

History UG

Semester: 2				
Programme : History				
Course : History of Public Health in Modern India (MDS paper RGP Campus)				
Paper code: M1HS230221T			Credits: 3	
Hours/week : 3				
Category: Core/MDC/SEC/VAC: MDC				
Theory / Practical / Composite: Theory				
No of Modules : 2				
Course Overview: This course explores the evolution of medical practices and public health policies in India, primarily through the lens of the colonial encounter and post-colonial development. Students will analyze the "Colonization of the Body," investigating how the British Empire used sanitation and pathology to exert control, and how Indian society responded through its own medical traditions and personalities. Key highlights include the history of Psychiatry (highlighting Girindrasekhar Bose), the gendered shift from Zenana medicine to the rise of pioneering women doctors like Kadambini Ganguly, and the socio-economic impact of famines and epidemics. The course also tracks the industrial side of health, looking at the birth of indigenous pharmaceutical giants like Bengal Chemicals. By the end, students will understand public health not just as a set of policies, but as a dynamic field of social and political struggle.				
Course Outcome:				
1. Identify the key medical personalities (such as B.C. Roy and Kadambini Ganguly) and chronological milestones in the development of public health policy in India.				
2. Explain the fundamental concepts of public health and the differences between Western and indigenous Indian traditions of medicine.				
3. Relate the history of pathology and sanitation efforts in colonial India to the broader imperial objective of "sanitizing" and controlling Indian society.				
4. Examine the intersections of gender, poverty, and medicine, specifically how famines and reproductive health needs shaped public health outcomes.				
5. Assess the impact of colonial psychiatry and psychoanalysis on the Indian psyche, using the work of Girindrasekhar Bose as a primary case study.				
6. Construct a comprehensive analysis of the transition from colonial dependency to medical self-reliance by tracing the rise of the Indian pharmaceutical industry.				
Prerequisites: <i>Basic knowledge about any prior course</i>				
SYLLABUS				
UNIT/Module	CONTENT	HOURS or NUMBER OF CLASSES	CO Mapping	COGNITIVE LEVEL
I.	Unit 1 (5 lectures) • Key concepts in public health (2 lectures) • Brief introduction to Western and Indian traditions of medicine (3 lectures)	16	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	K1,K2,K3,K4.K5,K6

	Unit 2 (5 lectures) • History of Pathology in colonial India (2 lectures) • An Introduction to Psychiatry in colonial India , emphasizing the contributions of the first Indian Psychoanalyst, Girindrasekhar Bose (3 lectures)			
	Unit 3 (6 lectures) • Colonizing the body - Development of colonial public health policy (2 lectures) • Epidemics and Empire- Revisiting the diseases (2 lectures) • Sanitising Society – Decoding the history of sanitation in India (2 lectures)			
II.	Unit 1 (6 lectures) • Medical Personalities – Mahendralal Sarkar, Baman Das Mukhopadyay, Bidhan Chandra Roy, Subhash Mukhopadhyay, Haimabati Sen, Kadambini Ganguly (3lectures) • History of Dentistry in colonial Calcutta – From the Chinese Dentists to the establishment of Dr. R Ahmed Dental College and Hospital (3 lectures)	17	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	KI,K2,K3,K4.K5,K6
	Unit 2 (6 lectures) • Gender and Reproductive Health - from the <i>Zenana</i> to Indian women doctors and beyond. (3 lectures) • Poverty and public health – history of famines in India (3 lectures)			
	Unit 3 (5 lectures) • Public health policy in post-colonial India. (2 lectures)			

	History of medicine in colonial India – The Growth of the Pharmaceutical Companies with special emphasis on Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited and Dabur India Private Limited (3 lectures)			
Text Books				
1) David Arnold- Colonizing the Body - State Medicine and Epidemic Disease in Nineteenth-Century India 2) Kabita Ray - History of Public Health Colonial Bengal, 1921-1947 3) Mridula Ramanna - Health Care in Bombay Presidency, 1896-1930				
Suggested readings				
1) Rohan Deb Roy and Guy N.A. Attewell (eds)-Locating the Medical Explorations in South Asian History 2) Poonam Bala and Russel Viljoen (eds) – Epidemic Encounters, Communities, and Practices in the Colonial World				
Web Resources				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
Evaluation : Theory CIA: 13 + Attendance: 2 = 15 Semester Exam: 35				
Paper Structure for Theory Semester Exam Total marks-35 Group-A+B=17.5+17.5 Each Group- 2×5=10 1×7.5=7.5				

Course outcomes (COs) and Cognitive Level Mapping

COs	CO Description	Cognitive levels
CO1	Identify the key medical personalities (such as B.C. Roy and Kadambini Ganguly) and chronological milestones in the development of public health policy in India.	K1
CO2	Explain the fundamental concepts of public health and the differences between Western and indigenous Indian traditions of medicine.	K2

CO3	Relate the history of pathology and sanitation efforts in colonial India to the broader imperial objective of "sanitizing" and controlling Indian society.	K3
CO4	Examine the intersections of gender, poverty, and medicine, specifically how famines and reproductive health needs shaped public health outcomes.	K4
CO5	Assess the impact of colonial psychiatry and psychoanalysis on the Indian psyche, using the work of Girindrasekhar Bose as a primary case study.	K5
CO6	Construct a comprehensive analysis of the transition from colonial dependency to medical self-reliance by tracing the rise of the Indian pharmaceutical industry.	K6