

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Department of History

Written Preliminary Doctoral Examination, Spring, 1997

History of Medicine

Instructions: Write cogent and concise essays in answer to three of the following questions. At least one question must be from Part I. In your answers, be sure to discuss both substantive and methodological issues and make specific and critical reference to secondary literature.

Part I. Comparative European and American. Answer at least one question.

1a. What is the relationship between science and medicine? Discuss this question from the perspectives of scientists, practitioners, patients, and society (18th through 20th centuries). Be sure to discuss the ways in which historians have addressed this relationship and how the historiography has changed over time.

1b. The main themes of public health have varied over time. Identify the primary public health problems from the late 18th through the 20th centuries. What role did the state, private agencies, and the general population play in articulating and addressing these problems? Assess the historiography and discuss what questions still need to be answered.

Part II.

2a. How has women's history changed the history of medicine? What areas of the history of medicine have not been explored in terms of gender? And what would be the benefits of such an investigation?

2b. Charles Rosenberg has said, "the hospital ... has reproduced in microcosm the history of a larger society." In reviewing the history of hospitals and other health care institutions, to what extent do you think this is true or false? Can the history of medicine shed light on the history of a society as a whole?

2c. Assume that you have been hired to teach an undergraduate course in the history of medicine that is populated largely by premedical (or "pre-health-professions") students. What topics would you emphasize and why? The object of this question is not to have you recapitulate the outline of your prelim field, but to have you decide and explain what subjects, historical or historiographical, you believe should be emphasized for premeds whose sole exposure to the history of medicine is likely to be your course.

