

Contemporary Medicine and Society

Code: 106236
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Science, Technology and Humanities	OB	3

Contact

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Teachers

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

None

Objectives and Contextualisation

This course approaches the analysis of medicine as a political, social and cultural phenomenon, and examines, among other topics, historical conceptions of health and illness, the relationship between health professionals and patients, material culture of medicine, the emergence of public health or current challenges of global health. therefore, this course explores the influence of sociocultural factors in the construction of the concepts of health and illness and the appearance of the determinants of health.

Competences

- Develop and communicate orally and in writing the objectives and results of research projects on science, technology and society, using techniques for managing scientific information.
- Explain the basic concepts related to life, its origin and evolution, especially those referring to health and illness throughout history.
- Identify the various philosophical, ethical and sociological conceptions of science and technology and recognise their evolution throughout history.

- Recognise the political, social and cultural dimension of science and technology development in the different historical periods.
- Work collaboratively in teams.

Learning Outcomes

1. Correctly use databases and bibliographic, encyclopaedic and lexicographical reference works in the health sciences.
2. Describe the historical factors conditioning the globalisation of health problems and international strategies on health.
3. Develop a critical attitude by studying controversies in the history of medicine.
4. Develop a diachronic view of the role of care centres and social and health care agents, in order to assess their past and present contribution to fighting illness and improving health in the population.
5. Identify the origins and the institutionalisation of scientific activity, together with the epistemological bases of scientific thought in the health sciences.
6. Notice how closely living conditions and the social distribution of health and illness in the population are intertwined.
7. Produce papers as part of a group.
8. Recognise the essential elements of the medical profession as a result of a scientific, social and cultural evolution, including ethical principles, legal responsibilities and patient-centred professional practice.
9. Recognise the states of health and illness as socially determined constructs which change from culture to culture and over time.
10. Specify the historical factors conditioning the configuration of the various national health systems.
11. Understand the human being as a multidimensional entity, in which the interrelationship of biological, psychological, social, ecological and historical factors has an impact on states of health and illness, together with the manifestations of these.

Content

Block 1: Humanities, Medicine and History

Block 2: The Microbial Theory of Disease

Block 3: Medicine and the Global World

Block 4: Health Communication and Activism

Block 5: Critical Approaches to Medicine

Block 6: Medicine on the Streets of Barcelona

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
CLASSROOM PRACTICES (PAUL)	16	0.64	11, 2, 3, 4, 10, 7, 5, 6, 8, 9, 1
THEORY (TE)	33	1.32	11, 2, 3, 4, 10, 5, 6, 8, 9
Type: Supervised			

ORAL PRESENTATION / EXPOSITION OF WRITTEN WORKS	8	0.32	11, 2, 3, 4, 10, 7, 5, 6, 8, 9, 1
Type: Autonomous			
COMPREHENSIVE READING OF ARTICLES AND REPORTS OF INTEREST	50	2	11, 2, 3, 4, 10, 5, 6, 8, 9, 1
PREPARATION OF WRITTEN WORKS	25	1	11, 2, 3, 4, 10, 7, 5, 6, 8, 9, 1
SELF-STUDY	14	0.56	11, 2, 3, 4, 10, 5, 6, 8, 9

The teaching-learning methodology of the subject includes three types of activities: directed face-to-face activities, supervised activities and autonomous activities. Directed face-to-face activities will consist of theoretical and practical classroom classes where the teaching team will explain the framework in which the contents and basis of the subject included in the program are framed. Supervised activities will consist of scheduled academic counseling sessions. The independent activities will be dedicated to the students' study, reading and academic works.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Oral defence	30%	0	0	11, 2, 3, 4, 10, 7, 5, 6, 8, 9, 1
Participation in debates	10%	2	0.08	11, 2, 3, 4, 10, 7, 5, 6, 8, 9, 1
Theory: Assessments written	60%	2	0.08	11, 2, 3, 4, 10, 5, 6, 8, 9

The evaluation of this subject consists in:

1. Short Essay 20%
2. Oral defence 30 %
3. Long final essay: 40%.
4. Participation in debates 10%

At the time of each assessment activity, the professor will inform students (Moodle) of the procedure and date for grade review. +

If a student commits any irregularity that could lead to a significant change in the grade for an assessment, the assessment will be graded with a 0, regardless of any disciplinary process that may be initiated.

A minimum grade of 5 out of 10 points in the final essay and the entire course is an essential requirement for passing the course.

Students will receive a grade of "Not Assessable" provided they have not submitted more than 30% of the assessment activities.

SINGLE ASSESSMENT

The single assessment consists of a long essay on a chosen topic with a weight of 40%, a short essay with a weight of 20%, and an oral defense with a weight of 30%.

For the assessment to be effective, the student must pass each of the different tests separately and must obtain a final grade of at least 5 points out of 10.

Bibliography

Specific bibliography

López Piñero, José María. La medicina en la historia. Madrid: La Esfera de los Libros; 2002.

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Bernabeu Mestre, Josep. El llenguatge de les ciències de la salut. Introducció a la formació de termes mèdics. València: Conselleria de Sanitat i Consum de la Generalitat Valenciana / Universitat d'Alacant; 1995.

Cueva Martín, Alejandro de la; Aleixandre Benavent, Rafael; Rodríguez i Gairín, Josep Manuel. Fonts d'informació enciències de la salut. Valencia: Universitat de València; 2002.

Fausto-Sterling, A. Sexing the body Gender politics and the construction of sexuality. New York: Basic Books; 2000.

Aresti Esteban, N. Médicos, donjuanes y mujeres modernas: los ideales de feminidad y masculinidad en el primer tercio del siglo X. Zarautz: Universidad del País Vasco; 2001.

Sánchez Villam, M. C. Entre materia y espíritu. Modernidad y enfermedad social en la España Liberal (1833-1923). Madrid: CSIC. 2017.

Schiebinger, L. ¿Tiene sexo la mente? Las mujeres en los orígenes de la ciencia moderna, Madrid: Cátedra. 2004.

Software

No specific software required.

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed