Interdisciplinary Minor in Medical Humanities

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Undergraduate Minor in Medical Humanities

The Medical Humanities Undergraduate Minor program at Saint Louis University is dedicated to the study of the humanities as foundational disciplines for quality health care education and professional development. The course of study is intended to prepare students for careers in the health sciences by giving them an expanded awareness of how disease and care have been imaged and experienced by people in diverse personal circumstances, cultures, and eras, and how people's values often conflict in the health care setting. Such awareness can serve as a foundation for competent, ethical care that acknowledges and respects differing interpretations and meanings of illness experience and suffering. Such awareness also serves as the ground for addressing responsibly the conflicts of value that arise in endeavors of treatment.

Core Requirements

Introductory Course (3 credits)
ENGL 3730 Introduction to Medical Humanities 3

English Requirement (3 credits)
ENGL 3740 or other approved Literature Course 3

Philosophy Requirement (3 credits)
PHIL 336 Medical Ethics (3 credit hours)
(Physical Therapy and Nursing Students can substitute IPE-420 Applied Decision-Making)

Theology Requirement (3 credits)
THEO 352 Theology of Death & Suffering 3
THEO 356 Religion and Science 3
THEO 360 Christian Morality & Health Care

History Requirement (3 credits)
HCE 320 Freaks and the Medical Body
HCE 420 Warriors and Medics
HCE 425 Law and Bioethics
HIST 335 Plagues and Peoples: Disease and Society

Elective. Choose two approved courses (equaling 6 credits total) in English, Communication, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Health Care Ethics, History, Philosophy, or Theological Studies. If you choose, one of your electives can be an internship in a health care setting (INTN 480). The following courses are currently approved for Medical Humanities credit. Please note that for variable topics courses such as English 459 or History 490 and 491, both the course number and title must match the following listings:

COMM 309 Health Communication
CSDI 300 Multicultural Characteristics of the Population
ENGL 3490 Public Health and the Victorian Home **
ENGL 3740 Medicine and Literature
ENGL 4590 Medicine, Mind, and Victorian Fiction**
HCE 301 Ethical Issues in Clinical Medicine
HCE 320 Freaks and the Medical Body
HCE 321 Superheroes and Social Justice
HCE 411 Race, Ethnicity, and Identity in Health
HCE 420 Warriors and Medics
HCE 423 Consensus and Controversy in Research Ethics
HCE 424 Ethics and Geriatric Care
HCE 425 Law and Bioethics
HIST 335 Plagues and Peoples
HIST 490 Studies in Renaissance Medicine
HIST 491 Health and Social Policy in Africa
INTN 480 Internship in a Clinical Setting (Note: for more information on this option, please refer to the Explanation of the Internship in a Clinical Setting that appears below)
MUS 230 Introduction to Music Therapy
PHIL 336 Medical Ethics
THEO 352 Theology of Suffering and Death
THEO 356 Religion and Science
THEO 360 Christian Morality: Health Care
THEO 369 The Post-Human Future: The Ethics of Tech**

**Note that these are variable topics courses (HIST 490, 491, THEO 369, and ENGL 349 and 459), meaning sometimes these course numbers are used to identify courses unrelated to Medical Humanities. Only the topics listed above in association with these course numbers count toward the Medical Humanities Minor. Check with the Director if you are unsure whether a course counts for the Minor.

Explanation: Internship in a Clinical Setting (INTN 480). In place of one of your electives, you may opt to complete a 3-credit internship in a clinical setting. This internship should involve at least 30 hours of shadowing or other work in a healthcare environment. It must be supervised by the Director of Medical Humanities and by a designee in a health care setting. Internships at SLU Hospitals cannot be counted towards this requirement, but internships in other hospital, classroom, or clinic settings are eligible.

Total Credit Hours: 21
**Capstone Requirement:** In one of the last two courses taken for the Certificate, a student will be required to complete a substantial (18-20 page) research paper appropriate to the course on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor. Each spring, students completing the Certificate will present their term papers at a public forum on campus.