Ancient knowledge -
the body, illness and health

Peter Singer & Serafina Cuomo
This course will explore notions of how the body is constituted, and of illness and, by contrast, health, in the ancient Greek and Roman worlds. It will look at how the differences between the male and the female body were conceived of and explained, and at theories of how the environment affected human bodies and the sicknesses they are prone to. We will also read and examine some key texts from the ancient medical tradition, focusing on, among others, the significance of anatomical dissections, doctors' self-presentation, the role of religion, pharmacology, and the relationship between body and soul, specifically in the care of the self. There will be an emphasis on textual primary sources; the course will also highlight and reflect on epistemological and historiographical issues, such as the notion of science in antiquity, the definition of the medical marketplace, the role of natural philosophy in the medical practitioners' knowledge of the body, and the nature of observation and hypothesis. This module is new for 2016/7 and will be taught in the Autumn term.

General and introductory reading list

Tamsyn Barton, *Power and Knowledge: Astrology, Physiognomics, and Medicine under the Roman Empire*, University of Michigan Press 1994 - introduction
-- (ed.), *Hippocratic Writings*, Penguin 1983
-- *Galen. Psychological Writings*, Cambridge University Press 2013

*If you are particularly interested in epistemological issues:*
A.F. Chalmers, *What is this thing called science?*, Open University Press 1999