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.

**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**

Marcia Brennan  
James D. Faubion  
Eugenia Georges  
Bridget K. Gorman  
Vivian Ho  
Rachel Tolbert Kimbrough  
Anne C. Klein  
Kirsten Ostherr  
Rebecca Richards-Kortum

**Associate Professors**

Deborah A. Harter  
Moramay López-Alonso

**Assistant Professors**

Niki Clements  
Lan Li  
Zoë Wool  
Vida Yao

**Lecturers**

Beverly Mitchell

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John Mulligan

**Adjunct Lecturer**

Melissa Bailar

**Steering Committee**

Marcia Brennan  
Eugenia Georges  
Lan Li  
Moramay López-Alonso  
Kirsten Ostherr  
Rebecca Richards-Kortum  
Zoë Wool  
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: 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:** 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 Lower-Level  
- **Description:** Topics and credit hours may vary each semester. Contact department for current semester's topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.
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: Humanities and social science students are matched with medical humanities research projects in TMC. Students conduct research under guidance of on-site supervisor and follow curriculum under guidance of Rice faculty, developing skills for careers after graduation. Yearlong sequence continues as MDHM 403 in spring. Instructor Permission Required. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for MDHM 402 if student has credit for HUMA 402. Repeatable for Credit.

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: Humanities and social science students are matched with medical humanities research projects in TMC. Students conduct research 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. Repeatable for Credit.

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
Prerequisite(s): MDHM 201
Description: This research-based course is conducted in partnership with health institutions in Houston. Qualified and advanced students work 10 hours/week on site with health professionals, archivists, center directors, and others to develop projects in specific research areas. Students meet regularly with instructor to discuss research and to present work at an end of semester symposium. 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

Program Description and Code
- Medical Humanities: MDHM

Undergraduate Minor Description and Code
- Minor in Medical Humanities: MDHM

CIP Code and Description 1
- MDHM Minor: CIP Code/Title: 30.2701 - Human Biology

1 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) 2010 Codes and Descriptions from the National Center for Education Statistics: https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/