

Saint Leo University
MHU 201
Foundations of Medical Humanities

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the foundations of the medical humanities. Using the humanities to investigate the human experiences of illness, health, and disability, students will examine these ideas through the lenses of literature and the arts, history and culture, spirituality and religion, and philosophy and ethics. The limitations and boundaries of medicine are introduced, allowing for more nuanced and meaningful understanding of the cultural, historical, and social contexts that shape our contemporary approaches to medicine, health, and illness. (3 credits)

Prerequisite:

NONE

Textbook:

Medical Humanities: An Introduction, First Edition (2015), edited by Thomas Cole, Rachel Carson, and Nathan Carlin. ISBN: 978-1107614178

Learning Outcomes:

1. Define and describe the definition of the field and key concepts through assigned readings, class discussions, written assignments, role-playing projects, and group presentations.
2. Explain the social contexts and historical development of approaches to medicine, health, and illness in contemporary culture through weekly class discussion questions and written assignments.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the significance of interdisciplinary approaches to medicine, health, and illness for more holistic and humane practitioner and patient experiences through role-playing projects, group and individual presentations, written assignments, and class discussions.
4. Analyze significant primary texts and scholarship of the Medical Humanities field through written assignments, individual presentations, and class discussions.

Core Value:

The class emphasizes and fosters community by encouraging students to consider their place in the world and their future roles in health-related fields or as patients or caregivers themselves. By studying the historical, social, artistic, and philosophical perspectives on medicine, health, and illness, students will gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the diversity of human experience and the ability of the humanities to shape us into better citizens. Through engagement with these themes, students' awareness can lead to greater empathy, respect, and

understanding, thus allowing for the development of a larger culture and ethics based on care, compassion, and service.

Community – Saint Leo University develops hospitable Christian learning communities everywhere we serve. We foster a spirit of belonging, unity and interdependence based on mutual trust and respect to create socially responsible environments that challenge all of us to listen, to learn, to change and to serve.

Respect - Animated in the spirit of Jesus Christ, we value all individuals' unique talents, respect their dignity, and strive to foster their commitment to excellence in our work. Our community's strength depends on the unity and diversity of our people, on the free exchange of ideas, and on learning, living, and working harmoniously.

Evaluation:

1. **Presentations:** You will watch a few episodes of a television show featuring a doctor as a main character. You will then summarize the show, present one or two scenes to class, providing context, and discuss ethical issues raised by these scenes. You will provide discussion questions to facilitate class discussion. You will also do this for a film.

2. **Short Research Writing Assignment:** For this assignment, review the chapter "Just Health Care" in your textbook, *Medical Humanities: An Introduction*. Use the resources listed on page 288 to help get you started. Also, use the library databases online to find journal and newspaper articles about healthcare and the debates within the U.S. Be sure to outline your argument in a logical and organized style and use evidence from researched and cited sources to support your claim. Your paper should contain a solid, focused thesis statement make use of at least five scholarly sources to support your argument. Format: 3-4 pages, double-spaced, MLA format, 1" margins, 12pt Times New Roman font, Works Cited page.

3. **Discussions:** Discussions will work to foster a sense of community and respect within the classroom itself and then eventually as part of a larger academic and cultural conversation. A sense of belonging to an academic community is imperative in building both confidence and important critical thinking skills among medical humanities majors so that they may understand the larger implications of these discussions.

4. **Annotated Bibliography:** Your annotated bibliography must include no less than five sources. Your sources must be gathered from credible websites, books, journals, or relevant websites. Your annotations (the paragraphs that follow each source) must be at least 75 words in length. Look carefully at how the source is written, whether the author includes any biases or personal (and unjustified) claims, and whether it is dated material or not. You may use first person if needed in your critique of the work. Finally, specify the purpose of your source in your work. For example, does it provide an important statistic or argument? Does it explain a vital component of your argument or offer insight from an expert in the field? You can find much more guidance on our course LibGuide.

5. **Role Play Assignment:** You will practice performing in different roles as caregivers, practitioners, and patients to gain a deeper understanding of medical, health, and illness perspectives.

