

Semestre 2 (2011)

• Rationalism and Medicine in 5th century Greece

Tuesday 10.15-11.45



Roman mosaic, showing Asclepius, God of Medicine, arriving at Cos
Hippocrates (left) and an inhabitant of Cos greeting the god

The course will examine compositions found in the body of works associated with the famous Greek physician Hippocrates of Cos. Most of them originate in medical and sophistic discussions of the 5th-4th century BC

In them we find the framework of a developing rationalism concerned not only with strictly medical problems but also with the philosophical and ethical issues of the time. We will also examine the beliefs behind cultic 'alternative' medicine of the period in order to contrast it with the emergent rationalism of the Hippocratic collection. In addition we will compare the rationalism and irrationalism of the Hippocratic collection with the contemporaneous Greek philosophy and as well as their attitude to medical and philosophical ethics.

An English summary of lectures that I gave on similar material from 10 years ago is found at this site

http://research.haifa.ac.il/~mluz/Access/hippocrates/acc_hipp.html

Naturally the subject matter, bibliography and discussion will be different in crucial points this year.

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### **Texts for discussion:**

Most of the texts for discussion are found in:

- **G.E.R. Lloyd, *Hippocratic Writings* (1978, Penguin) on sale at the university bookstore**  
In the course, we shall discuss the following compositions contained in this book

**The Canon (Lloyd: p. 68-9)**  
**The Oath (Lloyd: p. 67)**  
**Dreams Regimen iv (Lloyd: pp 252-260)**  
**The Sacred Disease (Lloyd: pp 237-252)**  
**The Science of Medicine (Lloyd: pp 139-148)**  
**Tradition in Medicine (Lloyd: pp 70-86)**  
**The Nature of Man (Lloyd: pp 260-271)**  
**Airs Water and Places (Lloyd: pp 148-169)**

We shall also read the following passages

**On Nutriment (W.H.S. Jones, *Hippocrates* vol. I pp. 337-361 Loeb)**  
**Hero(n)das (Knox, pp. 114-123 Loeb)**

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Download from the web

English translations of several of Hippocrates' works can be downloaded from the web:

[classics on the web](#)

A brief summary of some early works of the Hippocratic collection is found on my web-site:

M. Luz, [Ancient Medicine and Philosophy: twin professions](#)

a discussion of Hippocrates' *On Nutriment* is found at this site

M. Luz, [The Philosophical Background of Hippocrates' On Nutriment](#)

English summary of a few of the lectures in this course can be found [at my site](#)

Bibliography

The following works contain useful discussions:

- J. Jouanna, *Hippocrates* (trans. M.B. DeBevoise), Baltimore-London
- G.E.R. Lloyd, *Magic, Reason and Experience* Cambridge
- G.E.R. Lloyd, *The Revolutions of Wisdom - Studies in the Claims and Practice of Ancient Greek Science*, California
- L. Edelstein, *Ancient Medicine*, Baltimore-London
- E.R. Dodds, *The Greeks and the Irrational* (California, 1951)

- **K. Boudouris (ed.,) Philosophy and Medicine I (1999 Athens)**
- **Michmanim 13 Museum Hecht (1999)**

Course requirements: end of term paper