

Assignment 1

21W.746

Thus far, we have been discussing the Hippocratic Corpus, which represents the ethical foundation of Western medicine in the current understanding of the American medical profession. For your first assignment, I would like you to consider your own place in this tradition by answering the following question: *If I were to write an oath for doctors that I would be willing to take, what would it say and why?* There are two parts to this assignment:

Part 1: In no more than one page, write the oath itself. Consider:

- By what or whom will you swear?
- What will you promise to do?
- What will you promise not to do?
- What repercussions would oath-breaking have?

Part 2: Write an analytic essay (5-6 pp.) in which you explain and justify your revisions of the Oath of Hippocrates. Consider:

- What you chose to include from the original oath and why.
- What you chose to add and why.
- What you chose to subtract and why.

Note: If you believe that oaths are not necessary, you may write an essay explaining your position, but you must still begin with the Oath of Hippocrates and use it as your touchstone.

Other Requirements

- You must include at least one other text from the Hippocratic Corpus in your discussion.
- I expect to see direct engagement with the Oath and the other texts; that is, you must use quotation and textual analysis when explaining your understanding of these sources. Citation standards will be enforced.
- Your essays should be typed, double-spaced, and left-justified. Your pages must be numbered. Woe to those who do not number pages. Your paper should be stapled, not paper-clipped, together. I will return unstapled papers immediately. At the top left of the first page, your name, our class information, and the date should appear. Your essay must have a title that reflects its content.

Options

- This paper does not require research, but you may include other texts and sources if you choose.
- This assignment assumes an Anglo-American sub-cultural context and the standard narrative of cultural descent from the Greeks. However, if you wish to bring in materials from other sub-cultures and other lineages, feel free.