

MEDICAL HUMANITIES

Medical Humanities brings a holistic perspective to the study of health, moving beyond a purely biological framework to consider the patient as a whole person. Drawing upon the analytical tools and insights of the humanities and social sciences, the minor provides an interdisciplinary understanding of the social and cultural dimensions of health and illness.

While traditional pre-health curricula excel at preparing students in the biomedical sciences, this minor addresses a complementary and vital need: to understand the human experience at the center of all healthcare. Courses explore the complex interplay of cultural, ethical, historical, political, and social forces that shape medical knowledge, clinical practice, and the lived experience of illness. Topics of investigation include the doctor-patient relationship, the authority of the physician, changing conceptions of disease, healthcare policy, communication aspects of healthcare and the patient experience, and the profound impact of factors like race, class, and gender on health outcomes.

This minor is of particular value to students planning to attend medical, nursing, pharmacy, or public health schools. Students pursuing careers in social work, counseling, law, journalism, public policy, and healthcare administration will also find that the minor equips them with the critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and cultural competency essential for leadership and effective practice in their respective professions. Regardless of major or career path, the Medical Humanities minor prepares students for engaged and compassionate citizenship.

Minor Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Select one of the following Foundation courses:		3
ANTH 225	Medical Anthropology: Cultural Perspectives on Health and Illness	
	or MDFL 255 Medical Humanities - The Intersection of Language, Culture, and Health	
	or PHIL 226 Medical Ethics	
	or SOCG 334 Medical Sociology	
Select 15 credits of the following, in addition to your selected Foundation course, such that at least three disciplines are included and at least 9 of the 18 total credits are 300-level or higher. ¹		15
ANTH 211	Race in Global Perspective	
ANTH 212	Anthropology of Gender	
ANTH 225	Medical Anthropology: Cultural Perspectives on Health and Illness	
ANTH 321	Anthropology of Food	
ANTH 330	Ethnobotany	
ANTH 346	Anthropology and Psychology	
COMM 378	Health Communication	
CPRD 108	Peacefulness: Here and Now	
ENGL 202D	Writing about Medicine	
ENGL 284	Fictions of Disability	
ENGL 308	Writing Studies and Healing	
ENGL 348	Literature of the Great War	
ENGL 384	Disability and Literature	
GERM 333	Women, War and Psychology: German Literature and Culture between WWI and WWII	

GERM 411	Representations of Death
GERM 413	Remembering the Holocaust
MDFL 255	Medical Humanities - The Intersection of Language, Culture, and Health
PHIL 160	Introduction to Ethics
PHIL 225	Practical Ethics
PHIL 226	Medical Ethics
PHIL 283	Hinduism
PHIL 284	Buddhism
PHIL 231N	Philosophy and AI
PSCI 375	Gender and Public Policy
PSYC 211	Psychopathology
PSYC 233	Adult Development
PSYC 339	Health Psychology
PSYC 348	Anthropology and Psychology
PSYC 349	Psychology of Human Sexuality
PSYC 351	Positive Psychology
PSYC 352	Cultural Psychology
RELG 108	Peacefulness: Here and Now
RELG 283	Hinduism
RELG 284	Buddhism
RELG 309	Death and Dying in Early Christianity
RELG 350	Happiness: Here and Now
SOCG 215	Gender and Society
SOCG 300	Socg of Aging
SOCG 302	Sociology of the Body
SOCG 320	Food Justice
SOCG 332	Introduction to Social Welfare
SOCG 334	Medical Sociology
SOCG 335	Global Perspectives on Health and Illness
SOCG 355	Death and Society
SOCG 354	Environmental Sociology
SOCG 400	Sociology of the Body
SPAN 321	Culture of Service and Social Action in the Hispanic World
SPAN 394	Spanish for Medical Purposes
Internships, Individual Studies (491/492) and special topics courses in a humanities or social science discipline as approved by the program director.	

Total Credits 18

¹ Foundation-designated courses can count as electives in the minor if not taken to fulfill the Foundation requirement. Students are encouraged to take multiple Foundation-designated courses, as they are of central relevance to the minor.

Medical Humanities Program

Jason P. Matzke, Program Coordinator

Affiliated Faculty

Tracy B. Citeroni, Sociology
 María Isabel Martínez-Mira, Spanish
 Laura Mentore, Anthropology