MEDICAL HUMANITIES

Contact Information
Medical Humanities
https://medicalhumanities.rice.edu/
116 Humanities Building
713-348-4548

Kirsten Ostherr
Program Director
kostherr@rice.edu

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

Associate Director
Melissa Bailar

Professors
Marcia Brennan
Tony N. Brown
James D. Faubion
Eugenia Georges
Bridget K. Gorman
Gisela Heffes
Vivian Ho
Rachel Tolbert Kimbro
Anne C. Klein
Kirsten Ostherr
Rebecca Richards-Kortum
Kamala Visweswaran

Associate Professors
Martin Blumenthal-Barby
Niki Clements
Deborah A. Harter
Moramay López-Alonso

Fabiola López-Durán

Assistant Professors
Victoria Massie
Samuel Reis-Dennis
Vida Yao

Senior Lecturer
Melissa Bailar

Lecturers
Helena Fietz
Beverly Mitchell

Steering Committee
Melissa Bailar
Marcia Brennan
Eugenia Georges
Victoria Massie
Kirsten Ostherr
Samuel Reis-Dennis
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/ISWKSCAT.cat?p_action=cata)
To view the most recent semester’s course schedule, please see Rice’s Course Schedule (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/ISWKSCAT.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 250 - INTRODUCTION TO DISABILITY STUDIES
Short Title: INTRO TO DISABILITY STUDIES
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 Lower-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 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: 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 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 ¹
- 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/