

HI907-30 Themes and Methods in Medical History

20/21

Department

History

Level

Taught Postgraduate Level

Module leader

Mathew Thomson

Credit value

30

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module is designed to introduce students to both major developments in medical thought and practice AND the main methodological approaches and debates used within the field of the history of medicine. It covers the early modern period to the twenty-first century, and invites the students to think comparatively about medicine across space and time and includes sessions on Britain, Europe and global medicine and health. The module focuses on the evolution of ideas, language and technologies within medicine, the reception of these new approaches and lay responses to them, the structure of medical practice, and the scientific, social, and cultural context of medical intervention.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

Students are encouraged to situate medical practice in a broad historical and theoretical context, and to frame discussions in seminars through reading a series of seminal texts in the field. It also provides the opportunity to explore sources available to the historian of medicine (e.g. medical texts, practice and case records, diaries, public health reports and health propaganda, and visual

sources: art, architecture, film and photography). The module is team-taught, drawing on the full range of expertise and approaches encompassed by the Centre for the History of Medicine.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

1. Introductory Session
2. Mental Health
3. Global Health: Malaria and Small Pox Eradication
4. Cultures and Practices of Childbirth and Reproduction
5. Public Health in the Soviet Union
6. Reading week
7. Public Health/Private Practice
8. Early Modern Bodies
9. Early Modern Drugs Testing
10. Professionalisation and Regulation

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a conceptual and practical understanding of the skills of an historian of medicine
- Demonstrate the ability to formulate and achieve a piece of critical and reflective historiographical writing
- Demonstrate the ability to undertake critical analysis
- Demonstrate the ability to formulate and test concepts and hypotheses
- Demonstrate the ability to work with a range of sources and to employ them to debate challenging questions and issues

Indicative reading list

- Mark Adams (ed.), *The Wellborn Science: Eugenics in Germany, France, Brazil and Russia* (1990).
- David Armstrong, *The Political Anatomy of the Body: Medical Knowledge in Britain in the Twentieth Century* (1993).
- David Arnold, *Colonizing the Body: State Medicine and Epidemic Disease in Nineteenth-Century India* (1993).
- Alison Bashford and Philippa Levine (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Eugenics* (2012).
- Roger Cooter and John Pickstone (eds), *Medicine in the Twentieth Century* (2000).
- Barbara Duden, *The Woman Beneath the Skin: A Doctor's Patients in Eighteenth-Century Germany* (1991).
- Mary Fissell, *Patients and the Poor in Eighteenth-Century Bristol* (1991).
- Michel Foucault, *The Birth of the Clinic* (1973).

- D.M. Fox and C. Lawrence, Photographing Medicine (1988).
- Marijke Gijswijt-Hofstra and Roy Porter (eds.), Cultures of Psychiatry and Mental Health Care in Post-war Britain and the Netherlands (1998).
- Chris Hamlin, Public Health and Social Justice in the Age of Chadwick: Britain, 1800-1854 (1998).
- Frank Huisman and John Harley Warner (eds), Locating Medical History: The Stories and Their Meanings (2004).
- Mark Jackson (ed.), Oxford Handbook to the History of Medicine (2011).
- Joan Lane, The Making of the English Patient (2000).
- Anne McClintock, Imperial Leather: Race, Gender and Sexuality in the Colonial Context (1995).
- Hilary Marland, Medicine and Society in Wakefield and Huddersfield, 1780-1870 (1987).
- Margaret Pelling, The Common Lot: Sickness, Medical Occupations and the Urban Poor in Early Modern England (1998).
- Dorothy Porter, Health, Civilization and State (London, 1999).
- Roy Porter (ed.), Patients and Practitioners (1985).
- Roy Porter, Bodies Politic: Disease, Death and the Doctors in Britain, 1650-1900 (2001).
- D.J. Rothman et al. (eds), Medicine and Western Civilisation (1995).
- Andrew Wear (ed.), Medicine in Society: Historical Essays (1992).
- Adrian Wilson, The Making of Man-Midwifery: Childbirth in England, 1660-1770 (1995).

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

Subject specific skills

See learning outcomes.

Transferable skills

See learning outcomes.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	9 sessions of 2 hours (6%)
Private study	282 hours (94%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

PG taught History modules require students to undertake extensive independent research and

reading to prepare for seminars and assessments. As a rough guide, students will be expected to read and prepare to comment on four substantial texts (articles or book chapters) for each seminar taking approximately 4 hours. Each assessment requires independent research, reading around 10-15 texts and writing and presenting the outcomes of this preparation in an essay, review, presentation or other related task.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
6000 word essay	100%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Written comments and face to face feedback

Availability

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 1 of THIA-V3P7 Postgraduate Taught History of Medicine