UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Medical and Public Health History

2122-2-H4101D254-H4101D171M

Aims

The aim of the module History of Medicine is to provide students with the tools for understanding the cultural and social aspects of modern medicine, through the analysis of its historical and epistemological evolution. The knowledge provided is the basis for knowing how to properly place the activity of the physician in the current socio-cultural context.

Contents

Introduction to the History of Medicine. Medicine in the ancient world (Pre-Hippocratic Medicine and Greek-Roman Medicine), Medieval Medicine, the Medical Renaissance, Baroque Medicine, Medicine in the Enlightenment, Medicine in the 19th century and Medicine in the 20th century.

Detailed program

Origins of diseases in history. The concept of pathocenosis. Medicine in Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, pre-Hippocratic medicine. Hippocrates, Medicine in ancient Rome, Galen, Byzantine Medicine. Medicine in the early Middle Ages, the Salerno medical school, Arab medicine, the birth of hospitals, the plague of 1348 and the crisis of the medieval health system. Humanism in medicine, pre-Renaissance anatomy, Vesalius, Anatomy after Vesalius, Parè and Modern Surgery. , William Harvey and the discovery of blood circulation, Marcello Malpighi and microscopic anatomy, the use of the microscope in medicine, iatrochemistry, iatrophysics and neo-hippocraticism, medicine in academies. Giovan Battista Morgagni and the birth of pathological anatomy, social medicine (Ramazzini, Percival Pott), Johann Peter Frank's medical police, medicine in the years of the French Revolution. Mesmerism, homeopathy and phrenology, hospital medicine, the birth of specialist hospitals and medical specialties, the development of semeiotics (Auerbrugger, Laennec, Williams), the discovery of anesthetic gases, antisepsis (Semmelweis, Lister), the development of surgery. The theory of germs, the hunters of microbes, the

birth and development of epidemiology, the development of biochemistry and physiology, Positivism in medicine, Rudolf Virchow and cell pathology. Immunology and antimicrobial chemotherapy, serotherapy, early chemotherapy, sulfonamides, antibiotics, medicine during the First World War, the interwar period, Medicine during the Second World War, eugenics and Nazi experiments, the Nuremberg code and the declaration of Helsinki on human experimentation, the birth of the English Welfare State, medical advances in the post-war period, the first transplants, evolution of the Italian health system and its main reforms, the human genome project. The open challenges of the 21st century.

Prerequisites

To be admitted to the exam, students must have received a positive score at the on-line English examination

Teaching form

Lectures. During the lessons, the teacher promotes discussion among students on problems related to modern medicine, involving students and asking them to report personal experiences and to reflect on the evolution of the concept of health and of the relationship between doctor and physician.

Lessons in attendance, subject to any ministerial changes following the COVID pandemic situation

Textbook and teaching resource

Cesana G, Riva MA. Medicina e Società. Firenze: Società Editrice Fiorentina, 2017

Semester

semester 1, year 2

Assessment method

Final exam: written test with closed multiple-choice questions with only one correct answer and short-answer questions, in order to assess the basic knowledge and understanding of a topic and to evaluate the cognitive and interpretative skills.

Office hours

By appointment, writing to michele.riva@unimib.it