

HEALTH AND DISEASE IN THE MIDDLE AGES
c/o Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (ACMRS)
4th Floor, Lattie F. Coor Hall
Arizona State University
P.O. Box 874402
Tempe, AZ 85287-4402
Phone: (480) 965-4661
Fax: (480) 965-1681
Web: <http://acmrs.org/healthanddisease2012>
E-mail: healthanddisease2012@acmrs.org

“Dear Colleague” Letter

November 11, 2011

Thank you very much for your interest in our 2012 Summer Seminar for College and University Teachers, “Health and Disease in the Middle Ages.” We are thrilled to have support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (ACMRS) to launch this collaborative project that combines new humanistic and scientific approaches to exploring experiences of health, disease, and disability in premodern times. This letter provides an overview of the Seminar’s objectives and structure, as well as detailed information on the resources, accommodations, and other benefits of our environment in London next summer. All this same information—plus links to other relevant information—can be found on our website: <http://acmrs.org/healthanddisease2012>. Also, please do not hesitate to direct questions to us via e-mail at healthanddisease2012@acmrs.org, or phone: 480-965-4661.

A Note about the Application Process.

Full information on the application procedure can be found in section 12 below. Here, we would like to remind you that the application process has two parts.

Part 1 – submitted directly to NEH: Fill out the initial application form online at the NEH website: <https://securegrants.neh.gov/education/participants/>. This part is for the NEH’s internal records and is the necessary first step of processing your file.

Part 2 – submitted directly to the Seminar Directors, c/o ACMRS: The rest of the application materials are sent to us directly, at the e-mail or snail-mail address found at the end of this letter.

Assessment of applications is made solely by the Seminar Directors, plus one additional consultant, and not by the NEH. The application deadline is MARCH 1, 2012. Notification of acceptance will be made on April 2, 2012; confirmation of acceptance, should you be selected, will need to be made by April 6, 2012.

1. Scope of the Project and the General Approach to the Study.

This five-week Seminar for College and University Teachers will be held June 24 through July 28, 2012, in London, England.¹ Based at the Wellcome Library—the world’s premier research center for medical history—this Seminar will gather scholars from across the disciplines interested in questions of health, disease, and disability in medieval Europe. A primary goal will be to explore how the new scientific technologies of identifying pathogens (particularly leprosy and plague) can inform traditional, humanistic methods (historical, literary, art historical, and linguistic) of understanding cultural responses to disease and disability. Reciprocally, we will also explore how traditional, humanistic studies of medieval medicine can inform modern scientific studies of disease, which are developing at a rapid pace thanks to new methods of DNA retrieval and analysis. We very much look forward to initiating participants into this new way of looking at the medieval world.

Special emphasis will be placed on assisting you with your independent research projects relating to the History of Medicine, especially—but not restricted to—those based on unpublished primary sources.

2. Intellectual Objectives.

In 2007, the National Library of Sweden in Stockholm mounted a webpage devoted to the Codex Gigas, the so-called “Devil’s Bible.” Long known in a superficial way to medieval scholarship, this early thirteenth-century compilation is regarded as the largest medieval manuscript ever made: 890 mm tall by 490 mm wide, weighing in at 75 kg. What had not been widely known until the publication of the online description of the manuscript was that amidst this collection of Biblical and historical texts are several of the most-widely circulating medical texts in medieval Europe.²

“Hiding in plain site” is a phrase that could aptly describe both medieval medicine and its historiography. This Seminar seeks to bring issues surrounding health, disease, and disability—and the learned and practical traditions of knowledge associated with them—into the light of day. The field of the history of medieval medicine is now coming into its prime, the object of excellent work being done by a broad array of international scholars. At the same time, scholars in other fields—linguists, literary scholars, art historians, religious historians, and even historians of music—are increasingly recognizing the ways in which medical terminology, medical analogies, medical images, and medically motivated musical performance all drew on common beliefs about the structure and internal processes of the human body. Wonderful advances have been made in pushing forward philological work in editing major and minor texts; pinpointing the development of medical vocabularies (especially in the vernacular languages); and finding analytical methods for better understanding the meanings of medical illustration. This Seminar will survey the best work in each of these areas.

