GENERAL OBJECTIVES
The aim of the theory syllabus is to provide a basic understanding of the most important aspects of the history of medicine and medical ethics.

- The development of ideas about disease and illness
- Ideas about treatment
- Progress in scientific knowledge
- Principal schools of thought across history
- The most important figures
- History of clinical practice in the health professions
- History of the social repercussions of disease and medicine
- Sufficient knowledge of current medical ethics as part of bioethics as applied to the doctor-patient relationship
- Sufficient knowledge of the difference between the field of medical ethics and that of the law
- Sufficient knowledge of the terminology, concepts and methodology of current medical ethics and its application to the analysis and discussion of clinical cases
- Sufficient knowledge of the different models and attitudes which may be adopted in the doctor-patient relationship: analysis and evaluation from the perspective of medical ethics
- Sufficient knowledge of decision-making procedures in medical practice in order that the decisions made are also ethically correct
- Sufficient knowledge of the strategies used to resolve ethical conflicts in the doctor-patient relationship

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES
These are the object of practical work.

- Sufficient knowledge of the bibliographic sources relevant to the history of medicine: works, texts, journals
- Basic knowledge of the historically important medical institutions in our country.
- Sufficient knowledge of the technique for writing a scientific report. Methodology: the main features. The bibliography cited and notes. Introduction to writing a scientific report.
- Ability to write a report about a specific aspect of the history of medicine, whether that in Catalonia or in general
- Basic knowledge of the most important events in the history of Catalan medicine

SYLLABUS

Theory

I. Medicine in the ancient world


II. Medicine in the medieval world
5. Medieval Arab medicine. Description of the main schools: eastern (Persian, Egyptian) and western (al-Andalus). Ideas about disease and treatment. Cultural significance of Arab medicine. The influence of Arab medicine.


III. Medicine in the modern age

8. Progress in physiological knowledge. Harvey’s work on circulation. The most important medical contributions of the seventeenth century.


10. Advances made in the second half of eighteenth century. The Enlightenment. Main lines of progress. The development of science. The bases of subsequent scientific medicine.

IV. The development of current scientific medicine


15. The great scientific development of medicine during the first half of the twentieth century. The most important lines of progress: physiology, biochemistry. The fight against infectious diseases. Advances in pharmacological and surgical treatment.

V. Contemporary medicine

Medical ethics
Aspects of medical ethics: attitudes, values and priorities; difference between medical ethics, legislation and codes of practice.

The doctor-patient relationship: possible attitudes and models of relationship; analysis and evaluation: description and contextual variables.

Ethical duty to promote health; individual aspect and public health. Concept of the futility of medical intervention.

Ethical duty to do no unnecessary harm or damage to individuals within the health field, in the doctor-patient relationship and in clinical trials, etc.

Ethical duty to respect individual autonomy. Description of and obstacles to autonomy in the health field; situations of reduced or non-existent autonomy. Living wills; self-guardianship; decisions by substitution.

Informed consent.
Ethical duty to respect judicial issues in professional practice; legitimate interests of third parties and of public health.

Conflicts between these duties: hierarchical priorities; strategy for conflict resolution.

Clinical ethics: doctors and death; refusal to provide life support; voluntary active euthanasia and medically assisted suicide.

Seminars

Several topics can be studied as elective seminars:

- Historical basis of alternative medicine
- Outline of the history of Catalan medicine
- Methodology in the history of medicine
- Medicine in the twentieth century