

The University of Iowa History of Medicine Society  
invites you to hear:



**Kirilka Stavrena**

Professor of English  
Cornell College

## Attracted to Ill Humors, or What Hope for Shakespeare's Cachexic Couples?

Thursday, May 18, 2017

5:30-6:30

MERF Room 2117 (Medical Education and Research Facility)

The theory of the four humors, introduced in Europe by the Baghdad physician Ibn Butlan, dominated not only the scientific thinking of the early modern era, but also general ideas about the well-being of the individual and society. This lecture explores the cachexic body “habits” of two of Shakespeare famous couples, Hamlet and Ophelia, and Katherina and Petruchio, as well as the methods used to mediate each couple’s shared “ill disposition.”



If you are a person with a disability requiring an accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact Donna Hirst, Hardin Library for the Health Sciences ([donna-hirst@uiowa.edu](mailto:donna-hirst@uiowa.edu)), 335-9154. The UI History of Medicine Society website is located at: <http://hosted.lib.uiowa.edu/histmed/>