparative study of historical and modern anatomical education
- Anatomical illustration and the role of art in understanding the human body
- Development of medical schools and teaching hospitals in the United Kingdom
- Advances in clinical anatomy and medical research in Britain
- The relationship between scientific discovery, society, and medical progress

Major Learning Outcomes and Objectives

All learning outcomes may vary from course to course.

By the end of this course students should be able to

1. Explain the historical development of human anatomy and medicine.
 - a. Students will describe how anatomical knowledge evolved from early dissection practices to modern clinical medicine and identify key figures and discoveries that shaped medical science.
2. Analyze the relationship between anatomical knowledge and medical practice.
 - a. Students will evaluate how understanding of human anatomy influenced surgical techniques, pathology research, and healthcare practices throughout history.
3. Interpret anatomical and pathological specimens.
 - a. Students will examine preserved anatomical and pathological specimens in medical museums and explain how these specimens demonstrate disease processes and structural changes in the human body.
4. Evaluate ethical considerations in the study of the human body.
 - a. Students will analyze historical and contemporary ethical issues related to dissection; body procurement, medical experimentation, and the display of human remains.
5. Compare healthcare systems and public health approaches.
 - a. Students will compare aspects of healthcare delivery and public health development in the United Kingdom with those of their home country.
6. Apply anatomical terminology and concepts to real-world observations.
 - a. Students will identify anatomical structures and disease processes observed in museum collections, medical artifacts, and historical surgical contexts.
7. Analyze the cultural and societal influences on medicine.
 - a. Students will evaluate how social, cultural, and historical factors influenced medical practices and the development of healthcare institutions.

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8. Reflect on experiential learning in global contexts.
 - a. Students will synthesize classroom knowledge and field experiences to articulate how historical environments, and cultural perspectives shape scientific understanding of the human body.
9. Students will demonstrate the ability to connect academic concepts with real-world environments through field observations, reflective writing, and site-based learning experiences.

Criteria Performance Standard

Upon successful completion of the course the student will, with a minimum of 70% accuracy, demonstrate mastery of each of the above stated objectives through classroom measures developed by individual course instructors.

Assignments and Grading

Background assignments	(15% of final grade)
Exams (1,2)	(10% of final grade)
Final exam	(5% of final grade)
Field observation journal	(30% of final grade)
Site analysis assignment	(25% of final grade)
Final Reflection Project	(15% of final grade)

Assignments are due or to be taken on the date assigned. No late work will be accepted.

Attendance

The college-wide attendance policy is included in the Syllabus Addendum (<http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/policies.htm>). The policy notes that each instructor is to exercise professional judgment and define “active participation” in class (and therefore “attendance”) and publish that definition in each syllabus. For this class, in-country attendance is mandatory and will be used to determine active participation in the course. Assignments will not be permitted to be taken late due to an absence. Tardiness **will not** be tolerated. We leave for program promptly at varying times and will leave without you; therefore, it will count as an unexcused absence and will result in a zero for day. More than one unexcused or excused absence in-country will result in a non-participating grade (WF) entered into PeopleSoft. To ensure you know the start time each day, you will be told the night before the time to meet the next morning. For our pre-program classes, you must be there on time and ready to take notes and participate in discussion. You are allowed to miss one pre-program lecture due to an excused absence. An excused absence is one that is verifiable with written documentation. You are still responsible for all material covered during class. If you have more than one absence for the pre-program lectures that are either excused or unexcused, you will be in violation of the attendance policy and a non-participating grade (WF) will be entered into PeopleSoft.

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Classroom environment and behavior

1. The college has an official policy on academic honesty and proper classroom behavior. If there are any questions, please refer to the brochure, "Academic Honesty and Student Behavior: Expectations of Students at SPC" (also available online). I take this subject very seriously and will not tolerate academic dishonesty or inappropriate/disruptive behavior in the classroom. College policy states that a first offense (cheating, plagiarism, etc) is given a "zero" for the assignment with no possibility of replacing the score. In addition, on the first offense, a form is filed with the Academic Integrity Committee. This does not go onto the student's transcript, but should a second offense occur, the student is then subject to expulsion from school.
2. All electronic devices (cellular phones, laptops, iPods, etc.) are to be turned off before the class starts. Use of these devices during all scheduled class activities is only allowed for class use only as requested by the professor. During unscheduled classroom activities or in the vans, you are allowed to use your devices.
3. Be on time. If you are late, we **will** leave without you and it will count as an **unexcused absence**. You will receive a zero for that day. Please review the attendance policy as to not violate it.
4. This is a field course where you will be outside every day. The weather will vary so be prepared**. You will be on your feet all day and you need to be in good physical condition to be able to participate in the activities. We walk for many hours sometimes over rough terrain. Be aware and agree to these conditions if you wish to participate in this course.
5. All participants must stay hydrated. You must bring a refillable water bottle with you (BPA free) and either purchase water at the grocery store or fill it with tap water.
6. Since this is an cultural awareness course, please be mindful of your impact on the ecosystem and environment. Put trash in its proper place and recycle it when you can!!!! Points will be deducted if littering of trash or cigarette butts occurs.
7. You represent SPC on every classroom relocation. You must be on your **best behavior** which includes language used (no profanity), not talking while I, another student, or our guide is talking, respecting each other and everyone we come into contact with, wearing appropriate clothing, staying with the group at all times, and abstaining from possession and/or consumption of any type of intoxicants between event departure and return times, and removing yourself from the company of anyone indulging in intoxicants. Violations will result in the following disciplinary action (but not limited to): receiving a zero in the course, returning immediately from Costa Rica at your own expense, and reimbursement to the college of funds expended on your behalf. *(In addition, you will be reported to your site Associate Provost for further disciplinary action.)*
8. Smoking is only allowed in designated areas and not during scheduled classroom activities.

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Course Schedule

Pre-program class meetings: **

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Travel dates: **

Please see itinerary for in-country schedule

Post-program Final Project: due by **

Special Accommodations

If you anticipate requesting of the Learning Specialist an accommodation for a documented disability, it is important to notify the International Programs office as soon as possible that you plan to make a request. Please also make an appointment with the Learning Specialist on campus to make your request as soon as possible. The Learning Specialist can be reached at 791-2628 or 791-2710 (CL), 341-4758 (SP/G), 394-6108 (SE), 712-5789 (TS), or 341-4532 (AC). **

The "Addendum to Syllabi" is an *important part of your syllabus* and can be accessed by using the following link. Please take the time to read this addendum --
<http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/policies.htm> **

The instructor reserves the right to make changes where necessary to the schedule and assignments. Changes will be announced in class and/or Canvas. (Students need to check Canvas regularly for course information and are responsible to note any changes.)