

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

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Teachers

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Teaching groups languages

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

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 five blocks that will be held consecutively
Presentation of the module and historiographical introduction
Block 1. Science, gender and medicalization

- I.1. Elements of gender systems: gender symbolism, gender structure and single gender
- I.2. The gendering of science and medicine
- I.3. Women as agents and objects of (de)medicalization
- I.4. Analysis of the scientific and medical disclosure: media, gender and medicalization

Block 2. Public health and the process of medicalization (18th-19th centuries)

- II.1. Introduction. Health, culture and medicalization
- II.2. From individual disease to collective health
- II.3. Public health, the Hippocratic environmentalism and the "sanitary idea"
- II.4. Technology and science in medicine: the laboratory and the process of medicalization

Block 3. Mental health, gender and psi knowledge

- III.1. From possessions to hysterics I
- III.2. From possessions to hysterics II

III.3. Civilizing the unconscious: psychoanalysis and mental hygiene.

III.4. Civilizing the unconscious: psychoanalysis and the Law

III.5. Masculinities and mental health

III.6. Self-help cultures

Block 4. The process of medicalization in Western society (race and class)

- IV.1. Evolutionary theories and the process of medicalization
- IV.2. The medicalization of crime and theircritics
- IV.3. Social medicine, working class revolution. Strategies medical intervention in the social question
- IV.4. The construction of health culture: *Homo hygienicus* and civilizing processes
- IV. 5. Gender, race and coloniality

Block 5. Psi knowledge and the human being as object of research

V.1. Science and pseudoscience: psychical research

V.2. Genius and talent: genius kids

V.3. Humans as objects of medical research: STD inoculation experiments in vulnerable populations

V.4. The patient movement in historical perspective: the rebellion of women with breast cancer

V.5. Science and Penal Law: forensic experts on infanticide cases during Franco's Regime

VI. Discussion final session

Activities and Methodology

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
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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.

English could be used in some of the sessions, as it is a teaching language of the Master.

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
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

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.

This subject entirely prohibits the use of AI technologies in all of its activities. Any submitted work that contains content generated using AI will be considered academic dishonesty; the corresponding grade will be awarded a zero, without the possibility of reassessment. In cases of greater infringement, more serious action may be taken.

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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
(TEm) Theory (master)	1	Catalan/Spanish	second semester	afternoon