6. **Quizzes:** There are two quizzes in this course. These quizzes will assess your understanding of the content presented in the course.

Presentations – 30%
 Short Research Writing Assignment – 25%
 Discussions – 15%
 Annotated Bibliography – 10%
 Role Play Assignment – 10%
 Quizzes – 10%

Grade Score (%)

A 94-100
 A- 90-93
 B+ 87-89
 B 84-86
 B- 80-83
 C+ 77-79
 C 74-76
 C- 70-73
 D+ 67-69
 D 60-66
 F 0-59

Assessment of the Learning Outcomes:

Course Learning Outcome	Assessment Method
1	Discussions, Role Play, Presentations, Annotated Bibliography, Short Research Writing Assignment
2	Discussions, Quizzes, Short Writing Assignment
3	Discussions, Quizzes, Role Play, Presentations, Short Research Writing Assignment
4	Discussions, Quizzes, Annotated Bibliography, Short Research Writing Assignment

Course Schedule:

Module 1 Introduction to Medical Humanities

Objectives When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Define the Medical Humanities including the main areas studied within this discipline.
- Describe the history of the Medical Humanities field.

Readings “Introducing the Medical Humanities” 1-17.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an introduction to the class	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post an initial response to <i>Discussion Board 1</i>	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 2 History and Medicine

Objectives When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Identify the social context and historical development of early approaches to Western Medicine.
- Produce a short presentation on a TV representation of Illness/Wellness in society.

Readings “Part Overview: History and Medicine” 21-25; “The Doctor-Patient Relationship” 26-38; “Constructing Disease” 40-55; “Educating Doctors” 57-72; “Technology and Medicine” 74-87; “Death and Dying” 104-119.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an initial response to <i>Discussion Board 2</i>	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post <i>Television and Medicine Presentation</i>	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 3 Literature, the Arts, and Medicine

Objectives When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Explain the connections between the arts and medical sciences.
- Construct a presentation on the portrayal of medicine in the arts.

Readings “Part Overview: Literature, the Arts, and Medicine” 123-124; “Narratives of Illness” 125-136; “Medicine and Media” 153-166; “Poetry and the Moral Imagination” 168-181; “Doctor-Writers” 183-195.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an initial response to <i>Discussion Board 3</i>	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post <i>Film and Medicine Presentation</i>	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 4 Philosophy and Medicine

Objectives When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Discuss the most important topics and thinkers in the field of philosophy and medicine.
- Explain why the goals of philosophy are necessary for the study and practice of medicine.

Readings “Part Overview: Philosophy and Medicine” 211-212; “Ways of Knowing” 213-224; “Goals of Medicine” 225-235; “Health and Disease” 237-249; “Moral Philosophy and Bioethics” 251-261; “Medicine and Power” 263-275.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an initial response to <i>Discussion Board 4</i>	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post <i>Film and Medicine Presentation</i>	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete <i>Quiz 1</i>	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 5 Fine Arts and Medicine

Objectives When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Critique the representation of medicine in theater.
- Create a caregiver character.

Readings There are no assigned readings.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an initial response to <i>Discussion Board 5</i>	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit <i>Role Play Assignment</i>	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 6 Religion and Medicine

Objectives When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Identify the role of religion in caregiving and wellness.

Readings “Part Overview: Religion and Medicine” 291-293; “World Religions for Medical Humanities” 294-311; “Religion and Health” 314-325; “Religion and Reality” 327-337; “Religion and Bioethics” 340-355.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an initial response to <i>Discussion Board 6</i>	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 7 Research Essay Preparation

Objectives When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Construct a researched argument on the topic: Is healthcare a right?
- Organize an argument and find sources.

Readings “Just Health Care” 277-287.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an initial response to <i>Discussion Board 7</i>	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit <i>Annotated Bibliography</i>	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 8 Concluding Thoughts

Objectives When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Describe the main goals of the medical humanities.
- Combine the main areas of the discipline in s research-based essay.

Readings “Suffering and Hope” 358-371; “Epilogue” 373-377.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an initial response to <i>Discussion Board 8</i>	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit <i>Short Research Writing Assignment</i>	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete <i>Quiz 2</i>	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT