

**COURSE DATA****Data Subject**

<b>Code</b>	34509
<b>Name</b>	Health, illness and culture
<b>Cycle</b>	Grade
<b>ECTS Credits</b>	4.5
<b>Academic year</b>	2023 - 2024

**Study (s)**

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Center</b>	<b>Acad. year</b>	<b>Period</b>
1204 - Degree in Medicine	Faculty of Medicine and Odontology	2	Second term

**Subject-matter**

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Subject-matter</b>	<b>Character</b>
1204 - Degree in Medicine	18 - Optional subjects	Optional

**Coordination**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>
FRESQUET FEBRER, JOSE LUIS	225 - History of Science and Documentation

**SUMMARY**

This subject provides the student with a contextualized vision of the health and the disease that the medicine currently conceives not only as biological phenomena, but also socially and culturally determined. On the one hand, it is an approach for the student to the knowledge and medical practices of the non-scientific medicine in the global context. On the other, it searches the improvement of the relation between the doctor and the patient, and tries to teach the ideas and practices of the non-professional in the medicine providing perspectives of the patients and their environment. Thus, it tries to illustrate how some subjects of the modern scientific medicine are assimilated by the popular mindset. It is specially focused on the topic of the multiculturalism and its influence in the medical practice in our country. Furthermore, the subject wants to introduce students into the scientific research, teaching them to use the resources and the techniques of the social sciences that allow to properly approach the relation with the patients and their environment when their professional activity requires it.



## PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

### Relationship to other subjects of the same degree

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

### Other requirements

It is recommended to have done the subject University, health and society.

## OUTCOMES

### 1204 - Degree in Medicine

- Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have acquired the competences required for the preparation and defence of arguments and for problem solving in their field of study.
- Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.
- Recognise health determinants in population, such as genetic ones, dependent on sex, lifestyle, demographic, environmental, social, economic, psychological and cultural.
- Proper organisation and planning of the workload and timing in professional activities.
- Team-working skills and engaging with other people in the same line of work or different.
- Criticism and self-criticism skills.
- Capacity for communicating with professional circles from other domains.
- Acknowledge diversity and multiculturality.
- Consideration of ethics as a fundamental value in the professional practise.
- Working capacity to function in an international context.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Once the subject is finished, the student must be able to:

- Identify the support of the medicine in the social sciences, both within the basic and applied research, and especially in the assistance and prevention of diseases.
- Identify the cultural factors that determine the unequal distribution of health, disease and death in the different human societies and, in particular, our own society.
- Understand the patients from their cultural perspectives.



- Know, to analyze and to look for information about the phenomenon of complementary medicines.

## DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

### 0. Theory

#### 1. Human response to disease: medical systems

Society and culture. Ways of life and modes of production. Hunting and gathering. Horticulture. Pastoralism. Agriculture. Industrial societies. Post-industrial societies. Culture. What is it? Characteristics of culture. Elements of culture. Cultural change. Ethnocentrism. Cultural relativism and human rights. Concept of medical system. Magico-religious beliefs. Empiricism. Empirical-belief medical systems. Other ways of explaining reality free of magical-religious beliefs. Modern science. Other classifications of medical systems. The World Health Organization and the promotion of traditional medicines; the 2014-2023 program. Plurality and medical pluralism. Interaction of medical systems.

#### 2. Aboriginal and indigenous medical systems.

The concepts "aboriginal" and "indigenous". General characteristics of this type of societies. Their medicines. The interaction between scientific medicine and indigenous medical systems.

#### 3. Popular medicine or the conception of health and disease from the perspective of non-health professionals in our society.

The concept of popular. Popular medicine. Health beliefs. The popular vision of the forms and functions of the human body. Illness. Lifestyles and health behaviors. Socialization and life cycle.

#### 4. The popular view of disease.

Illness behavior. The role of the sick person. Parsons' model. The labeling theory (Freidson). Corbin and Strauss model Physician-patient communication. The search for information of patients, relatives and caregivers patients, relatives and caregivers about diseases. The contribution of new information and communication technologies to patients. Ideas and practices of medical people concerning diseases. Causes of disease coming from society in our culture. Supernatural causes of disease in our culture.

#### 5. Popular view of the treatment of diseases.

Treatment in modern scientific medicine and the patient's perspective. Treatment in the family environment: self-medication. Popular materia medica. Products foreign to one's own tradition. Recourse to magical and religious practices. The small family surgery. Medicines, the media and the population. Recourse to folk medicine practices. Recourse to modern scientific medicine. Behavior of the patient seeking help in medicine: variables (sex, ethnicity, socioeconomic level, health model of a country).



socioeconomic level, health model of a country).

## **6. Migration and medicine.**

Migration, globalization and health. Characteristics of immigration in Spain. Characteristics of the different groups of immigrants in Spain in relation to health and disease Communicating with the immigrant patient. Immigrant patient. Recommendations for health professionals regarding the immigrant population.

## **7. The phenomenon of unorthodox techniques in today's Western culture.**

Complementary medicine. An attempt at definition. Importance of the phenomenon of complementary medicine: economic expenditure, publications, users and legal aspects. The situation of complementary medicines in Europe. Why do users resort to complementary medicines? The practitioners and professionals of complementary medicines. An overview of the main complementary medicines for medical professionals: Acupuncture, Natural Medicines and Phytotherapy, Homeopathy, Chiropractic and Osteopathy. The future of complementary complementary medicines.

## **8. Methodology for the study of ideas, beliefs and practices about health, disease and its prevention.**

Raise the objectives. Collect existing information on the subject. Selecting the sample. Selection of research techniques. Field work. Data collection. Data analysis. Interpretation of the data. Conclusions.

## **12. SEMINARS**

Activity 1. Physician-patient communication according to societies and cultures.

Activity 2. Beliefs, ideas and eating habits of the population.

Activity 3. Rare diseases: patients and their families

Activity 4. The psychiatric patient

Activity 5. The patient as one of the protagonists of Medicine. The physician as a patient. The medical profession.

Seminar topics may vary depending on the availability of materials.

**WORKLOAD**

ACTIVITY	Hours	% To be attended
Seminars	22,00	100
Theory classes	19,00	100
Tutorials	4,00	100
Development of group work	20,00	0
Development of individual work	8,00	0
Study and independent work	29,50	0
Readings supplementary material	2,00	0
Preparation of evaluation activities	6,00	0
Resolution of online questionnaires	2,00	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>112,50</b>	

**TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

Combine theoretical classes, practical classes and seminars with regulated tutorials as follows:

A) Theoretical classes: the teacher will present the most important concepts and contents in a structured way through master classes to obtain the knowledge and skills that students must acquire. The participation of students in these classes will also be promoted by reviewing articles from the general or professional press that exemplify some aspect of the contents of the subject. All the materials will be available in the virtual classroom.

B) Seminars/Practical activities: attendance is mandatory. Practical cases will be presented exemplifying the different topics of the program. One of the issues that will be dealt with will be how to carry out a work on the ideas and practices related to health, disease, its treatment and prevention of citizens. Students will publicly present proposals for a possible work.

C) Regulated tutorials: they will consist of the personalized follow-up of the activities carried out by the students.

The gender perspective and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) will be incorporated into teaching, whenever possible.

**EVALUATION**

The final grade of the course will take into account:

- Final test: 60%
- Global report on activities: 40%



- To pass the subject, the student enrolled for the first time must attend at least to 80% of the practical activities.
- To pass the subject you must obtain a minimum of 5 points (3 of the theoretical part and 2 of the practical part) out of 10 which is the maximum.

#### Theoretical evaluation:

The final test is a test type with 20 multiple-choice questions. Answering wrong or incomplete answers do not subtract. When in a question all the options have not been answered correctly, it does not count as valid. Each correct question equals 0.30 points.

To pass this part the student must obtain at least 3 out of 6, which is the maximum (ten questions correctly answered)

#### Practical evaluation

Regarding the report of the activities carried out, the following aspects will be taken into account:

- a) Quality of the summary of each activity (25%)
- b) Its connection with the contents treated in the theoretical classes (25%)
- c) Its originality and the contribution of information obtained by the student himself (25%)
- d) Your presentation (25%)

The maximum rating in this section is 4 points. The student must obtain at least 2 points to pass the subject.

In order to access to an advance on the call of this subject, it is a requirement that the student has coursed all his/her practices.

Attendance to practical sessions is mandatory. Unjustified non-attendance to more than 20% of the sessions will make it impossible to pass the course.

Students are reminded of the importance of carrying out evaluation surveys on all the teaching staff of the degree subjects.

## REFERENCES

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