But we will go further. The traditional humanistic disciplines of history, art history, literature, religious history, and music history share basic methods and analytical assumptions because they all focus in one way or another on documents and other material artifacts: objects

¹ The 2012 Summer Olympics will be held July 27 to August 12. Except for the last day, our Seminar dates will not overlap with the Games.

² Stockholm, National Library of Sweden, MS A 148 (Codex Gigas), s. xiii in. (Bohemia). A full description and digital reproduction can be found at *Codex Gigas*, <http://www.kb.se/codex-gigas/eng/>, accessed 04.x.2011.

that humans themselves have made, whether textual or plastic. We will add another dimension to the methods that can be used to understand the ways societies of the past have wrestled with the body and its physical limitations: we will add modern science to the dialogue.

The related fields of paleopathology and paleomicrobiology allow a new kind of understanding of disease and disability. By focusing literally on the physical remains of human bodies, these scientific disciplines allow medievalists to step outside their texts and images and see the medieval world from a new perspective. Scientific advances in identifying specific pathogens in ancient remains and in reconstructing the phylogenetic history of the causative organisms of plague (*Yersinia pestis*) and leprosy (*Mycobacterium leprae*) have transformed our view of the disease landscape in the medieval world. We don't pretend, of course, that methods of studying skeletal lesions or pathogen DNA are more productive of “truth” than traditional humanistic methods. On the contrary, the new scientific findings complicate our interpretations of these medieval scourges as much as they clarify them. We propose that it is in the interests of both humanists and biological scientists to engage in *dialogue*—and for that, both sides need to have a better understanding of the methods and presumptions of the other disciplines if we are to elucidate the epidemiology and social effects of diseases that continue to threaten human populations up to the present day.

This Seminar, therefore, offers a comprehensive guide to current humanistic and scientific views on the medieval landscape of health and disease, healing and disability. We will cast our net broadly to look not only at western Europe, but also the Islamic world which inspired the West's intellectual systems (including the medical texts found in the Gigas Bible) and shared its exposure to the same infectious diseases. In both Europe and the Mediterranean world, large Jewish minorities worked within the same theoretical traditions as Christians and Muslims and contributed significantly to medical thought and practice. The fact that all three religious groups shared so many material conditions and intellectual traditions allows us to examine even more fruitfully points of intersection and divergence in approaches to health-seeking behaviors and disease treatment.

The Seminar will take place at the Wellcome Library in London, the world's premier center for the History of Medicine. We will, moreover, exploit a variety of other resources that England has to offer, from ancient Roman baths to a garden designed to study the pharmaceutical properties of plants to the remains from medieval plague cemeteries housed in the Museum of London. You will have access to the British Library, which is just down the street from the Wellcome, as well as other leading libraries in London and nearby Cambridge and Oxford. Our objective is to give you, as a scholar not formally trained in the history of medieval medicine, the opportunity to immerse yourself in the best work in the field, and then to take the insights you have gained and vigorously apply them to research in your own field.

3. Introduction to the Core Faculty.

This Seminar has two co-Directors: Monica H. Green, PhD, Professor of History at Arizona State University, and Rachel E. Scott, PhD, Assistant Professor of Bioarcheology, also at Arizona State University. Drs. Green and Scott bring complementary skills and, between them, over 30 years of teaching experience. Together, their research covers a geographic range from Italy to Ireland, and a methodological range from philology and textual analysis to paleopathology and biocultural anthropology. Three guest lecturers, all senior scholars, will bring expertise in the particular areas of balneology, leprosy, and plague and the dynamics of epidemic disease. The combined talents of the co-Directors and the guest lecturers will provide

you with a full array of the historiographical approaches to medieval medical history and the techniques and analytical perspectives of paleopathology.

Dr. Green has extensive experience as an editor and historical interpreter of medieval medical texts, in Latin as well as vernacular traditions, having edited the Latin *Trotula* and surveyed the entire corpus of medieval Latin and vernacular gynecological texts. Her approach is both philological and cultural-historical. Her first book, *Women's Healthcare in the Medieval West: Texts and Contexts* (Ashgate, 2000), was co-winner of the 2004 John Nicholas Brown Prize from the Medieval Academy of America for the best first book in medieval studies. Her most recent book, *Making Women's Medicine Masculine: The Rise of Male Authority in Pre-Modern Gynaecology* (Oxford UP, 2008), offers a major cultural history of women's medicine from 1100 to 1600, examining topics as diverse as women's literacy, the impact of medical licensing, and the cultural resonance of misogynistic discourse in the context of medicine and science. Published in 2008, in 2009 it won the Margaret W. Rossiter History of Women in Science Prize from the History of Science Society. Dr. Green has extensive research experience in all the major European libraries, including those of London. She is now engaged in a major study of the twelfth-century medical school of Salerno, the first entry point of Arabic medicine into the West and the first medieval Christian center to ground medical explanations on rigorous application of scientific principles of causation. She is also exploring how the conceptual frameworks of global history can help shape a new kind of medical history that uses specific diseases as the basis for comparative work across times and cultures. Founder of the medical history listserv MEDMED-L, Dr. Green is particularly interested in fostering dialogue among humanists and scientists who share a common objective in exploring the histories of health and disease. This Seminar presents a unique opportunity for her to share with fellow scholars the extraordinary riches of medieval medical culture.

As a bioarcheologist, Dr. Scott specializes in the analysis of human skeletal remains and their mortuary contexts. She uses skeletal data in conjunction with archeological material and historical texts to address questions about individual lived experience and community interaction in early Christian and medieval Ireland. Recent publications—including “Key Concepts in Identity Studies” (with Jane E. Buikstra) in *Bioarcheology and Identity in the Americas*, ed. K. J. Knudson and C. M. Stojanowski (University Press of Florida, 2009) and “Religious Identity and Mortuary Practice: The Significance of Christian Burial in Early Medieval Ireland” in *Breathing New Life into the Evidence of Death*, ed. A. Baadsgaard, A. Boutin, and J. E. Buikstra (SAR Press, 2011)—detail and illustrate the relevance of human skeletal studies for reconstructing past social lives. In her research on disease, rather than employing a strict biomedical framework, Dr. Scott considers the influence of both biological and social factors on the prevalence and human experience of disease. She is currently investigating the foundation and development of leper hospitals in medieval Ireland, focusing on differences between Anglo-Norman and Gaelic Irish perceptions of and reactions to leprosy. In addition, she is conducting a survey of human skeletal remains from excavated cemeteries in order to place leprosy and that most notorious of medieval diseases, plague, within the broader context of health and disease in medieval Ireland. This Seminar will allow her to introduce other scholars to the methods and analytical perspectives of paleopathology and to the ways paleopathological data can be combined with historical research on health and disease in the medieval world.

Guest lecturers include several of the leading figures now working in the History of Premodern Medicine. We have invited them precisely because of their skill at presenting their deeply learned findings in engaging ways. Dr. Florence Eliza Glaze is Associate Professor of

History at Coastal Carolina University. A specialist in the study of early and high medieval medicine, and of medicine in eleventh-century southern Italy, Dr. Glaze has held fellowships from the American Academy in Rome and the National Humanities Center. Her most recent publication, as co-editor and contributor, is *Between Text and Patient: The Medical Enterprise in Medieval and Early Modern Europe* (SISMEL, 2011). She is currently producing the first critical edition of the *Passionarius* of Gariopontus of Salerno (mid-eleventh century), one of the major medical textbooks that radically transformed the landscape of learned medicine in western Europe in the late eleventh and twelfth centuries. Her interest in the history of balneology stems from her study of the emergence of a series of balneological therapies and treatises in the region from Pozzuoli to Salerno that, in the eleventh through thirteenth centuries, drew travelers from afar and resulted in rivalries between different medical communities over the relative virtues of their local baths.

Dr. Luke Demaitre is Visiting Professor of History in the Center for Biomedical Ethics and Humanities at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. His publications include books and articles on medieval medicine, particularly on the response of learned physicians to diseases ranging from asthma and cancer to insanity and marasmus (“withering”). *Lepra* is a principal focus of his research. With a grant from the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, he has published *Leprosy in Premodern Medicine: A Malady of the Whole Body* (Johns Hopkins, 2007). He explores various aspects and perspectives in essays, among which is “AIDS and Medieval Leprosy: ‘A Distant Mirror’?” in *Historically Speaking* (2008). His keynote address on the medieval iconography of leprosy, presented at a 2011 workshop in King’s College, Cambridge, is proceeding towards publication. Dr. Demaitre is a member of the international study group *Historia leprosororum*.

Dr. Ann Carmichael, MD, PhD, is Associate Professor in the Department of History and the Department of the History and Philosophy of Science at Indiana University. She is a specialist on infectious disease in late medieval northern Italy and on the methods that have been used over the centuries to determine cause of death. Author of *Plague and the Poor in Renaissance Florence* (Cambridge UP, 1986) and numerous other studies, she is now completing a major book, *Plagues and Environments in Renaissance Milan*, which argues for the need to look at *all* causes of death in distinct populations, not simply the most prominent acute infectious diseases.

4. Applicant Profile.

The ideal participant for this Seminar will be a faculty member at a university or college, or an advanced graduate student, working in the humanities, social sciences, or natural sciences with an interest in research on medieval medicine. The NEH requires that applicants be United States citizens, residents of U.S. jurisdictions, or foreign nationals who have been residing in the United States or its territories for the last three years.

The Seminar is designed for those with no prior background in medical history. Similarly, it does not presuppose any advanced training in the biological sciences. As the Seminar will not focus on one geographic area, scholars working on any aspect of medieval Europe or the Mediterranean, and in any discipline, are encouraged to apply. Also, because our understanding of Europe will be expanded by thinking comparatively, scholars with expertise in other premodern cultures (e.g., pre-Columbian Americas or China) are encouraged to apply, as are scholars in the sciences who wish to be introduced to the methods of humanistic investigation of disease and disability. The archeologist with experience in studying the Plague of Athens,

who now wishes to study the Black Death; the literary scholar who has investigated the role of the body in Arthurian texts but is trying to understand the import of medicine for her research; and the microbiologist who has been investigating the epidemiology of leprosy, but is interested in its interface with the social history of physicians and the Church as well as the meanings of leprosy in disability history would all be ideal candidates. All readings in the Seminar will be in English. But because a large portion of the medieval medical corpus has never been edited or translated, a comfortable command of medieval Latin and/or any medieval vernacular language (including Arabic or Hebrew), along with paleography and codicology, will greatly facilitate participants’ ability to engage deeply with the collective work of the Seminar and their own research projects.

5. Seminar Schedule and Participant Contributions.

The Seminar will meet in London at the Wellcome Library (183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE) from Monday, June 25 through Friday, July 27, 2012. (You will be able to move into your accommodations on Sunday, June 24—or possibly even Saturday, June 23 with prior arrangement—and stay until Saturday, July 28.) The Seminar will convene three mornings a week for five weeks to discuss common readings and examine historiographic patterns of disease and disability. Usually, our meetings will be Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, though we may adjust the schedule the third week of the Seminar (July 9-12) if participants plan to attend the International Medieval Congress in Leeds. You will be asked to prepare readings in advance for common discussion, which will be supplemented by presentations by the instructors and guest lecturers using various textual, visual, and other materials. In addition to this common material, we would like to invite you to present preliminary findings of your own research to the rest of the Seminar. The schedule of these presentations will be determined according to individual topics of research. It is hoped that by the time of your presentation, you will have completed some portion of your on-going research project that can be circulated in advance to the other participants for common discussion.

Afternoons will normally be left free to allow you time to prepare the Seminar readings and to explore your own research topics at the Wellcome Library or other research institutions nearby. During Weeks 1-4 on one afternoon a week, there will be an optional session on research methods to benefit participants without prior training in medical history or paleopathology but whose ongoing work may benefit from the methodologies of these disciplines. These sessions will focus specifically on (1) digital tools for researching the History of Medicine online; (2) the special demands of paleography for reading medical texts (this session will take place in the Manuscripts Room at the British Library);³ (3) special interpretative issues in analyzing medical illustrations; and (4) ways in which researchers can utilize published human skeletal data.

During Weeks 1, 2, and 4, we have also a scheduled field trip. The first field trip is intended to introduce you to ancient Roman health maintenance, now preserved as both ancient ruins and modern practice in the city of Bath. Balneotherapy was intrinsic to the medieval humoral (mainstream) therapy in all three cultures of the Mediterranean basin (Christian, Jewish,

³This session will be for medievalists already trained in paleography and engaged in active manuscript work. As there are no dictionaries or other reference works particular to the special technical language or terminology of medicine, a basic introduction to medical abbreviations and symbols will greatly facilitate your ability to work with medical texts in manuscript.

and Muslim) and remains central to modern alternative therapies. The ancient Romans invested heavily in the design and building of bathhouses, and the Bath Museum allows us to explore directly the architectural and technological sophistication of this ancient system of health maintenance. Our visit will be enhanced by readings from ancient and medieval sources on the culture of balneotherapy. In the second week, the field trip will take us to the Chelsea Physic Garden in London. This will introduce you to the botanical basis for nearly all—learned and popular—medieval medical practice. Topics for discussion will include Mediterranean vs. northern flora; the influx of “exotic” *materia medica* via the Islamic world; and the ways these materials were actually made into therapeutic products. Finally, in the fourth week, we will visit the Centre for Human Bioarcheology at the Museum of London (MoL). Led by Dr. Scott with assistance from Jelena Bekvalac at the MoL, we will examine the human remains from the East Smithfield Black Death Cemetery, a mass gravesite excavated in 1986-88 that was used during the first wave of the plague pandemic in the fourteenth century and which contained the remains of at least 558 individuals. This gravesite was the source for the ancient DNA recently extracted and used for reconstruction of the [full genome sequence](#) of the strain of *Yersinia pestis* that, in all probability, caused the Black Death. The objective of this trip is to allow you to better understand the practices of retrieval of the material remains of medieval people and the ways paleopathological and microbiological scientists go about making their interpretations.

In addition, we hope to provide some occasions where you can informally meet and interact with European scholars who share similar interests. We have designated Wednesdays “medieval lunch day”: if you desire to join us, we will have a lunch (pay as you go) following the Seminar every Wednesday where scholars resident in London or just passing through can join us for informal conversation.

Fridays, as well as several Thursdays, will be free days when you can devote the full day to your own work, whether in London, other research centers in the U.K., or on the Continent. The Seminar Directors will be available throughout the Seminar to assist in formulating and executing these projects.

6. Individual Meetings and Research Assistance.

Both Seminar Directors will be present throughout the five-week Seminar and will be available for one-on-one meetings with you at least one afternoon a week. Also, both will be reachable via e-mail or phone at other times. The co-Directors would like to meet jointly with each Seminar participant during the first week to have an in-depth discussion of your research objectives and goals for the Seminar and then to meet a second time when appropriate later during the Seminar.

7. Research Resources at the Wellcome and in London.

As a member of the Seminar, you will have access to the Wellcome Library, “[o]ne of the world’s greatest collections of books, manuscripts, archives, films, and paintings on the history of medicine from the earliest times to the present day.” The Wellcome Library’s resources constitute the principal reason for holding the Seminar in London. Virtually every resource that the medical historian needs—specialist journals, biographical dictionaries, scientific literature (including paleopathology)—is available. The Wellcome also has one of the largest databases of medical images. Finally, the Wellcome has an exceptionally large collection of medieval medical manuscripts, including materials in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, and nearly all the medieval European vernacular languages. A large part of the collection of modern scholarly

literature is in open-stack browsing, while retrieval of closed-access materials is very prompt. The Library’s hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10.00-18.00, Thursdays 10.00-20.00, and Saturdays 10.00-16.00. The Library has now made many of its databases available via its Remote Access service (a list can be found at <http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/remotearchive.html>); once registered, you will be able to access many of the databases from off campus. Because you will also have ASU affiliation (see under “Participant Status” below), you will have access to the e-journals and databases to which ASU subscribes (and ASU e-mail accounts, if you wish to use them).

In the immediately surrounding neighborhood of Bloomsbury, members of the Seminar will also have access to the British Library (less than half a mile down the street from the Wellcome, <http://www.bl.uk>), with thousands of medieval manuscripts, including large numbers of medical texts. Access to the BL collections is readily obtained by applying for a Reader’s Pass (<http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/inrooms/stp/register/stpregister.html>); you will need your passport for this and proof of your home address (so bring your U.S. driver’s license or other documentation). Other London resources include the libraries of the Institute for Historical Research, the Royal College of Surgeons, the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal Historical Society, the Public Record Office, the Warburg Institute, the Society of Antiquaries of London, etc., as well as the archeological and human skeletal collections held in the British Museum and in the Centre for Human Bioarcheology in the Museum of London. You can also individually arrange access to other research libraries in Britain, such as those at Cambridge and Oxford Universities. (You should probably contact any library you wish to visit before your departure to confirm their requirements for admission; some may ask for a letter of reference from your home institution. A few charge fees to obtain a reader’s ticket.)

University College London (UCL, where participants will lodge) now has a wireless system running throughout its physical campus, which you will be able to access. The Wellcome Trust Building, which houses the Library, has recently undergone extensive renovations and is now fully accessible to the disabled.

8. Description of Housing at University College London.

John Dodgson House (24-36 Bidborough Street, London WC1H 9BL)

Website: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/residences/information/groups/john-dodgson-house>

Telephone: 0044 (0)20 7837 8419

Nearest Underground stations: King’s Cross, St. Pancras, Euston

Walking time to King’s Cross/St Pancras/British Library: approximately 2 minutes

Walking time to Wellcome Trust Centre (183 Euston Road): approximately 10 minutes

Opened in 1997, this residence hall of University College London comprises 157 single en suite rooms (i.e., with personal bathrooms), with kitchens located on each floor and shared between 5-10 people. All rooms have computer data points (internet available at a fee). We have arranged for a group rate of £44.50/night from Sunday, June 24 to Saturday, July 28 (arrival date *might* be moved up to Saturday, June 23). Meals are *not* included in this fee. We have already made a deposit to secure the booking, and will need to pay the balance by early May. If you choose to take advantage of this housing option, the costs for your room will be deducted up

front from your stipend payment.⁴ Please note that University College London is in no way sponsoring or approving academically the Seminar, “Health and Disease in the Middle Ages.” As guests of UCL Residences, we are obliged to follow all rules and regulations. (Further details can be obtained by contacting the Seminar offices.)

