

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.

Competences

- Develop an original, interdisciplinary historical narrative that integrates humanistic and scientific culture.
- Display a sound knowledge of history so as to pinpoint the great events of the past with accuracy: authors, theories, experiments, practices, etc., and their stages of stability and transformation.
- Display rigorous, advanced knowledge of the evolution of science throughout history.
- Work in interdisciplinary teams, showing leadership and initiative.
- Work independently: solving problems, taking decisions and making innovative proposals.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse psychological practices at different moments in history.
2. Analyse the consequences of the process of medicalisation and psychologisation regarding legitimisation of social control, perception of health and illness and self-perception.
3. Analyse the role of public health in the policies of the European states in the 18th and 19th centuries.
4. Assess the role of science and technology in the process of medicalisation.
5. Compare cases in which gender has played a historically significant role in defining pathologies and the production and application of scientific-medical knowledge in different contexts.
6. Compare favourable and critical viewpoints on psychology as a scientific undertaking.
7. Critically analyse the tendency to codify social problems in terms of pathologies.
8. Explain the change in views regarding subjectivity and the possibility of a science of the mind in the 19th and 20th centuries.
9. Gauge the influence of psychological technology on social regulation.
10. Identify and problematise the processes of medicalisation and psychologisation (material and symbolic) in their historical contexts as a key aspect of modernity.
11. Identify the changes and continuances in the forms and content of the process of medicalisation and psychologisation and the role played in them by gender, class and race systems.
12. Identify the different agents, social processes and institutional mechanisms that have intervened in the processes of medicalisation and psychologisation.
13. Interpret the process of medicalisation and psychologisation as a fundamental part of the process of civilisation, rationalisation and social disciplining of the lower classes.
14. Recognise the channels of demarcation and interaction between the science of psychology and society.
15. Relate the political meaning of collective diseases among the working class to the interventionist health programmes of social medicine.
16. Understand gender biases in western scientific medicine and understand the way in which medicine has contributed to the configuration (formulations and reformulations) of the systems of gender relationships.
17. Understand the political, economic and social factors determining the development of public health in Europe.
18. Work in interdisciplinary teams, showing leadership and initiative.
19. Work independently: solving problems, taking decisions and making innovative proposals.

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.

Methodology

The teaching methodology combines face-to-face sessions (seminars, master classes, text commentary, cineforum ...), student readings and the completion and presentation of a final written essay.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Theoretical and practical sessions on the contents of the module	94	3.76	3, 2, 1, 9, 5, 6, 17, 16, 8, 7, 11, 12, 10, 13, 14, 15, 4
Type: Supervised			
Support tutorials for the understanding of the subject and development of the objectives	64	2.56	3, 2, 1, 9, 5, 6, 17, 16, 8, 7, 11, 12, 10, 13, 14, 15, 19, 4
Type: Autonomous			
Individual study, consultation of the bibliography, preparation of the topics, problem solving and preparation of written works	198	7.92	3, 2, 1, 9, 5, 6, 17, 16, 8, 7, 11, 12, 10, 13, 14, 15, 19, 18, 4

Assessment

The final note of the module is constituted as follows: On the one hand the continuous attendance and participation of each student in the classroom in the debates on the readings is taken into account with 20%. 50% of the note is given by the performance of a written work. The remaining 30% will result from the oral defense of said work.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Attendance and active participation in class and seminars	20%	0	0	3, 2, 1, 9, 5, 6, 17, 16, 8, 7, 11, 12, 10, 13, 14, 15, 19, 18, 4
Delivery of reports / written works	50%	16	0.64	3, 2, 1, 9, 5, 6, 17, 16, 8, 7, 11, 12, 10, 13, 14, 15, 19, 18, 4
Exposition of written works	30%	3	0.12	3, 2, 1, 9, 5, 6, 17, 16, 8, 7, 11, 12, 10, 13, 14, 15, 19, 18, 4

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