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 3360 Medical Ethics 3 (3 credits)
(Physical Therapy and Nursing Students can substitute IPE-4200 Applied Decision-Making)

Theology Requirement (3 credits)
THEO 2525 Christian Morality & Health Care 3
THEO 2820 Religion and Science 3
THEO 2905 Theology of Death & Suffering 3

History Requirement (3 credits)
HCE 3200 Freaks and the Medical Body 3
HCE 4200 Warriors and Medics 3
HCE 4250 Law and Bioethics 3
HIST 3350 Plagues and Peoples: Disease and Society 3

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 4910). The following courses are currently approved for Medical Humanities credit. Please note that for variable topics courses such as English 4390 or History 490 and 491, both the course number and title must match the following listings:

COMM 3090 Health Communication
CSDI 3000 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 3010 Ethical Issues in Clinical Medicine
HCE 3200 Freaks and the Medical Body
HCE 3210 Superheroes and Social Justice
HCE 4110 Race, Ethnicity, and Identity in Health
HCE 4200 Warriors and Medics
HCE 4230 Consensus and Controversy in Research Ethics
HCE 4240 Ethics and Geriatric Care
HCE 4250 Law and Bioethics
HIST 3350 Plagues and Peoples
HIST 4900 Studies in Renaissance Medicine
HIST 4901 Health and Social Policy in Africa
INTN 4910 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)
MUSC 2300 Introduction to Music Therapy
PHIL 3360 Medical Ethics
THEO 2905 Theology of Suffering and Death
THEO 2825 Religion and Science
THEO 2525 Christian Morality: Health Care

**Note that these are variable topics courses (HIST 4900, 4901, and ENGL 3490 and 4590), 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 4910). 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 credits of shadowing or other work in a health-care 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 Credits: 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.