

Medical and Scientific Humanities



St Anne's College
University of Oxford



What you'll study

Medical and Scientific Humanities is an interdisciplinary subject which seeks to apply the insights and methods of humanities subjects (including history and philosophy) to medical and scientific practice. The course at St Anne's has three independent strands:

History of Science: This course presents a historical survey of the development of both the physical sciences and the life sciences. We study the chief architects of a series of revolutions in science including Galileo, Copernicus, Harvey, Descartes, Newton, Lavoisier, Lyell and Darwin.

Philosophy of Science: This course discusses scientific method and the validity of scientific knowledge, through the work of philosophers including Carnap, Popper and Kuhn. We study the nature of the problem of induction, hypothesis testing, and the role of chance and determinism in science.

Medical Ethics: We consider the ethical decisions made by clinicians and patients. Topics include (by agreement) beginning of life; end of life; the doctor-patient relationship; social inequalities in health care; Private versus Public healthcare, women's health, personalised medicine, stem cells and their applications; metabolic syndrome – disease of the 21st Century.

Why study Medical and Scientific Humanities at St Anne's?

St Anne's has a strong reputation for medical education and our tutors include former and practising medical clinicians. The College is located adjacent to the Radcliffe Infirmary site, where penicillin was first administered to a patient in 1941. Henry Moseley (an English physicist who pioneered the use of X-ray spectroscopy and determined the atomic numbers of many chemical elements) lived in a house which now forms part of the College campus.

How you'll be taught

- **Lectures** Typically 1 per week.
- **Tutorials** Typically 4 per term.

You can take this course for

The Full Academic Year	Yes
Hilary and Trinity terms only (January – June)	Yes
Michaelmas term only (October – December)	Yes

You could combine this subject with

The Medical and Scientific Humanities course at St Anne's cannot be studied as a sole subject, and must be combined with tutorials from another subject. Possible subjects include Engineering, English Literature and Modern Languages.

For further information on this subject, please see our website:

www.st-annes.ox.ac.uk/prospective/visiting-students.



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