UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Storia della Odontoiatria

2627-4-H4601D019-H4601D052M

Aims

The course aims to provide students with:

- knowledge and understanding of the historical, scientific, and cultural evolution of dentistry, with particular attention to diagnostic and therapeutic practices developed over the centuries;
- the ability to contextualize dental practice within its historical development and the broader socio-health landscape of different eras;
- independent critical thinking regarding the evolution of the concept of oral health and the role of the dentist in society;
- communication skills to effectively express historical knowledge using appropriate academic and professional language;
- autonomous and reflective learning skills, recognizing the value of the historical dimension in the development of a conscious professional identity in dentistry.

Contents

This course provides a historical-epistemological overview of the birth and evolution of dentistry, from antiquity to the present day. Key concepts, practices, instruments, and historical figures that have shaped modern dentistry will be explored, with a specific focus on the Italian and European context.

Detailed program

Medicine and dentistry in ancient civilizations and in the Greco-Roman world. Teeth and their pathologies in the works of Hippocrates and Galen. The development of hospitals in the Middle Ages. Monastic and Arab medicine:

references to mouth diseases. The development of universities. The Black Plague. Medieval dentists: Giovanni d'Arcoli and Michele Savonarola. The invention of the pelican. Medicine and dentistry in the Renaissance and in the Baroque age. The rediscovery of the human body. The cadaveric dissections. Vesalius and his followers on the anatomy of the mouth. Parè and the development of dental surgery. Galilei and the scientific method. William Harvey and blood circulation. The microscopic anatomy. Iatrophysics, iatrochemistry and neo-hippocratism. A baroque dentist: Pierre Dionis. The century of Enlightenment and social medicine (Ramazzini, Tissot, Frank) and Medical policy. The French Revolution. Morgagni and pathological anatomy. Medical systems and alternative medicines (animal magnetism, homeopathy, phrenology). Smallpox vaccination. Regulation of the dental profession under Louis XIV. Pierre Fauchard and French dentistry. John Hunter and Anglo-Saxon dentistry. Two Italian dentists: Antonio Campani and Bartolomeo Ruspini. The discovery of dental fluoride (Morichini), The birth of the clinic. General and specialist hospitals. A new semeiotics. Biochemistry, physiology and pathology: Virchow's cell pathology. The contribution of dentistry to medicine: anesthetic gases. Antisepsis and the development of a new surgery. The germ theory. Koch and Pasteur. The discovery of X-rays. The first dental schools in Europe. G.V. Black and the classification of caries. Willoughby D. Miller and the microbial origin of caries. The development of dental legislation in the United Italy. The development of scientific dentistry. The "Boselli Decree" and the affirmation of the stomatological principle. Carlo Platschick and the Italian Dental Institute. The Fascist turnaround on dental autonomy. Dental technicians and medical plethora. European directives and the reform of dental education. Notes on the development of the Italian health organization in the twentieth century. The fight against infectious diseases (vaccines, serotherapy, antimicrobial chemotherapy and antibiotics). The effects of the First and Second World Wars. Birth of WHO and the British NHS. The genetic revolution. The epistemological revolution from disease determinant to disease risk factor. The technological and IT development of medicine. Medicine in the 21st century

Prerequisites

Dental pathology and clinics

Teaching form

Lectures. The teacher will encourage discussion among students on topics related to modern dentistry and medicine, engaging them in reflecting on the evolution of the patient–healthcare provider relationship and the concept of health.

All lessons are held in person: 6 sessions of 2 hours each.

The course is taught in Italian.

Textbook and teaching resource

Zampetti P. Storia dell’Odontoiatria Roma: Aracne editrice, 2009
Cesana G, Riva MA. Medicina e Società. Firenze: Società Editrice Fiorentina, 2017

Semester

Year 4, Second Semester

Assessment method

Described in the course syllabus

Office hours

By appointment via email: michele.riva@unimib.it

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING