

## GENERIC ELECTIVE (GE): History of Health and Medicine in India

### Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/Practice		
History of Health and Medicine in India	4	3	1	0		

### Learning Objectives

The objective of the course is to provoke the learners about emerging areas of historical understanding. Tracing the history of health and medicine from ancient to the contemporary times, the course will enrich learners about the cultural and social sensibilities to explore changing human experiences across time and space. It will help students to analyse the diverse facets of health, healing systems and medicine. Beginning with historiography, this course will explore unique set of themes capturing the diverse population globally. The course intends to trace the development of knowledge about physical and psychological illness, diseases, diagnosis, cure and treatment of illness from the early period to modern times. Further, this paper will discuss about medical pluralism and institutionalization of health care system during colonial times such as hospitals, dispensaries, pharmacy, sanatoriums, lock hospitals and so on. The course will equip the students with adequate expertise to analyze the historical developments in this area taking place during the swadeshi and Indian national movement. They will be familiarized with the new challenges and issue of holistic wellbeing in the contemporary times.

### Learning outcomes

After completing this course, the students will be able to:

- Develop critical thinking towards understanding health and medicine.
- Discuss the new area of historical understanding and grasp significant aspects related to medicine, health and illness in historical perspective.
- Trace the processes of institutionalization of health.
- Describe the developments during the national movement.
- Through class discussions, students would also get equipped to conduct further research in the emerging area of history of health and medicine.

### Syllabus

**Unit 1: Health and Healing practices in Ancient and Medieval Times (Teaching time: 4 weeks)**

**Unit 2: Institutionalization & Professionalization of health system during Colonial times (Teaching time: 4 weeks)**

- Quackery versus Degree: Honouring Designations and Professional titles

- Hospital, Public Health and Sanitary measures
- New Legal framework, New Medical Technology & Standardization of medicine

**Unit 3: Medicine and Nationalist Rhetoric and new challenges in the 20<sup>th</sup> century India**  
**(Teaching time: 4 weeks)**

- Medicine and Nationalism
- Policy making & Emergence of holistic wellbeing: State intervention and WHO

**Unit 4: Exploring Health and Healing practices in Popular Culture: Literature Art and Cinema**  
**(Teaching time: 4 weeks)**

**Practical component (if any) – NIL**

**Essential/recommended readings**

**Unit 1: Unit 1: Health and Healing practices in Ancient and Medieval Times (Teaching Time: 4 weeks approx.)**

This unit will analyse the debates and discourses related to health, healing practices and medicine. Students will delve into the diverse healing systems and practices in India. They will explore the emergence of a syncretic culture of health, healing practices and healers.

- Olivelle, P. (2017). The medical profession in ancient India: Its social, religious, and legal status. *eJournal of Indian Medicine*, 9(1), 1-21.
- Saini, A. (2016). Physicians of ancient India. *Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care*, 5(2), 254-258.
- Reddy, D. S. (1969). The Origins and Growth of Indigenous Unani Medical Literature in Medieval India. *Journal of Indian Medical Heritage*, 14(1), 20-25.
- Pernau, M. (2012). The Indian body and unani medicine: Body history as entangled history. In *Images of the Body in India* (pp. 97-108). Routledge India.
- Arnold, David, Colonizing the Body: State Medicine and Epidemic Disease in Nineteenth-Century India, California: University of California Press, 1993. **(Introduction)**.
- Kumar, Anil, Medicine and the Raj: British Medical Policy, 1835-1911, New Delhi: Sage, 1998. **(Introduction)**
- Leslie, C. “The Ambiguities of Medical Revivalism in Modern India” in Leslie, C. (ed.), *Asian Medical Systems: a Comparative Study*, California, University of California Press, 1977.
- Sharma, Madhuri, Indigenous and Western Medicine in Colonial India, Foundation Books: CUP, 2011. **(Introduction)**
- Majumdar, R.C. (1971). ‘Ayurveda: Origins and Antiquity’, in D.M. Bose, *Concise History of Science in India*, New Delhi: Indian National Science Academy, pp. 213-216; ‘Ayurveda and its Classical Division’, pp. 227-234; ‘Ayurveda in the Middle Ages’, pp. 262-265.

**Unit 2: Institutionalization & Professionalization of health system during Colonial times**  
**(Teaching Time: 4 weeks approx.)**

In this unit student will study the growth and development of modern medical institutions such as hospitals and sanatoriums. This unit will focus on the emergence of professionalization of medicine, development of entrepreneurship in medicine. Ayurveda/Unani/Homeopathy/Allopathy. Contestation between *Vaidyas*, *Hakims* and Doctors.

- Keswani, N. H. (1968). *Medical education in India since ancient times*. All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

- Sahay, S. (2023). Traditional Knowledge of Medicine in Ancient India:(Based on Classical Texts and Treatises). In *Aspects of Science and Technology in Ancient India* (pp. 117-133). Routledge India.
- Zysk, K. G. (1998). *Asceticism and healing in ancient India: Medicine in the Buddhist monastery* (Vol. 2). Motilal Banarsi das.
- Kumar, Deepak and Raj Shekhar Basu, eds., *Medical Encounters in British India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2013.(Introduction and pp 160-86)
- Sharma, Madhuri 'Creating a Consumer: Exploring medical advertisements in colonial India', in Mark Harrison and Biswamoy Pati (eds.), *The Social History of Health and Medicine in Colonial India*, Routledge, London & New York, 2009, pp. 213-28. ISBN10:0-415-46231-2(hbk).
- Sivaramakrishnan, K., Old Potions, New Bottles: Recasting Indigenous Medicine in Colonial Punjab (1850-1945), New Delhi, Orient Longman, 2006.(Introduction)

**Unit 3: Medicine and Nationalist Rhetoric and new challenges in the 20<sup>th</sup> century India**  
**(Teaching Time: 4 weeks approx.)**

This will help to develop an understanding about the nuances of social interaction and encounter with western medicine during colonial times and role played by medical practitioners in the ongoing *swadeshi* and national movement. This unit will help to understand the role of state in controlling diseases. It will further acquaint students with the emergence of the concept of holistic well being

- Quaiser Nishat, Colonial Politics of Medicine and Popular Unani Resistance, Indian Horizons, April-June 2000, pp. 29-41.
- Lal, Vinay (2020), *The Fury of COVID-19: The Politics, Histories, and Unrequited Love of the Coronavirus*, New Delhi: Pan Macmillan India.
- Madhuri Sharma Chapter 8, in ed. Pati and Harrison ed. *The Social History of Health and Medicine in Colonial India*, UK: Routledge, 2009.
- सिंह, सुजीत कुमार (22 अप्रैल 2020) 'उपनिवेश में महामारी और स्नियाँ, समालोचन: साहित्य, विचार और कलाओं की वेबपत्रिका.

**Unit 4: Exploring Health and Healing practices in Popular Culture: Literature Art and Cinema (teaching time 4 weeks)**

This unit will help students to know about how Health and Healing practices were represented in art, literature and cinema. Feminization of health such as *sitala mata*, plague ki *churail* etc.

- Hanson, M., Small, L.' Pandemic Patterns: How Artistic Depictions of Past Epidemics Illuminate Thematic and Structural Responses to COVID-19 Today', *Journal of General Internal Medicine* Vol. 37, 878–884 (2022)
- Niels Brimnes, 'Fallacy, Sacrilege, Betrayal and Conspiracy: The Cultural Construction of Opposition to Immunisation in India,' in *The Politics of Vaccination: A Global History*, edited by Christine Holmberg, Stuart Bulme and Paul Greenough (Manchester United Press, 2017).
- Madhuri Sharma Chapter 8, in ed. Pati and Harrison ed. *The Social History of Health and Medicine in Colonial India*, UK: Routledge, 2009.

- शुक्ल, श्रीप्रकाश (2021). महामारी और कविता, नवीदिल्ली: सेतुप्रकाशन.
- सिंह, सुजीत कुमार (22 अप्रैल 2020) 'उपनिवेश में महामारी और ब्लियाँ', समालोचन: साहित्य, विचार और कलाओं की वेबपत्रिका.
- मास्टर भगवानदास, 'प्लेग की चुड़ैल', सरस्वती, 1902.
- Suggested Novels: King of Maladies, Love in the Time of Cholera, The Plague
- Suggested Movies: Contagion, Outbreak, Khushboo, The Black Death

### Suggested Readings:

- Arnold, David, ed., *Imperial Medicine and Indigenous Societies*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1989.
- Bhattacharya, N., *Disparate Remedies: Making Medicines in Modern India*, McGill Queen's University Press, 2023, pp.3-20
- Chatterjee, S., *Western medicine and Colonial Society: Hospitals of Calcutta, c. 1757-1860*, Primus, 2017, pp. 1-28
- Foucault, Michel, 'The Politics of Health in the Eighteenth Century', in *Essential Works of Foucault, 1954-84, Vol. 3: Power*, ed. Michel Foucault, James D. Faubion, tr. Robert Hurley et al., New York: The New Press, 1994.
- Harrison, Mark, *Public Health in British India: Anglo-Indian Preventive Medicine, 1859-1914*, New Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 1994.
- Kumar, S. & Jugal Kishore, *Public Healthcare in India: historical Background and Current Realities*, Century Publications, New Delhi, 2020, pp1-48
- Kumar, D. (2010). Probing history of medicine and public health in India. *Indian Historical Review*, 37(2), 259-273.
- Valiathan, M. S. (2001). Diseases in ancient India. In *SALEMA, A. Ayurveda at the Crossroads of Care and Cure: Proceedings of the Indo-European Seminar on Ayurveda Held at Arrábida, Portugal, in November* (pp. 18-24).
- Leslie, C. (ed.), *Asian Medical Systems: a Comparative Study*, California, University of California Press, 1977.
- Levine, Philippa, *Prostitution, Race and Politics: Policing, Venereal Disease in the British Empire*, New York, London: Routledge, 2003.
- Madhwani, *Health, Medicine & Migration : The Formation of Indentured Labour c.1834-1920*. Primus 2020. pp 1-30
- Mishra, Sabyasachi R., 'An Empire "De-Masculinized": The British Colonial State and the Problem of Syphilis in Nineteenth Century India', in *Diseases and Medicine in India: A Historical Overview*, ed. Deepak Kumar, New Delhi: Tulika Books, 2001, pp. 166-79.
- Mills, James H., *Madness, Cannabis and Colonialism: The 'Native Only' Lunatic Asylums of British India, 1857-1900*, Great Britain: Macmillan, 2000. (Introduction)
- Pati, Biswamoy and Mark Harrison eds., *The Social History of Health and Medicine in Colonial India*, UK: Routledge, 2009. (Introduction)
- Sharma, Madhuri 'Knowing Health and Medicine: A Case Study of Benares, c. 1900-1950', in Deepak Kumar & Raj Sekhar Basu (eds), *Medical Encounters in British India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2013, pp 160-86. ISBN: 13:978-0-19-808921-6 (hbk)
- Syed Ejaz Hussain & Mohit Saha (eds.), *India's Indigenous medical Systems: A cross Disciplinary Approach*, Primus, 2015, Introduction

- Pati, Biswamoy and Mark Harrison, eds., *Health, Medicine and Empire: Perspectives on Colonial India*, Delhi: Orient Longman Limited, 2001. (Introduction).
- Bala Poonam ed. *Contesting Colonial Authority Medicine and Indigenous Responses in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century India*, Primus Books, Delhi 2016.(Introduction)
- Harrison, Mark, ‘Public Health and Medicine in British India: An Assessment of the British Contribution’, based on a paper delivered to the Liverpool Medical Society on 5 March 1988; see <http://www.evolve360.co.uk/Data/10/Docs/10/10Harrison.pdf>.
- Gupta Charu, Procreation and Pleasure: Writings of a Woman Ayurvedic Practitioner in Colonial North India, *Studies in History*, Volume 21 No.1, 2005, pp. 17-44.
- S. Manasi & K.V.Raju, “Policy options for sustainable holistic health care intervention”, *Policy Brief*, May 2019
- Zysk, K. G. (1998). *Asceticism and healing in ancient India: Medicine in the Buddhist monastery* (Vol. 2). Motilal BanarsiDass.

**Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, from time to time.**