Medical Technology and the Modern Hospital

Prevalence of Technology
  Who has taken medications? X-rays? Surgery?
  Diagnostic vs. therapeutic technology

Medical Technology into the 19th Century
  Herbal and mineral remedies, lancets, surgical tools
  Uroscopy
  Simple, affordable, little barrier to access, no special institutions
  Germ theory: immunizations and antitoxins, but little else initially

Therapeutic Technology in the 20th century
  Insulin
  Penicillin, antibiotics, and magic bullets
  Post-WWII: medicines for heart disease, mental illness, etc.
  3,400,000,000 prescriptions written in 2003; $180,000,000,000
  Some diseases cured, others transformed

Diagnostic Technology in the 20th century
  Diagnosis in the 1800s: physical exam optional
  Stethoscopes, ophthalmoscopes, and sphygmomanometers
  Ambivalence: did technology and quantification add value?
  Medical chemistry
  X-rays: Wilhelm Roentgen, 1895
  Slow implementation of x-rays

Impact of Technology
  Reliance of technology and erosion of clinical skill?
  Increased distance between patients and doctors
  Changed disease categories: e.g. hypertension
  Placebo effects
  Cost

Transformation of Hospitals
  Anesthesia, surgery, imaging, laboratories, computerization of medicine
  Plumbing, electricity, laundries, oxygen, sprinklers, etc.
  Increasing costs of hospitals
  Recruiting patients: hospitals as hotels
  Hospital ideology in 2005: shopping malls and the consumer ethic