

ILHS31, History of Ideas: The History and Culture of Medicine, 7.5 credits

Idé och lärdomshistoria: Medicinens historia och kultur, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2025-12-10 (U 2025/956). The syllabus comes into effect 2026-01-01 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

The course is part of the Master's Programme in History and is an elective course within the programme's History och Ideas specialisation. The course can also be offered as a freestanding course and can be included in a first or second-cycle degree.

Language of instruction: Swedish

<i>Main field of study</i>	<i>Specialisation</i>
History of Ideas and Sciences	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- describe central issues within the research field of medical history
- describe and reflect on theories and methods within the research field of medical history.

Competence and skills

- critically reflect on issues in the history of medicine from a historical and cultural context

- independently search for and critically evaluate different types of source material and literature within the research field of medical history
- carry out an in-depth analysis of medical historical phenomena from different theoretical perspectives

Judgement and approach

- evaluate and problematise the societal role and significance of medicine from a historical perspective
- contribute to a constructive critical discussion of the ethical aspects of medicine in relation to the historical context

Course content

The course covers the period from antiquity to the present and provides in-depth knowledge of the historical development of medicine with a particular focus on medicine's relationship to social, political, philosophical, existential and religious issues. The course addresses, among other things, the development of medical theories and practices, historical concepts of illness and health, the institutionalization of healthcare and historical aspects of ethical issues in the field of medicine. The course also provides in-depth insights into current theories and methods within research on the history of medicine.

Course design

The teaching consists of 5–7 mandatory seminars. In addition, students will continuously work on an independently chosen task.

If a student is absent from a compulsory teaching session for a valid reason, a written supplementary assignment according to the instructions of the teaching practitioner is required. A supplementary assignment is allowed as an exception; if a student misses more than three teaching sessions, these sessions can be repeated the next time the course is offered.

Assessment

Assessment is based on a written assignment and an oral assignment.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

For the grade Pass, a pass is required on both the written and oral assignments. For the grade Pass with Distinction, a pass with distinction is required on the written assignment and at least a pass on the oral assignment.

Entry requirements

Admission to the course requires a bachelor course in history or the history of ideas and science, or another subject with a historical focus, or equivalent knowledge.

Further information

- The course is offered at the Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences, Lund University.
- The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree.
- For further details, see the current registration and information material.