

HI176-30 Mind, Body, and Society: The History of Medicine and Health

26/27

Department

History

Level

Undergraduate Level 1

Module leader

Elise Smith

Credit value

30

Module duration

22 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module examines how the body and mind have been conceptualised across time and place-- from changing medical constructs of health and disease, to the moral judgements placed upon 'abnormal' bodies and behaviours. Amongst other topics, we will consider the ethics of graverobbing and the international organ trade, the dark history of eugenics and scientific racism, and the roots of current debates over socialised medicine and vaccination.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

This 30 CATS team-taught first-year option will introduce students to concepts in the history of the body and mind, and how they have been framed across place and time. We will cover a wide thematic range -- from changing medical constructs of health and disease, to the moral judgements placed upon unruly bodies and behaviours. Far from remaining static over time, the constitution of 'normal' and 'abnormal' minds and bodies will be shown to have changed dramatically from the early modern period to the present day. Geographically, this module will provide global perspectives on a range of topics, with case studies focused on Europe, North

America, Russia, and beyond. Lectures will be delivered by the academic staff of the History Department's Centre for the History of Medicine.

Lectures in term one will introduce basic concepts, sources and historiographic trends, as well as some key ideas, events, practices and participants that have shaped attitudes towards physical and mental properties. Lectures in term two will explore relevant themes from a range of different historical and historiographical perspectives. Topics in term three will tackle contemporary ethical concerns and debates, drawing on historical and interdisciplinary perspectives. Workshops at the end of terms one and two will equip students to start doing their own primary-source research and how to construct effective historical arguments.

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.

Term 1

Week 1: The Early Modern Body

Week 2: Early Modern Drug Testing

Week 3: Anatomy

Week 4: Measurement and Classification

Week 5: Psychology and Empire

Reading week

Week 7: Military Medicine

Week 8: The Rise of Science

Week 9: Eugenics

Week 10: Research Workshop

Term 2

Week 1: Diseases

Week 2: Socialist Medicine

Week 3: Medicalisation and Morality

Week 4: Disability and the Challenge to Medicine

Week 5: Post-war Mental Health

Reading week

Week 7: The Global Trade in Health and Disease

Week 8: State Medicine and the NHS

Week 9: Historiography

Week 10: Writing Workshop

Term 3

Week 1: Public Health: An Introduction

Week 2: Public Health: Liberty Vs Compulsion

Learning outcomes

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

- Gain a broad understanding of key concepts relating to the history of medicine, health, and societal conceptions of the mind and body.
- Identify important historiographical debates in the field.
- Identify and engage with a range of relevant primary materials and online resources.
- Gain interpersonal and communication skills through the delivery of a presentation.
- Devise well-defined essay topics, collect relevant data from a variety of sources and present results in an effective fashion.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

Subject specific skills

See learning outcomes.

Transferable skills

See learning outcomes.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	20 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Seminars	20 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Tutorials	2 sessions of 1 hour (1%)
Private study	258 hours (86%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

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 three substantial texts (articles or book chapters) for each seminar taking approximately 3 hours. Each assessment requires independent research, reading around 6-10 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 do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A6

Assessment component	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
1000-word piece of introductory writing (essay plan or assignment of tutor's choice)	10%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Seminar participation/presentation	10%		No
Reassessment component			
1000 word reflective essay in lieu of Seminar Contribution			Yes (extension)
Assessment component			
2000 word essay or equivalent	30%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
3000-word essay or equivalent	50%		Yes (extension)

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Written comments and oral feedback will be provided for non-assessed assignments.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 1 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 1 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- Year 1 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 1 of UHIA-Q302 Undergraduate History (Part-Time)
- Year 1 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 1 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 1 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy

This module is Option list G for:

- Year 1 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics