

Subject card

Subject name and code	Epidemics of infectious diseases throughout the centuries, PG_00179788						
Field of study	History						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject		2025/2026		
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		at the university		
Year of study	1		Language of instruction		Polish polish		
Semester of study	1		ECTS credits		2.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit							
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr hab. Iwona Janicka				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		2.0		20.0	52
Subject objectives	To familiarize students with selected epidemics of infectious diseases and sporadic diseases occurring over the centuries (from the Middle Ages to the beginning of the 20th century); their demographic effects, the development of medicine, disease therapy and the most important medical discoveries.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[HISTL3_U04] Is able to participate in debate - present and evaluate different opinions and positions and discuss them using correctly the professional terminology of the historical sciences	Is able to formulate his/her own opinions, express them on the forum, uses correct terminology, knows basic literature on the history of medicine	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[HISTL3_W10] Knows and understands the fundamental dilemmas of modern civilisation and recognises the relationships and dependencies between the past and current events also in terms of the dissemination of historical knowledge	Is able to determine the relationship between living conditions and the health of the population; understands the process of disease transmission; notices the influence of medical development and its achievements on modern times	[SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[HISTL3_K01] Critically evaluates his/her knowledge, demonstrates a willingness to continually expand his/her knowledge and to seek expert advice if he/she has difficulty solving a problem on his/her own	Independently expands knowledge based on indicated literature; seeks sources of knowledge about the history of medicine and diseases; seeks advice and opinions on issues that are incomprehensible or interesting	[SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
	[HISTL3_W04] Student is familiar with various fields of historical research, such as political history, social history, economic history, cultural history, family history, gender history, etc.	Knows the living conditions of people over the centuries and their impact on health; knows the basic medical achievements; knows the course of the most important epidemics of infectious diseases	[SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
Subject contents	Living conditions of the population over the centuries and their impact on health. Sporadic diseases (e.g. scurvy) - characteristics, therapy, effects. Epidemics of infectious diseases (e.g. plague, smallpox, cholera, typhus, tuberculosis, syphilis) - causes, method of spread, therapy, effects. Theories of the spread of diseases. Development of medical institutions - hospitals, outpatient clinics. Formation of the profession of doctor and nurse. The most important medical discoveries and their impact on the present day.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	attendance at the lecture	90.0%	70.0%
	reading and discussing the selected work	100.0%	30.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	I. Janicka, Cholera Epidemics in the North-Eastern Governorates of the Russian Empire in the 19th Century, Gdańsk 2021. Great Epidemics in the History of Humanity, edited by K.F. Kiple, Poznań 2000. E.I. Rudolf, From the Plague to Ebola. The Method of Presenting Selected Infectious Diseases in Example Texts of Popular Literature, Wrocław 2019. Old Medicine and Veterinary Medicine. The Patient, edited by M.Z. Felsmann, J. Szarka, M., Felsmann, Chełmno 2011. Encyclopedia of Pestilence, Pandemics, and Plagues, vol. 1, A-M, ed. J.P. Byrne, London 2008. Great Epidemics in the History of Humanity, edited by K.F. Kiple, Poznań 2000.
	Supplementary literature	For your own choice.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	How did living conditions affect human health - access to water, food quality, housing? What are the theories about disease transmission and how did they affect disease prevention and treatment? What impact did plague and cholera epidemics have on demography? What are the most important achievements in medicine and disease treatment that we still use today? How has medical care developed over the centuries?	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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