

Course Title: A History of Surgery

Instructors: Gideon Manning, PhD; Kirsten Moore-Sheeley; PhD; Rena Selya, PhD; Sari J. Siegel, PhD

Online Meetings: Wednesday, 5-6pm, May 1-June 5, online using Zoom

Course Description: This course will explore the history of surgery, as both a medical intervention and a unique speciality, with an emphasis on the conceptual, social, scientific, technological, and institutional factors leading to the creation of the modern discipline in the twentieth century. Specific topics will include the early origins and persistent questions of surgery, the advent of anesthesia and antiseptics, surgery's relation to other medical specialties, presentations of surgeons in the public imagination, and the history of surgery at Cedars-Sinai. The last two meetings of the course will feature guest lecturers who will reflect on the role of surgery during wartime and its likely future, respectively.

Learning outcomes:

1. Understand the evolution of surgery as a distinct specialty in the nineteenth and twentieth century.
2. Appreciate the assumptions and changes in social, cultural, patient, government, and professional expectations around the surgeon and surgical specialist.
3. Apply the lessons learned to understand the current state of surgery, its recognized challenges, and anticipate its future.

Course Topics and Schedule (subject to revision)

Week 1. Introduction: Surgery's early history, instruments, and persistent questions

Readings: Selections from primary sources; C. Lawrence, "Democratic, divine and heroic: the history and historiography of surgery"; O. Temkin, "The role of surgery in the rise of modern medical thought"

Week 2. Surgery adds anesthesia and antiseptics

Readings: Selections from J. Lister, "On the antiseptic principle in the practice of surgery"; A. Winter, "Mesmerism and the introduction of surgical anesthesia in Victorian England"; T. Schlich and B. Strasser, "Making the medical mask: surgery, bacteriology, and the control of infection (1870s-1920s)"

Week 3. Surgery at the Extremes: Dehumanization, Coercion, and Resistance

Readings: Selections from primary sources

Week 4. Surgery's Technology in the 20th Century and at Cedars-Sinai

Readings: Selections from primary sources

Week 5. Surgery and 20th-Century War – Guest: Justin Barr, MD, PhD (Duke)

Readings: Selections from J. Barr, *Of Life and Limb: Surgical Repair of the Arteries in War and Peace*

Week 6. Surgery's Recent Past, Present and Beyond – Guest: Dr. Cathy Shin, MD (USC)

Readings: TBD