

Medicine in the 19th Century

Medicine in 19th century Massachusetts

The purpose of this seminar is to learn about changing medical care and the alternative ideas that played a significant role in these changes.

Moderator:	Paul Berman
Date and Time:	Monday 2:00-4:00 PM 10 weeks, starting February 19, 2018 (no class April 16)
Format:	Seminar
Location:	Amherst College, Converse Hall, Porter Lounge, Amherst

Description: Many advances in medical care and treatment occurred in 19th century America, great strides taking place specifically in Massachusetts. Examples of changing medical practices include midwifery, homeopathy, Thomsonianism, hydrotherapy, discovery of ether and changing medical education. Seminar participants may select a medical practice or choose a person who influenced 19th century medicine, for example, Rush, Morton, Osler and other practitioners responsible for major breakthroughs in health care and treatment during this period.

Role of participants: Participants will present and lead discussion of a subject chosen exclusively from a list provided by the Moderator.

Resources: There is no need to purchase a text; online searches focusing on medical history sites will prove fruitful. The following resources are also recommended; they are available in college libraries as well as from the Moderator:

Medicine in Colonial Massachusetts, 1620–1820. A Conference Held 25–26 May 1978 by the Colonial Society of Massachusetts.

Porter, Roy, *The Greatest Benefit to Mankind.*

Rothstein, William G., *American Physicians in 19th Century; from Sects to Science.*

Shryock, Richard Harrison, *Medicine and Science in America 1600 – 1950.*

Ulrich, Laurel, *A Midwife's Tale: the Life of Martha Ballard...1785-1812.*

About the Moderator: I am a retired physician and medical historian. My major concentration is rural New England medicine in the 18th and 19th centuries; I have published in this area. I have experience in serving as an LIR Seminar Moderator.

Maximum number of participants: 11

Emeriti accepted: no

Course # 18SMN