

Module Specification (Distance Learning)

In collaboration with the University of London International Programmes



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| 1. Title: | History and Health |
| 2. Module code: | PHM215 |
| 3. Institution: | Faculty of Public Health and Policy London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Keppel Street London WC1E 7HT http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/php/ |
| 4. Module Organiser: | Martin Gorsky |
| 5. Mode of study: | Distance learning |
| 6. Type: | Elective module |
| 7. Duration and dates: | <p>Deadlines if taken as part of a formal award:</p> <p>Application deadline: 30 June each year Registration deadline: 31 August each year Course registration duration: Up to 5 years Course starts: 1 October each year Examination takes place: Usually June each year (date to be confirmed)</p> <p>Deadlines if taken as an individual module (i.e. not registered for formal award):</p> <p>Application deadline: 31 August each year Registration deadline: 30 November each year Registration duration: 2 years Module study starts: 1 October each year Examination takes place: Usually June each year (date to be confirmed)</p> |
| 8. Credit points: | 15 credit points will be awarded on successful completion of this module at Masters level (Level 7). |
| 9. Notional Learning Hours (NLH): | On average the module should take about 150 hours to complete, consisting of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main reading and web-based conference participation: 80 hours • Additional reading materials and exercises: 40 hours Assignments and exam preparation: 30 hours |
| 10. Aim: | The aim of this module is to enable students to employ historical perspectives in the critical evaluation of issues in public health and health services. |
| 11. Learning objectives: | On completing this module students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate developments in public health and health services within historical context, in both the advanced industrial economies and the global South. • Recognize the nature of historical debate and the contested status of historical claims. • Analyse original documents so as to be able to assess a significant historical question. • Evaluate the historical dimensions of ongoing public health issues. |
| 12. Content: | The module begins with an introduction to the discipline of history, which traces its development, outlines some leading approaches and discusses its sources and methods. The subject of the module is the history of public health, broadly defined to encompass environmental interventions, health systems and curative services. These themes are traced over the period of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with the progression of the module |

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| | <p>reflecting the changing conceptualisation of public health through time, both with respect to how it was defined and its range of activities. The geographical focus is both on Western countries in which industrialisation was first to occur, and on the global South, much of which was subject to colonial dominance until the mid-twentieth century. Some sections, such as those on health professions and twentieth century public health make particular use of the UK as their case study. Throughout the module exercises aim to develop the student's ability to assess evidence and produce historical analysis, and ultimately to consider policy implications which arise from this.</p> <p>The first section of the module deals with developments in the nineteenth century, when public health emerged as a body of law and practice to address health risks associated with rapid industrialisation and urbanisation. Environmental and sanitary reforms and the formation of the modern medical profession are discussed, against the context of the period in which germ theory was articulated and only gradually accepted. Next tropical medicine is introduced, investigating the importance of colonial economic interests and imperial attitudes to the early struggle against vector-borne diseases. The central section of the module provides detailed case studies. These include both diseases, such as malaria and sexually transmitted infections, and activities, like the consumption of tobacco, alcohol and drugs, which have come to be seen within a public health framework</p> <p>The final part of the module covers the twentieth century, first bringing into view the emergence of health systems within Western welfare states. Changes to public health as discipline and practice are then discussed: first its transition from environmentalism to education and personal hygiene, and then its emphasis since 1945 on evidence-based medicine and on strategies towards diseases associated with individual behaviour and lifestyle. Next, international public health in the global South during and after decolonization is covered, examining approaches to disease control and famine, and the activities of non-governmental and supranational organisations. The module ends with an exploration of the uses of history in present-day policy and practice.</p> |
| 13. Learning methods: | <p>The main textbook of the module is <i>Public Health in History</i> by Virginia Berridge, Martin Gorsky and Alex Mold.</p> <p>Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives that are identified at the start of each chapter of the module textbook, which also offers focused reading and various learning activities.</p> <p>Additional learning materials include: a brief guide to the study module, recommended readings from the peer-reviewed literature, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and suggested relevant websites.</p> <p>Student support is available from the module tutors through the web-based discussion forum. Module tutors provide written feedback for all students on the web-based discussion forum and offer individual feedback on an assessed assignment submitted by the student.</p> |
| 14. Assessment procedures: | <p>Students will be assessed by one or more assignments which count 30% towards the overall grade for the module and by a two-hour unseen written examination, which will contribute 70% of the total grade for the module.</p> <p>Examinations are normally held in a student's country of residence, in one of over 650 examination centres worldwide. They are arranged mainly through Ministries of Education or the British Council. A local fee will be payable. A list of examination centres can be found at http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/current_students/general_resources/exams/exam_centres/index.shtml.</p> |

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| | If students fail an examination at the first entry they will be allowed one further attempt, the following year. |
| 15. Prerequisites: | <p>This module is recommended for students with an interest in past trajectories of public health and health services, and in applying knowledge and understanding of the past to present-day issues. It is useful but certainly not essential for students to have had some background in social science disciplines.</p> <p>Those wishing to study this module should have regular access to the internet to benefit from library facilities, participate in web-based discussions and submit assignments.</p> <p>Students must meet the standard of English required to study this course. See http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/prospectus/english.html.</p> <p>This module is recommended for students studying the Environment and Health, Health Promotion and General streams of the Public Health MSc.</p> |
| 16. Attendance: | No maximum number |
| 17. Selection, if applicable: | This module is available only to those registered for the MSc Public Health, Clinical Trials and Global Health Policy courses; alternatively, it can also be taken as an individual module. It can also be taken by those studying for the PG Diploma Public Health, Clinical Trials and Global Health Policy courses under the credit framework scheme. |
| 18. Fees: | For current schedule of fees see http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/fees/schedules/lshhtm.pdf . |
| 19. Scholarships: | None available |
| 20. External accreditation: | None |
| 21. Application process: | Applications are managed by the University of London International Programmes (website: http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/). |
| 22. Further enquiries: | Enquiries may be emailed to distance@lshtm.ac.uk . |