

Storymaps Assignment

HIEU 430: Medicine and Gender in the Middle Ages Fall 2020

OVERVIEW:

What is a Story Map?

ArcGIS Storymaps is a web application that enables users to integrate text, images, videos, maps, and webpages in order to tell a story. We will use Storymaps to create a multi-media historical narrative about the ways that gender shaped medical knowledge and practice in the Middle Ages.

To get started, please familiarize yourself with the general layout and style of Storymaps. We will use the “sidecar” format of Storymaps. Take a look at two examples here:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/26931e0c540546ff87457e9d9a16e879>

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/909cd4024723420dad8f6297ddba585>

What are these sources you speak of?

For the purposes of HIEU 430, an “source” is any primary source related to our discussions in HIEU 430. They may be objects, images, songs, prayers, treatises, recipes, or diagrams. I will provide a list of acceptable sources that will anchor the story we tell in our course Storymap project. The vast majority of these sources will derive from our assigned primary source reader, *Medicine and Healing in the Premodern West: A History in Documents*, edited by Winston Black (Ontario: Broadview, 2020). You will be assigned two sources, from two of our five modules. Your Storymap will contextualize your source in the larger narrative arc of the course, enriching it with significance, trenchant questions, maps, and additional images. We have a very special gift in this class in that Dr. Winston Black, an eminent historian of medicine, will visit us to discuss aspects of medical history, the process of writing his book, and our project of story-fying his book. Please familiarize yourself with Dr. Black’s work before his visit by exploring some of his publications here: <https://independentscholar.academia.edu/WinstonBlack>

What exactly is the Storymap assignment(s)?

Ah, they are multiple, scaffolded assignments that accumulate over the course of the semester into a final group project that will narrate a history of gender and medicine in medieval Europe. Each student will be assigned two sources about which they will create a “sidecar” Storymap. At the end of the course, we will integrate all of our Storymaps to create an overarching narrative.

For each source, you will complete the following assignments (see syllabus for deadlines) as part of our Storymap project. Additional guidelines for each assignment can be found under the “Assignments” tab on our course Canvas site.

- 1) **Bibliography:** A list of five, properly formatted in Chicago Style, important scholarly sources (peer-reviewed articles and books) that provide analysis and historical context for your source. More details below.
- 2) **Description-summary and original image:** This assignment requires you write a one-page description of your source (if it is non-textual) or a summary of its main points (for texts). You must also locate in digital form an original image of the source (mainly, these are texts, so you will be searching for original manuscripts). More details below.
- 3) **Context and map:** This assignment requires you to write a one-page description of the historical context of your source: where was it created, when was it created? What were the important discussions or ideas about medicine and the body that were circulating when it was produced? You will also submit a digital file of a map locating where this source was produced and/or where it circulated. More details below.
- 4) **Significance and representational image:** This assignment requires you to write a 250-word reflection on the significance of this source in the history of medicine, particularly as it relates to the themes of this course. You want to consider these questions: What is the most important message for our audience to remember about this source? How does this source fit into the larger themes of the course? Additionally, provide a digital file of an image that captures its significance; this image may be another similar source or an object related to your source, perhaps an image of someone suffering from an affliction that your source was meant to alleviate. All images should be from the medieval period (i.e. not a modern depiction of Avicenna). More details below.
- 5) **Storymap draft:** Your draft will involve an introduction and three “panels” for the Storymap “sidecar” as well as the three or four images (including one map) that will illustrate your panels. Introduction + Panel 1 (description (assignment 2)) + Panel 2 (context (assignment 3)) + Panel 3 (significance (assignment 4)). Having received significant feedback on assignments 2, 3, and 4, your story map draft will be a heavy revision and piecing together of parts. More details below.
- 6) The final assignment is to insert the text and images of your revised, final draft into the storymap to create your own map in ArcGIS Storymaps. More details below.

Objectives of your Storymap assignment:

- Contextualize primary sources: make sense of actions, institutions, and beliefs based on specific historical circumstances.
- Understand the historical relationships between a number of select primary sources.
- Synthesize secondary source information to deepen your understanding and contextualization of primary sources.
- Pose significant historical questions.

- Recognize and practice history as an interpretive account: the way we understand history itself changes through time as new generations of historians ask different questions about the past, questions that generate meaning in their own time.
- Apply chronological reasoning: understand the role of time, sequencing, and periodization in historical narratives.
- Search for reliable historical information to create a comprehensive bibliography on a certain subject.
- Extract and cite historical information.
- Use multimedia to write for and persuade a broad public audience.

Getting Started:

- 1) Set up your own Storymap account: <https://www.arcgis.com/home/index.html>
- 2) Review and select your top 4 sources. We will select sources on August 27.
- 3) Meet with our IT specialist, Rochelle Butler, who will guide us through the creation of a storymap in ArcGIS and answer questions. Sept. 15 synchronous meeting. Before our meeting, you can familiarize yourself with the how-tos of creating a storymap by reviewing these guidelines: <https://learn.arcgis.com/en/projects/build-a-sidecar-in-your-storymap/>

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Create a bibliography of no less than five peer-reviewed scholarly sources (articles or books) related to your chosen Storymaps primary source. These secondary sources should provide analysis/interpretation of your primary source or they should provide historical context for it. These will be the secondary sources you use to help you with your other Storymaps assignments (i.e. historical context, significance).

When you search for sources in Hodges' library catalog, take a moment to actually look at them. Ask yourself: is this relevant? will this book/article actually provide me with the context and interpretation I need to succeed in the future assignments? You will know it's relevant if it was published within last few decades (i.e. a book from 1857 will not help you with this particular assignment) and if it is published in a HISTORY journal (i.e. modern medical journals are great, but they will not help you historically contextualize your source). Is the author a historian? Or a physician? Or some rando internet bro? Go with the historian here.

Use **proper bibliographic form** from the Chicago Manual of Style (available online through Hodges; cheat sheet here: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/chicago_manual_17th_edition/cmos_for_mattng_and_style_guide/chicago_manual_of_style_17th_edition.html (Links to an external site.))

Use a Word document. Times New Roman, 12 point font.

Having trouble finding sources? Email me. Email the history research tutor, Thomas Maurer (tmaurer@vols.utk.edu) or email a librarian by completing the information here: <https://www.lib.utk.edu/askusnow/appointment/> ([Links to an external site.](#))

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Write a one-page (250-word) description of your source (if it is non-textual) or a summary of its main points (for texts). Use Times New Roman, 12-point font.

Attach an image of the original form this source took. Include the shelf number and repository of your image. These are mainly texts, so you will be searching for original manuscripts or papyri. Note: this task may be more difficult for some sources than others. Don't panic. Email me, Thomas Maurer, or a librarian at Hodges for help. That's what we are here for.

tmaurer@vols.utk.edu

<https://www.lib.utk.edu/askusnow/appointment/> ([Links to an external site.](#))

For the description, use the file upload. For the image, paste or upload into the "Discussions" tab.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Historical context refers to the "place" that an event, actor, or primary source fits within the currents of its time (social events, political events, religious events, environmental events, economic events, etc). We cannot honestly and accurately interpret the meaning of significance of a primary source without understanding its historical context (think, for example, about the expression "hey, that's taken out of context!" The expression means that a misinterpretation has occurred because the context was not taken into account.) So for example, when thinking about a primary source like, say, a recipe on vulture medicine, we cannot simply say "oh that's weird and stupid, people thought vulture blood would cure them." We must instead strive to understand why it was NOT weird or stupid to the people who used this recipe, why it fit into their understanding of the world. Your historical context helps provide a picture of that world in which your primary source was created. Historical context also means that you make sense of a person's or a document's embeddedness in social practices and institutions of their time.

Write a one-page (250-word) description of the historical context of your source: where was it created, when was it created? What were the important discussions or ideas about medicine and the body that were circulating when it was produced? Are there important social, religious, environmental, or political factors that help us to understand why this source was created? What do we need to know about the cultural environment that produced this text in order to interpret it correctly, in order to understand it the way the people who created it or used it understood it?

Submit as a Word doc file upload. Times New Roman, 12-point font.

You will also submit a digital file of a map locating where this source was produced and/or where it circulated. Use the Discussions tab to paste a map (historical or contemporary) or file upload on discussions.

CITE YOUR WORK.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Write a one-page (250-word) reflection on the significance of your primary source in the history of medicine, particularly as it relates to the themes of this course.

What is a document's historical significance? Think about it this way: the past is everything that has happened prior to this moment in time. Every idea, every thought, every writing, every artwork, every relationship. *every. little. thing.* Significance enables historians to make choices about what things are worth remembering and what events, texts, people, or ideas can be left out of the stories about the past that we create. Generally, a source is historically significant if it either creates some kind of major life change for many people or over a long period or if it provides unique insight into how people in the past thought or believed, which can help us to understand the ideas, beliefs, and motivations of our subjects in history. Lucky for you, Dr. Winston Black has already selected as "significant" the sources you will be describing. We already know that they have importance and value for the history of premodern medicine. Your job is to explain WHY. To do so, you want to consider these questions: What is the most important message for our audience to remember about this source? How does this document enrich our understanding of the history of medicine and healing in the Middle Ages? How does this source fit into the larger themes of the course (gender, overlapping categories of medicine, magic, and religion)? Submit as a Word doc file upload. Times New Roman, 12-point font.

Additionally, provide a digital file of an image that captures the significance of your source; this image may be another similar source or an object related to your source, perhaps an image of someone suffering from an affliction that your source was meant to alleviate (i.e. leprosy; a surgical procedure). All images should be from the medieval period (i.e. not a modern depiction of Avicenna). Paste these into the discussion tab with caption; or upload them with caption identifying where the images comes from.

FINAL DRAFT

Edit your previous assignments. Incorporate the feedback I provided on earlier drafts. This final draft will involve an introduction and three “panels” for the Storymap “sidecar” as well as the three or four images (including one map) that will illustrate your panels.

So it will look like this: Introduction + Panel 1 (summary/description (assignment 2)) + Panel 2 (historical context (assignment 3)) + Panel 3 (significance (assignment 4)).

Having received significant feedback on assignments 2, 3, and 4, your story map draft will be a heavy revision and piecing together of parts and adding a paragraph-long introduction. What should the introduction do? It should situate your source in the context of the trajectory of the story we've been telling about medicine and gender in premodern Europe. Be sure to include a works consulted section, and actually consult those sources by reading them!

You can either submit this as a link to your ArcGIS Storymap or if you are not yet comfortable with the application yet, you can use a single Word doc (broken in to clear sections) with accompanying images.

GOING LIVE!

Your final story maps assignment should be delivered in the form of TWO links to ArcGis Storymaps. These will represent your research and analysis of your two sources, in final form.

Each story map should include:

- A complete revision of all previous assignments (bibliographies, summaries, contexts, significances, and finals), taking into account feedback and areas for additional research.
- A works consulted section (this is your bibliography). This can be anywhere you like on the maps (i.e. after each section of your sidecar, or at the very bottom of the site itself). It should only include sources that you actually consulted. If you did not use a source that was on your bibliography, do not include it. The more sources from your bibliography (or my comments) that you earnestly use, however, the better.
- At least three images that include their original sources (i.e. attributions-- write what the image is and where it exists in the original. If it's a contemporary map, you can skip it; but for manuscript images or objects (like statues or amulets or stones that are now in museums), include the name of the museum or library and the name of the source itself.
- A title.
- Set map to "public" at least until December 18, 2020. You can delete your map, if you wish, after this date. If there are identity issues and you wish to leave your name off of the public map, then that's fine too.
- Each map should have an introduction that makes sense in terms of where it is located in the master map-- meaning that when a viewer clicks on your map from the master map, there is a logical connection.

Due December 8 at 3:30 pm.