Spring 2010 GK 390 (32765): The Composition of the Hippocratic Corpus

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Required texts: Volumes I, IV, VII & VIII of the Loeb Hippocrates.

The genesis of the Hippocratic Corpus is really a mystery. 60-70 treatises are collected into the Corpus, clearly written by many different authors at different periods in different parts of the Greek world, but at some point they were assembled and attributed to Hippocrates—or attributed to Hippocrates and assembled. The "egotism" of the treatises makes it unlikely that the original authors intended them to circulate under Hippocrates' name.

In this course we will read in Greek selected treatises representative of each category of Hippocratic writing as well as all the other treatises representative of that category in translation. I have decided to group the treatises based on Erotian's and Foës' categories. We shall discuss the theories, style (some of the treatises are thought to be the earliest extant Greek prose), philosophic background, social context and intended audience of the texts.

Students will develop a knowledge and understanding of the make-up and content of the Corpus and the differences between the treatises. Many of the issues we will touch upon in addition to medical theory, e.g. orality, education, realia of daily life, will be relevant to other texts and issues of the classical period and a student's paper (80% of the grade) can center on other genres or fields as long as it utilizes information from the Corpus in arguing for its thesis. The remaining 20% of the grade will be allotted on the basis of a 30 minute oral presentation (10%) and a translation exam covering all the works we have read in Greek (except the Pseudepigrapha) on the last day of the seminar (10%).

(Titles in bold are not yet in Loeb series. Underlined titles have no English translation. Double underlined titles exist only in Littré's or earlier editions)

Tues. Jan. 19th Introduction to course

Thurs. Jan. 21st The Practice of Medicine:

In Greek: *Oath* In translation: *Law*

Tues. Jan. 26th The Practice of Medicine cont.:

In Greek: Ancient Medicine

Thurs. Jan. 28th The Practice of Medicine cont.

In translation: Art, The Physician, Decorum, Precepts

Tues. Feb. 2nd Semiotics:

In Greek: Prorrhetic II

Thurs. Jan. 4th Semiotics cont.:

In translation: Prognosis, Prorrhetic I, Humors, Crises, Critical

Days, Coan Prenotions

Tues. Feb. 9th Etiology:

In Greek: Nature of Man

Thurs. Feb. 11th Etiology cont.:

In translation: Generation, Nature of the Child, Seventh/Eighth

Month Fetus, Superfetation

Tues. Feb. 16th Etiology cont.:

In Greek: Airs, Waters, Places

Thurs. Feb. 18th Etiology cont.

In translation: Breaths, Fleshes, Glands, Dentition, Heart, Nature

of Bones

Tues. Feb. 23rd Etiology cont.:

In translation: Sacred Disease, Sevens

Thurs. Feb. 25th Dietetics:

In Greek: Regimen I

In translation: Regimen II & III

Tues. Mar. 2nd Dietetics cont.:

In Greek: Regimen IV (Dreams)

Thurs. Jan. 4th Dietetics cont.:

In translation: Regimen in Health, Regimen in Acute Diseases &

Appendix, Places in Man, Nutriment, Liquids

Tues. Mar. 9th Therapeutics:

In Greek: *Nature of Women*

Thurs. Mar. 11th Therapeutics cont.:

In translation: **Diseases of Young Girls**,

Mon. Mar. 15th-Fri. Mar.19th SPRING BREAK

Tues. Mar. 23rd Therapeutics cont.:

In Greek: Diseases of Women I & II, Sterile Women

Thurs. Mar. 25th Therapeutics cont.:

In translation: Affections, Diseases I-III, Internal Affections,

Diseases IV, Sight, Drugs (n.b., not in Littré)

Tues. Mar. 30th Surgery

In Greek: *Ulcers*, *Fistulas*, *Hemorrhoids*

Thurs. Apr. 1st Surgery cont.:

In translation: In the Surgery, Head Wounds, Fractures, Joints,

Reduction, Anatomy, Excision of the Fetus

Tues. Apr. 6th Mixed:

In Greek: Epidemics I & III

Thurs. Apr. 8th Mixed cont.:

In translation: Epidemics IV, VI & VII

Tues. Apr. 13th Mixed cont.:

In Greek: *Epidemics II & V*

Thurs. Apr. 15th Mixed cont.:

In Greek: Aphorisms I, IV & VII

In translation: Aphorisms II, III, V & VI

Tues. Apr. 20th Pseudepigrapha cont.:

In Greek: Letters

Thurs. Apr. 22nd Pseudepigrapha cont.:

In translation: **Decrees**, **Orations**

Tues. Apr. 27th Student presentations Thurs. Apr. 29th Student presentations

Tues. May 4th Student presentations Thurs. May 6th Translation Exam

Paper schedule

Fri. Mar. 12th Discussion of possible topics in my office

Mon. Mar. 22nd Rough outlines & bibliographies due in my e-mail/office/box by 5:00 p.m.

Mon. Apr. 19th First drafts due in my e-mail/office/box by 5:00 p.m.

Wed. Apr. 21st-Mon. Apr. 26th Discussion of presentations in my office

Mon. May 17th Final versions due in my e-mail/office/box by 5:00 p.m.

A student's final grade will be reduced by 2% for failure to meet any of these deadlines without good reason.