Medical Humanities is an interdisciplinary field that examines medicine through humanistic disciplines such as history, ethics, religion, literature, cultural anthropology, media studies, and the visual and dramatic arts. Students in the minor will learn about medical systems and practices using methodologies such as close reading, cultural comparison, historical contextualization, creative expression, and critical thinking. The field is committed to interpretive and qualitative work that explores the human dimensions of experiences of health and illness, for doctors and for patients. The Medical Humanities minor is an interdisciplinary course of study, housed in the School of Humanities.

Minor

- Minor in Medical Humanities (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/humanities/medical-humanities/medical-humanities-minor/)

Medical Humanities does not currently offer an academic program at the graduate level.

Director and Advisor

Kirsten Ostherr

Professors

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Tony N. Brown
James D. Faubion
Eugenia Georges
Bridget K. Gorman
Gisela Heffes
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Kamala Visweswaran

Associate Professors

Martin Blumenthal-Barby
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Moramay López-Alonso
Fabiola López-Durán

Assistant Professors

Niki Clements
Lan Li

Vida Yao

Lecturer

Beverly Mitchell

Adjunct Lecturer

Melissa Bailar

Steering Committee

Melissa Bailar
Marcia Brennan
Eugenia Georges
Lan Li
Moramay López-Alonso
Kirsten Ostherr
Rebecca Richards-Kortum
Kamala Visweswaran
Vida Yao

For Rice University degree-granting programs:

To view the list of official course offerings, please see Rice’s Course Catalog (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/SWKSCAT.cat?p_action=cata)

To view the most recent semester’s course schedule, please see Rice’s Course Schedule (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/SWKSCAT.cat)

Medical Humanities (MDHM)

MDHM 201 - INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL HUMANITIES

Short Title: INTRO TO MEDICAL HUMANITIES
Department: Medical Humanities
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Examines the history of medicine, concepts of disease vs illness, narrative medicine, health disparities, religion, spirituality, and the role of science and technology on the practices of healthcare. Students will develop skills in close reading, interpretation, historical contextualization, critical thinking. This course (formerly HURC 201) is required for the minor in Medical Humanities. Mutually Exclusive with HURC 201. Credit cannot be earned for both HURC 201 and MDHM 201. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for MDHM 201 if student has credit for HURC 201.

MDHM 238 - SPECIAL TOPICS

Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Medical Humanities
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Laboratory, Internship/Practicum, Lecture, Seminar, Independent Study, Lecture/Laboratory
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Topics and credit hours may vary each semester. Contact department for current semester’s topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.
MDHM 300 - IMMUNITY IN MEDIA, SCIENCE, AND CULTURE
Short Title: IMMUNITY- MEDIA/SCI/CULTURE
Department: Medical Humanities
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course will consider the conceptual history of immunity and autoimmunity. We will track immunity as it migrates from the domains of law and politics into biomedicine. What are the consequences of this provenance? How have seemingly objective medical conceptions of the body preserved or retained this militaristic belief in independence, power, and control? And what are its consequences for those whose bodies are exposed to that domination? How does the history of immunity inspire contemporary depictions of BIOPOC, trans, queer, and undocumented lives as pathogenic to the flourishing of “healthy” bodies and in turn to their state-sponsored exposure to death? We will propose to answer these questions by integrating an interdisciplinary archive of fiction, film, philosophy, and law. Recommended Prerequisite(s): MDHM 201 Repeatable for Credit.

MDHM 306 - HEALTH AND HUMANITIES MASTER CLASS
Short Title: HEALTH AND HUMANITIES MC
Department: Medical Humanities
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Faculty from Rice University, University of Texas School of Public health, and University of Houston, as well as practitioners in the Texas Medical Center, will lead class discussions on different aspects of the health industry today. The class will meet Tuesday evenings at the McGovern Museum of Health and Medical Science and at Rice Thursdays. Students will read essays, case studies, and fiction or watch films to prepare for each discussion. Formerly offered as HURC 306. Mutually exclusive with HURC 306. Credit cannot be earned for both HURC 306 and MDHM 306. Instructor Permission Required.

MDHM 402 - HEALTH, HUMANISM AND SOCIETY SCHOLARS MEDICAL HUMANITIES PRACTICUM 1 (1 YR SEQUENCE)
Short Title: HHASS MED HUM PRACTICUM 1
Department: Medical Humanities
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This research-based course is conducted in partnership with health institutions in Houston. Qualified and advanced students apply for or develop projects in specific research areas and work 6-8 hours per week on site with health professionals, archivists, and center directors. Students follow curriculum under guidance of Rice faculty and meet regularly to discuss research and develop skills for careers after graduation. Must have completed at least 9 credit hours in a humanities discipline for course eligibility. Instructor Permission Required. Recommended Prerequisite(s): MDHM 201. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for MDHM 403 if student has credit for HUMA 402.

MDHM 403 - HEALTH, HUMANISM AND SOCIETY SCHOLARS MEDICAL HUMANITIES PRACTICUM 2 (1 YR SEQUENCE)
Short Title: HHASS MED HUM PRACTICUM 2
Department: Medical Humanities
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Prerequisite(s): MDHM 402 or HUMA 402
Description: Students are matched with medical humanities research projects in TMC. Students conduct 6-8 hours of research per week under guidance of on-site supervisor and follow curriculum under guidance of Rice faculty, developing skills for careers after graduation. Continuation of MDHM 402 as yearlong sequence. Instructor Permission Required. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for MDHM 403 if student has credit for HUMA 403.

MDHM 430 - HEALTH, HUMANISM AND SOCIETY SCHOLARS MEDICAL HUMANITIES PRACTICUM (ONE SEMESTER)
Short Title: HHASS 1-SEM MED HUM PRACTICUM
Department: Medical Humanities
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This research-based course is conducted in partnership with health institutions in Houston. Qualified and advanced students apply for or develop projects in specific research areas and work 6-8 hours per week on site with health professionals, archivists, and center directors. Students follow curriculum under guidance of Rice faculty and meet regularly to discuss research and develop skills for careers after graduation. Must have completed at least 9 credit hours in a humanities discipline for course eligibility. Instructor Permission Required. Recommended Prerequisite(s): MDHM 201. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for MDHM 430 if student has credit for HURC 430. Repeatable for Credit.

MDHM 477 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Medical Humanities
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum, Lecture, Laboratory, Seminar
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Topics and credit hours may vary each semester. Contact department for current semester’s topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.

Description and Code Legend
Note: Internally, the university uses the following descriptions, codes, and abbreviations for this academic program. The following is a quick reference:

Course Catalog/Schedule
• Course offerings/subject codes: MDHM

Department (or Program) Description and Code
• Medical Humanities: MDHM
Undergraduate Minor Description and Code

• Minor in Medical Humanities: MDHM

CIP Code and Description

• MDHM Minor: CIP Code/Title: 51.3204 - Medical/Health Humanities

1 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) 2020 Codes and Descriptions from the National Center for Education Statistics: https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/