MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year	2026-27
Module Code	PHM215
Module Title	History and Health
Module Organiser(s)	Martin Gorsky
Contact email	For students studying University of London awards (initial registration 2025/2026 and prior years): Enquiries may be made via their Student Advice Centre at: Student Advice Centre. For students studying LSHTM awards (registration in 2026/2027 and onwards): Enquiries should be emailed to: PHsupport@lshtm.ac.uk
Faculty	Public Health & Policy
FHEQ Level	Level 7
Credit Value	**CATS:** 15 **ECTS:** 7.5
Mode of Delivery	Distance Learning
Mode of Study	Directed self-study, through online materials (Virtual Learning Environment)
Language of Study	English
Pre-Requisites	It is useful but certainly not essential for students to have had some background in social science disciplines.
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None
Module Cap (Maximum number of students)	None
Target Audience	This module is recommended for students with an interest in applying knowledge and understanding of the past to present-day issues in public health and health services. It is useful but not essential for students to have had some background in social science disciplines. This module is available to students registered for the DL MSc and PGDip in Public Health. For students who first registered for the MSc Public Health (UoL) prior to 2026/27 the module is recommended for those studying the General stream,

	Environment and Health and Health Promotion streams. The module is also open to students on the DL PGDip/MSc Clinical Trials, Epidemiology and Global Health Policy programmes. Alternatively, it can also be taken as an individual module.
Module Description	This module provides students with an overview of historical issues relating to public health issues and services.
Duration	Studies for distance learning modules begin in early October. At this time, module materials will be made available on Moodle once fees have been paid. Students may start their studies at any time from the beginning of October and work through the material until the start of the June assessments. However, students are encouraged to commence their studies in October and work steadily through the materials over the course of the academic year and must adhere to the assessment submission deadline.
Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	May 2026

For students studying UoL awards (initial registration in 2025/2026 and prior years)

Programme(s) This module is linked to the following programme(s)	**Status**
MSc Public Health (General stream) (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Recommended Elective
MSc Public Health: Environment and Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Recommended Elective
MSc Public Health: Health Promotion (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Recommended Elective
MSc Public Health: Health Services Management (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
MSc Public Health: Health Economics (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
PGDip Public Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
PGDip/MSc Global Health Policy (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective

For students studying LSHTM awards (registration in 2026/2027 and onwards)

Programme(s) This module is linked to the following programme(s)	**Status**
PGDip Public Health	Elective
MSc Public Health	Elective
PGDip Global Health Policy (Distance Learning)	Elective
MSc Global Health Policy (Distance Learning)	Elective

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module
The overall module aim is to: • Enable students to employ historical perspectives in the fields of public health and health services.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the module a student should be able to: 1. Evaluate the historical dimensions of ongoing public health issues; 2. Demonstrate understanding of the historical context of public health and health services, in both the advanced industrial economies and the global South; 3. Recognise and assess the nature of historical debate and the contested status of historical claims; and 4. Analyse original documents so as to be able to assess a significant historical question.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content
The module is expected to cover the following topics: • Public health in the industrialising West in the 19th century, with a particular focus on urban environment and sanitation, on sexual health, and on the development of public health law; • The beginnings of tropical medicine in the context of empire, including the new science of malaria and approaches to its control; • The emergence of the medical profession, and the making of 20th century health systems within Western welfare states; • The coming of international health concerns in the post-colonial era, and the transition to global health, viewed through a study of international health organisations, eradication programmes and the primary health care movement; • Public health in the 20th century world, including the new public health focus of health promotion and chronic diseases, with a focus on themes of sexual health and substance use.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	**Number of Hours**	**Expressed as Percentage (%)**
Directed self-study	110	73.3
Self-directed learning	0	0
Assessment, review and revision	40	26.6
Total	**150**	**100**

Teaching and Learning Strategy
Learning is via directed self-study. A guide to studying the module is provided, together with access to a range of study resources, discussion forums and online webinar discussion sessions. The textbook that supports this module provides a detailed set of learning objectives at the start of each chapter, and also offers focused reading and various learning activities. Students are expected to complete three reflective blogs as they work through the textbook and to engage in the discussions these generate. All students can use online discussion forums to obtain tutor support, and can make use of the LSHTM on-line library resources. Written feedback is provided on the submitted assignment. There will be a number of online webinar s, including an introduction to the module and a discussion of the assignment with opportunities for questions and answers about the essay. Several online lectures covering the module content are also available on the Moodle page as optional extras for students who may find them useful.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy
This module is assessed via an assessed assignment (100%) to be submitted no later than May 31st. The 100% summative assignment for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than **31 May** (including resits) and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.

Summative assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Assessed Assignment	3000 or 3300 words depending on referencing system used. Note: details about what to include in the word count and the referencing style to be used are provided in the Assignment Instructions. Students should follow these instructions carefully.	100	All

Resitting assessment
Resits will accord with Chapter 8b of the LSHTM Academic Manual. The Resit assessment will be the same assessment type as the first attempt (see previous table).

Resources

The following materials are provided to students after registration for this module once a year in October:

- A brief guide to studying the module;
- The textbook *Public Health in History* by Virginia Berridge, Martin Gorsky and Alex Mold;
- A reading list including details of both required and optional reading and links to selected papers;
- A list of useful websites;
- Access to the LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) - Moodle, where students can access a range of materials, including the materials listed above; participate in module-specific discussion forums and online webinar discussion sessions and access the LSHTM online library resources.

All materials are provided in e-format and may be accessed via the LSHTM VLE – Moodle.

Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

The module-specific site on Moodle provides students with access to the majority of the module learning materials, including a study guide and online reading list (detailing both essential and recommended readings), and additional resources including supplementary exercises, the option to listen to recordings of selected lectures taking place in London. In this module, materials provided include a textbook that is made available to students in e-format. All materials posted up on Moodle areas, including computer-based sessions, have been made accessible where possible. The LSHTM Moodle has been made accessible to the widest possible audience, using a VLE that allows for up to 300% zoom, permits navigation via keyboard and use of speech recognition software, and that allows listening through a screen reader. All students have access to "SensusAccess" software which allows conversion of files into alternative formats.

For students studying University of London awards (initial registration 2025/2026 and prior years: For students with special needs, reasonable adjustments and support can be arranged – details and how to request support can be found on the University of London Worldwide website at: Inclusive practice and Access arrangements | University of London

For students studying LSHTM awards (registration 2026/2027 and onwards):
For students who require learning or assessment adjustments and support this can be arranged through the Student Support Services – details and how to request support can be found on the LSHTM Disability Support pages.