

**Introduction to Health Sciences**

Code: 102952  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2502442 Medicine	FB	1	1

**Contact**

Name: Jorge Molero Mesa  
Email: Jorge.Molero@uab.cat

**Use of Languages**

Principal working language: spanish (spa)  
Some groups entirely in English: No  
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes  
Some groups entirely in Spanish: Yes

**Teachers**

José Sánchez Aldeguer  
Monica Alcalá Lorente  
Sara Lugo Márquez  
Jaume Sastre Juan  
Eva de Cardona Recasens  
Carlos Alberto Acosta Rizo

**Prerequisites**

None

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

The main objective of the subject is to introduce the first year students to the knowledge and use of the basic tools of knowledge and medical practice, in order to facilitate subsequent learning and socialization in the professional field. It is, therefore, a propaedeutic subject that helps students acquire skills and abilities that will be useful in achieving the specific learning outcomes of the other subjects of the medical degree.

In the first thematic block the student must know the basic structure of the current medical vocabulary and the problems of oral and written communication in the field of medical sciences and must acquire the ability to understand the dynamics of information in medicine, the most important types of documents and the way of selectively retrieve certain information. This block is complemented by two practical sessions where students must complete the skills and abilities included in this section.

In the following blocks, the students will examine several basic problems of the health sciences from a historical perspective. In this sense, and in the face of the dispersion of specialized contents that students will find during their career, this part of the subject offers an integrated vision of medicine in which human beings are considered as a multidimensional entity where the interrelation of factors of all kinds (biological,

psychological and social) condition and modify both the states of health and illness and their manifestations. These factors will be studied historically and from different perspectives (social class, gender, race), in order to determine their influence on the states of health and disease of the populations throughout history.

In the theoretical classes as well as in the practices and seminars, the student will have to carry out a series of activities that will familiarize him/her with the use of the various conceptual, methodological and instrumental tools necessary to develop an autonomous vision, and at the same time critical and rigorous, of the role of medicine in the system of health and social assistance.

Due to its characteristics, this subject is programmed in the first semester of the first year and its objectives and contents are complemented with those of the "Clinical Care Practice I" and "Integrated Learning in Medicine I" subjects, especially, Module 1 of the latter ("Introduction to Research").

## Competences

- Communicate clearly, orally and in writing, with other professionals and the media.
- Critically assess and use clinical and biomedical information sources to obtain, organise, interpret and present information on science and health.
- Demonstrate basic research skills.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical principles underlying health, illness and the medical profession.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the national and international health organisations and the factors and circumstances affecting other healthcare systems.
- Demonstrate understanding of the importance and the limitations of scientific thought to the study, prevention and management of diseases.
- Demonstrate, in professional activity, a perspective that is critical, creative and research-oriented.
- Formulate hypotheses and compile and critically assess information for problem-solving, using the scientific method.
- Maintain and sharpen one's professional competence, in particular by independently learning new material and techniques and by focusing on quality.
- Organise and plan time and workload in professional activity.
- Recognise the basic elements of the medical profession as the result of an evolving, scientific, social and cultural process, including ethical principles, legal responsibilities and patient-oriented professional practice.
- Use information and communication technologies in professional practice.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Communicate clearly, orally and in writing, with other professionals and the media.
2. Define the factors determining healthcare transition in today's world.
3. Demonstrate a diachronic vision of healthcare institutions and the healthcare strategies implemented.
4. Demonstrate basic research skills.
5. Demonstrate, in professional activity, a perspective that is critical, creative and research-oriented.
6. Describe the dynamics of information in the health sciences through information retrieval systems.
7. Describe the historical background of the healthcare professions from the perspective of medical pluralism.
8. Describe the historical factors determining the process of globalisation of health problems and international strategies on health.
9. Detail the historical factors determining the shape of the various national health systems.
10. Evaluate the consequences for patients of the diversity in healthcare practice and professions.
11. Explain the principles of telemedicine.
12. Explain the role of the healthcare professional as a critical and empathetic agent of social change, working for the health of the community.
13. Formulate hypotheses and compile and critically assess information for problem-solving, using the scientific method.
14. Identify changes and continuities in the forms and contents of the medicalisation process.

15. Identify the origins and the institutionalisation of scientific activity, and the epistemological bases of scientific thought in the health sciences.
16. Identify the processes of professionalisation in the field of the health sciences and the tendency towards specialisation.
17. Identify the various medical systems, including alternative medicine, and identify their founding principles.
18. Maintain and sharpen one's professional competence, in particular by independently learning new material and techniques and by focusing on quality.
19. Make correct use of databases and works of reference (bibliographies, encyclopedias, and dictionaries) in the health sciences.
20. Organise and plan time and workload in professional activity.
21. Recognise and distinguish the different medical traditions that make up the current health panorama.
22. Recognise health and illness as socially determined constructions that change over time.
23. Recognise the scope and the limitations of scientific thought in the health sciences.
24. Understand medical science as knowledge in construction, subject to constant change, posing new challenges and opportunities.
25. Use information and communication technologies in professional practice.

## **Content**

Origins, transmission and evolution of medical language. Information systems in health sciences. Historic bases of the scientific method in the field of health. The origins of the disease. Medical systems. History of medical knowledge and healthcare practices. Concepts of health and illness. The social history of diseases. The models of medical assistance. From individual hygiene to social medicine. The emergence of modern hospital and primary health care. The teaching of health sciences. The health professions.

### DISTRIBUTION BLOCKS

- A. LANGUAGE, DOCUMENTATION AND METHOD OF MEDICINE
- B. ILLNESS, CULTURE AND POPULATION
- C. THE MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE AND ITS APPLICATION TO THE WESTERN
- D. THE DISEASE AND THE PROCESS OF MEDICALIZATION
- E. ANALYSIS OF MEDICAL TERMS
- F. ACCESS TO MEDICAL DOCUMENTS
- G. MATERIAL CULTURE OF MEDICINE
- H. HISTORY, GENDER AND MEDICINE

## **Methodology**

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

I. Directed activity:  
THEORY  
Lectures (60 min)

- A. LANGUAGE, DOCUMENTATION AND METHOD OF MEDICINE.
  1. Information in the medical sciences
  2. The medical language and the structure of the medical terms
  3. Neologisms and obstacles to communication in medicine
  4. Medical documents: structure, function and location
  5. The systems of retrieval of the bibliographic information

6. The medical history
7. The cycle of research in medical sciences
8. Observation and experimentation in medicine
9. Strategies for obtaining data
10. The medical act and the clinical reasoning: the diagnostic hypothesis and the prognostic judgment

#### B. ILLNESS, CULTURE AND POPULATION

11. The disease as a historical, biological, social and cultural phenomenon
12. The first vestiges of the disease. Paleopathology
13. The historical demography and the structure of the populations
14. Illness, population and society. The historical epidemiology
15. The society against the disease. Medical systems
16. The disease to archaic cultures
17. The disease in classical cultures

#### C. THE MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE AND ITS APPLICATION TO THE WESTERN

18. Diffusion and validity of Greek classical medicine
19. The Galenic traditional medicine
20. The origins of modern scientific medicine
21. The modern medicine of the 17th and 18th centuries
22. The experimental medicine
23. The historical configuration of the hospital
24. The teaching of medicine
25. The healthcare professional figure

#### D. THE DISEASE AND THE PROCESS OF MEDICALIZATION

26. From personal hygiene to public hygiene
27. Plague and miasmatic theory
28. Cholera and Industrial Revolution
29. Positivism and sanitarianism in the prevention of the disease
30. Tuberculosis and the social question
31. Eugenics: agreements and divergences about "good birth" and "good living"
32. Sanitary internationalism and colonial difference
33. Gender relations in the health sciences
34. Collectivization of medical care
35. From charity to social security

#### LABORATORY PRACTICES

Practical class in specialized space - Computer room (180 min)

36. Analysis of medical terms (E)
37. Access to medical documents (F)

#### SPECIALIZED SEMINARS

Seminar in specialized space (60 min)

- 38, 39, 40. Material culture of Medicine (G)
- 41, 42, 43. History, gender and medicine (H)

#### II. Autonomous activities:

Comprehensive reading of articles and reports of interest (50 hours)

Personal study (12 hours)

Preparation and presentation of work (20 hours)

#### III. Supervised activities:

Presentation / Oral presentation of works (8 hours)

#### IV. Deliveries:

Copy of the work done at the seminars

Place: Secretary's Office of History of Medicine

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
LABORATORY PRACTICES	6	0.24	1, 6, 18, 19, 25
SPECIALIZED SEMINARS	11.5	0.46	1, 2, 4, 3, 5, 24, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 21, 23, 25
THEORY	35	1.4	2, 3, 8, 6, 9, 24, 14, 15, 16, 17, 22, 21, 23, 19
Type: Supervised			
ORAL PRESENTATION / EXPOSITION OF WRITTEN WORKS	8	0.32	2, 3, 8, 9, 24, 14, 15, 16, 17, 22, 21, 23
Type: Autonomous			
COMPREHENSIVE READING OF ARTICLES AND REPORTS OF INTEREST	50	2	25
PREPARATION OF WRITTEN WORKS	20	0.8	13, 25
SELF-STUDY	12	0.48	6, 19, 25

## Assessment

The system of evaluation of the acquisition of the competences for this matter is organized in three modules that correspond to thematic blocks and teaching typologies.

**Theory:** Assessments written through objective tests: Selection items: Elements of multiple choice (50%). The evaluation of the theoretical part of the subject is equivalent to 5 points (out of 10) of the overall grade of the course and will be carried out through a 35-question multiple choice exam, which will include the subject matter of the subject blocks A, B, C and D. The students must obtain at least 2.5 points to pass this section.

**Practices:** Assessments written through objective tests: Selection items: Items of multiple choice (20%). The evaluation of the practical part (blocks E and F) equals 2 points (out of 10) of the global mark of the subject. It will be carried out by means of a 15 multiple choice questions corresponding to practices 1 and 2. The students must obtain at least one point to pass this section.

**Seminars:** Evaluation through practical cases and resolution of problems and oral defence of works (30%). The evaluation of the seminars (blocks G and H) equals 3 points (out of 10) of the overall grade of the subject. It will be carried out through the participation in the seminar (ABP) and the realization and presentation of works. The student must obtain at least one and a half points to pass this section.

The final score will be the sum of the points obtained. In order for the assessment to be effective, the student must pass each one of the different tests separately.

The students who have not passed the subject will be able to present themselves to a recovery test.

To participate in the recovery students must have previously been evaluated of thematic blocks whose weight equals to a minimum of two thirds of the total grade of the subject.

In addition, to participate in the recovery students must have obtained at least 3.5 in the total grade of the subject.

Students who do not perform both theoretical and practical evaluation tests will be considered "Not evaluated", exhausting the registration rights of the subject.

## Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Practices: Written evaluations through objective tests: Selection items: Elements of multiple choice	20%	2	0.08	1, 6, 19, 25
Seminars: Evaluation through practical cases and resolution of problems and oral defence of works	30%	3.5	0.14	1, 2, 4, 3, 5, 8, 9, 24, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22, 21, 23, 25
Theory: Assessments written through objective tests: Items of selection: Multiple choice.	50%	2	0.08	2, 3, 8, 7, 6, 9, 24, 12, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 22, 21, 23, 19, 10

## Bibliography

### Specific bibliography

López Piñero JM. La medicina en la historia. Madrid: La Esfera de los Libros; 2002.

López Piñero JM, Terrada Ferrandis ML. Introducción a la medicina. Barcelona: Crítica; 2000.

Barona JL. Introducció a la medicina. València: Universitat de València; 1992.

### Reference bibliography

Ripoll Miralda, J. Grec mèdic: guia per identificar termes. Barcelona: Publicacions de l'Abadia de Montserrat; 2018.

Bernabeu Mestre J. El llenguatge de les ciències de la salut. Introducció a la formació de termes mèdics. València: Conselleria de Sanitat i Consum de la Generalitat Valenciana / Universitat d'Alacant; 1995.

Cueva Martín A de la, Aleixandre Benavent R, Rodríguez i Gairín J M. Fonts d'informació en ciències de la salut. Valencia: Universitat de València; 2001.

López Piñero JM, Terrada Ferrandis ML. Introducción a la terminología médica. 2ª ed. Barcelona: Masson; 2005.

Medicina Clínica. Manual de estilo. Publicaciones biomédicas. Barcelona: Doyma; 1993

Navarro Acebes X. Curs pràctic de terminologia mèdica. Bellaterra: Servei de Publicacions de la Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; 2000.

### Internet resources

ICJME. Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals - <http://www.icmje.org/recommendations>

Diccionari Enciclopèdic de Medicina - <http://www.grec.net/home/cel/mdicc.htm>

Diccionario médico-biológico, histórico y etimológico - <http://dicciomed.eusal.es/>