

Individual, Health and Society

Code: 42285
ECTS Credits: 15

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313223 History of Science: Science, History and Society	OT	0	2

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)

Teachers

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External teachers

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Prerequisites

There are none.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The module consists in a critical historical study of the processes of medicalization and psychologization (both material and symbolic) in the Western world, with special attention to the contemporary period. Through the study of the categories of class, gender and race, the module analyzes the different agents, social processes and institutional arrangements involved in such processes at the core of modernity. The module also assesses the consequences of the process of medicalization and psychologization for the legitimacy of social control, the perception of health and illness, and the self-perception of the mind -body duality. Finally, through the analysis of relations of power/knowledge underlying these processes, the module studies the factors that allowed the biomedical sciences to become one of the most influential areas of knowledge in order to justify human hierarchy and inequality.

Content

The module is structured in two blocks that will be held simultaneously

Presentation: Medicalization and psychologization.

Block 1. Individual, mind and society in the history of the human sciences

I. The human being as a historical object

- 1.1. Writing the history of the subject: body, mind and experiences.
- 1.2. Writing the history of mental illness.
- 1.3. Gender: From the possessed to the hysterical woman.
- 1.4. Science and pseudoscience: psychic research.
- 1.5. Child Prodigies.

II. The human being as object and scientific subject: methodologies and debates in different political contexts (17th-20th centuries)

- 2.1. Evolutionism and the naturalization of the soul.
- 2.2. Experimenting with the mind in the laboratory
- 2.3.1. The measurement of the mind: anthropometry and differential psychology
- 2.3.2. The measurement of the mind: uses of psychological tests
- 2.4. The first female psychologists in the laboratory.
- 2.5. Psychological science and justice.
- 2.6. Psychologists with and against the Franco regime.
- 2.7. Psychologists in times of National Socialism
- 2.8. The human being as an object of medical research: the Tuskegee experiment.

Block 2. The process of medicalization. Scientific discourse and social perceptions

Introduction. Health, culture and medicalization.

I. Public health and the process of medicalization (18th-19th centuries).

- 1.1. From individual disease to collective health.
- 1.2. Public health, the Hippocratic environmentalism and the "sanitary idea".
- 1.3. Technology and science in medicine: the laboratory and the process of medicalization.
- 1.4. Medicine and pharmacy: monopolization of knowledge and professional marginalization.
- 1.5. Coloniality of scientific power: medicine in the Spanish protectorate in Morocco.

II. The process of medicalization in class society

- 2.1. Social medicine, working class revolution. Strategies medical intervention in the social question.
- 2.2. The construction of health culture: *Homo hygienicus* and civilizing processes.
- 2.3. Evolutionary theories and the process of medicalization.
- 2.4. The medicalization of crime and their critics.

III. The issue of gender in the process of medicalization

- 3.1. Elements of gender systems: gender symbolism, gender structure and single gender.
- 3.2. The gendering of science and medicine.
- 3.3. Women as agents and objects of (de)medicalization.
- 3.4. Analysis of the scientific and medical disclosure: media, gender and medicalization.