



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

History of Medicine

2425-1-I0301D004-I0301D014M

Aims

The aim of the History of Medicine module is to provide students with the necessary tools to understand the cultural and social aspects of modern medicine through the analysis of its historical and epistemological evolution. The knowledge provided forms the basis for appropriately situating the activities of healthcare professionals within the current socio-cultural context.

Contents

The course aims to provide students with the cultural tools to understand the origins and evolution of medicine and healthcare professions.

Detailed program

Pre-Hippocratic Medicine. The birth of rational medicine in the classical world (Hippocrates and his writings, Hellenistic medicine, medical sects, Galen). Medieval medicine (Salernitan Medical School, Monastic Medicine, Arab Medicine). Medicine and the scientific revolution (Vesalius, Harvey, iatrochemistry and iatromechanics). Medicine and society between the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (Ramazzini, Enlightenment medicine, Frank, the use of statistics in medicine and the advent of epidemiology, the birth of public health). The nineteenth-century birth of biomedicine and the major discoveries of the 19th century (anesthesia, antisepsis, the development of semiotics and clinical practice, synthetic drugs). The evolution of the concept of health in the twentieth century (WHO and major international conferences, the birth of universal healthcare systems, the Italian healthcare system). The evolution of medicine in the twentieth century (the pharmacological revolution, the evolution of surgery and transplantation, the advent of healthcare technologies).

Prerequisites

No prerequisites

Teaching form

Lectures. During the lessons, the teacher will encourage discussions among students on issues related to the historical evolution of medicine and healthcare professions, engaging students and prompting them to reflect on these topics.

All classes are conducted in a lecture format: 4 two-hour lectures conducted in-person.

The language is Italian.

Textbook and teaching resource

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

Additionally, the teachers will provide supplementary teaching materials.

Semester

1st Year, 2nd Semester

Assessment method

Final Exam in History of Medicine: Written exam with multiple-choice questions and single correct answer (10 questions), to assess basic knowledge, understanding of a topic, and the student's cognitive and interpretative skills.

Office hours

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

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