9. Participants’ Stipend.

The stipend amount for a five-week seminar is \$3900, the standard amount provided by the NEH for five-week seminars. Out of this, you will need to cover your airfare to London; the cost of accommodations at the University College London;⁵ and all other personal costs, including the books assigned for the course, meals, and other incidentals. (Other readings will be made available as digital files on a Blackboard® site from ASU.) We will provide you with an “Oyster Card” (a discount ticket for the London Tube system) with fare to cover local transportation for our three field trips. (You can then load extra money on the card to use as you like.) Also, the train fare to Bath (our field trip for the first week) will be covered by the Seminar, as will the admissions fees for all the field trips. Because this is an overseas seminar, it will be possible for you to receive your full stipend in advance (minus the UCL housing costs, of course). Please note, however, that if for any reason you have to leave early, you are required to reimburse NEH for the balance of the stipend (pro-rated on a weekly basis). No refunds can be provided on housing. Note that it is *very* likely that you will need to supplement your stipend with other funds to meet your full costs during the Seminar (please see section 11 below). Also note that stipends are taxable.

10. Status of Participants at the Host Institution.

In addition to the resources at the Wellcome Library outlined above, all participants will be registered through Arizona State University as “affiliates,” which will grant you an ASU computer account, allowing you an ASU e-mail address (should you wish to use it) and access to the Blackboard® site we will use to distribute readings, share files, and post messages. This will also give you access to all the electronic resources to which the ASU libraries have subscriptions (e-journals, databases, etc.). These include such crucial resources for the medievalist as the *Middle English Compendium* and the *International Medieval Bibliography*. You will also have online access via ASU to materials available at the Wellcome but not available via external access, such as the leading biographical dictionary of British persons, the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, as well as various online journals. For scholars whose home institutions don’t invest in these research databases, this access will contribute greatly to your ability to perform high quality research during the course of the Seminar.

11. Navigating London and Beyond.

For those participants who have visited London before, you will already know the incredible wealth of scholarly resources that Britain’s capital has to offer. For those who haven’t visited London before, we recommend that you purchase a good guidebook to Britain now (e.g., *Let’s Go*, *Lonely Planet*, etc.) to help you plan your trip. You can also learn about

⁴ At the time of writing, the exchange rate with the British pound (£/GBP) is \$1.55:£1. The housing fee of £1547 (34 nights @ £45.50/night) thus translates to approximately \$2400.

⁵ As noted above, if you choose to stay in UCL housing, the costs for the room will be deducted up front from your stipend payment.

various institutional resources by browsing the Internet: for example, the Institute for Historical Research (<http://www.history.ac.uk/>) is a hive of historical activity. One word of caution: London is one of the most expensive cities in the world. You will not have daily transportation costs because the UCL accommodations are within walking distance of both the Wellcome Library and the British Library. In every other respect, you should be prepared to pay more than you're probably accustomed to for basic goods and services. The Seminar Directors have spent time in London before and will be able to offer some tips on keeping costs under control. (For example, if you are planning to work in libraries or archives outside of London, we strongly recommend that you buy train tickets well in advance. Fares rise dramatically the closer you get to the day of travel. Or purchase a [BritRail](#) ticket before you leave the U.S.) We will be well situated close to Tube stations on main lines. King's Cross and St. Pancras stations are 10 minutes from the Wellcome Library and about 2 minutes from our lodging. If you need to consult libraries and archives elsewhere in Europe, the [EuroStar](#) train now services St. Pancras, which means you can be in Paris (or Brussels, etc.) within four hours.

Obviously, we cannot know at this point what the exchange rates will be with the U.S. dollar in the summer of 2012. We recommend that, if you are thinking of applying to the Seminar, you start saving up extra funds now. The experience of being in London at the height of the summer, researching in the best libraries in the world, and having the opportunity to explore other resources (e.g., archeological sites) in both Britain and (if you desire) parts of the Continent, will be worth the investment. Also, we recommend that if you do not currently have a valid passport, you apply for one (or renew your old one) *immediately*. Waiting times for passports have increased in recent years, and it will be a rush if you wait until April (or later) to apply. (For U.S. citizens, at the time of this writing, a visa for the United Kingdom is not needed for stays under six months' duration. Please be sure to check current visa regulations prior to planning your trip.)

12. Application Procedure and Deadline.

Part 1 – is submitted directly to NEH: Fill out the initial application form online at the NEH website: <https://securegrants.neh.gov/education/participants/>. This part is for the NEH's internal records and is the necessary first step of processing your file.

Part 2 – The remaining application materials are **sent to us directly**, at the e-mail or snail-mail address listed below.

Application Deadline: March 1, 2012

Notification: April 2, 2012

Successful candidates will have until Friday, April 6 to accept or decline the offer.

The complete application package should be sent directly to the Directors of the Seminar at the address below—not to the National Endowment for the Humanities (*only* the NEH cover sheet should be submitted online to the Endowment). Include the information requested below, either as hardcopy sent via snail-mail or as e-mail attachments in MS Word or PDF versions. Ignore the NEH instructions about sending multiple hardcopies; we will scan all hardcopy submissions and circulate them as PDFs to the evaluation committee. Please label each attachment with your last name and file description, such as “Smith CV.doc.” The complete application packet includes the following four (4) parts, with the letters of recommendation being sent separately:

a) NEH cover sheet, found at <https://securegrants.neh.gov/education/participants/>. Complete this online. (It is sent electronically to the NEH, thus fulfilling **Part 1** of the application.) Then, before closing the window, print it out or scan it into a PDF document to include with the rest of the application you send to us.

b) A c.v. (not exceeding five pages)

c) An essay of 1,000 words or fewer (roughly four double-spaced pages) which covers the following:

- Your reasons for applying for the Seminar
- What goals you wish to target through the Seminar, including any individual research projects
- What relationship the Seminar may have to your teaching or other professional responsibilities
- Any personal and academic details you deem pertinent
- Your facility with medieval languages (e.g., Latin, Old High German, Arabic, etc.) and your experience with paleography. If applicable, also note your training in physical anthropology and/or microbiology.

d) Two letters of recommendation from colleagues familiar with your professional accomplishments, as well as your ability to contribute to and benefit from the Seminar. If you have participated in an earlier NEH Institute or Seminar, a letter from the Director or lead scholar(s) would be useful. Applicants who are current graduate students should secure a letter from a professor or advisor. Letters should be sent via e-mail or snail mail directly to the Seminar Directors at the address below; if sent by e-mail, **please ask your referee to put “NEH Seminar letter of recommendation” in the subject line.**

Selection Criteria

A selection committee will read and evaluate all properly completed applications to ensure selection of the most promising applicants and to identify a small number of alternates. The selection committee includes the two Seminar Directors and an external expert in medieval medical history. While recent participants are eligible to apply, selection committees are charged with giving primary consideration to applicants who have not participated in an NEH Summer Seminar, Institute, or Landmarks Workshop in the last three years (2009, 2010, or 2011).

The most important consideration in the selection of participants is the likelihood that an applicant will benefit professionally and contribute meaningfully to the objectives of the Seminar. This is determined by committee members from the conjunction of several factors, including the following:

- Quality and commitment as a scholar of the humanities, social sciences, or natural sciences
- Intellectual interests, both generally and as they relate to the Seminar
- Special perspectives, skills, or experiences that would contribute to the Seminar
- The conception and organization of the applicant’s independent project
- The likelihood that the Seminar would enhance the applicant’s scholarship and/or teaching

- Commitment to participate fully in the formal and informal life of the Seminar

Your completed application should be **postmarked no later than March 1, 2012**, and should be addressed as follows:

HEALTH AND DISEASE IN THE MIDDLE AGES
c/o Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (ACMRS)
4th Floor, Lattie F. Coor Hall
Arizona State University
P.O. Box 874402
Tempe, AZ 85287-4402
Phone: (480) 965-4661
Fax: (480) 965-1681

Or if sent via e-mail: mail to healthanddisease2012@acmrs.org, with the subject header “**NEH application**”.