Medical Humanities

The minor in medical humanities draws on courses from a variety of departments and programs including art history, classics, history, languages and literature, music, philosophy, and gender and sexuality studies. It is available to undergraduates beginning with the class of 2018. An application process will control admission into the minor for at least its first two years. The minor is housed in the Washington University Center for the Humanities.

The minor approaches health, disease and medical care as culturally embedded human experiences that vary across time and place. In addition to exploring health, disease and medical care as core human experiences, the program of study is designed to provide a solid grounding in the textual-historical approach essential to all humanities scholarship. The minor combines disciplinary diversity with thematic unity to engage students with a set of tightly related “big” topics and issues. These include the contested meanings of health and disease; the ethical dimensions of medicine; illness narratives; debates over health and development; the role of medicine in war, empire and nation building; the relationship between religion and medicine; exchange and friction between biomedicine and other healing traditions; and the burden of disease as it relates to gender, race and class.

Medical Humanities aspires to instill values shared by all humanities disciplines: to appreciate multiple worlds and viewpoints, to communicate clearly and gracefully, and to read and think critically. Students will emerge from the minor able to apply the insights and critical methods of literature, philosophy, history and the arts to subjects often left solely to the natural and social sciences. Its goal is to demonstrate the enduring relevance of humanistic inquiry to understanding a basic realm of human experience.

Contact: Wendy Love Anderson  
Phone: 314-935-9523  
Email: andersonwl@wustl.edu  
Website: http://cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu/academics/medical_humanities

Faculty

Director

Rebecca Messbarger (http://rll.wustl.edu/people/messbarger)  
Professor  
PhD, University of Chicago  
(Italian; International and Area Studies; History; Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)

Academic Coordinator

Wendy Love Anderson (http://cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu/people/anderson)  
Academic Coordinator  
PhD, University of Chicago  
(Center for the Humanities; Religious Studies)

Faculty Advisory Committee

Barbara Baumgartner (https://wgss.artsci.wustl.edu/people/baumgartner_barbara)  
Senior Lecturer; Director of Undergraduate Studies, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
PhD, Northwestern University  
(Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)

Amy Eisen Cislo (https://wgss.artsci.wustl.edu/people/cislo_amy)  
Senior Lecturer  
PhD, Washington University  
(Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)

Carl Craver (http://philosophy.artsci.wustl.edu/people/Carl_Craver)  
Professor  
PhD, University of Pittsburgh  
(Philosophy; Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology)

Robert Feibel  
Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology; Director of the Center for History of Medicine  
MD, Harvard University  
(Center for History of Medicine, School of Medicine)

Jennifer Kapczynski (http://german.wustl.edu/people/kapczynski_jennifer)  
Associate Professor  
PhD, University of California, Berkeley  
(Germanic Languages and Literatures)

Kristina Kleutghen (http://arthistory.artsci.wustl.edu/people/kristina-kleutghen)  
David W. Mesker Career Development Professor of Art History  
PhD, Harvard University  
(Art History and Archaeology)

Steven Meyer (http://english.artsci.wustl.edu/steven_meyer)  
Associate Professor  
PhD, Yale University  
(English)

Christina Ramos (http://history.artsci.wustl.edu/christina-ramos)  
Assistant Professor  
PhD, Harvard University  
(History)
Luis Salas (http://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/luis-salas)
Assistant Professor
PhD, University of Texas at Austin
(Classics)

Priscilla Song (http://anthropology.artsci.wustl.edu/song_priscilla)
Assistant Professor
PhD, Harvard University
(Anthropology)

Corinna Treitel (http://history.artsci.wustl.edu/corinna_treitel)
Associate Professor
PhD, Harvard University
(History)

Colleen Wallace
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics; Director of the Humanities
Program in Medicine
MD, Washington University
(Humanities Program in Medicine, School of Medicine)

**Majors**

Medical humanities is an interdepartmental minor; Washington University does not offer an independent major in medical humanities.

**Minors**

Units required: 18

**Gateway courses (at least 3 units):**
- CFH 130 The Art of Medicine 3
- History 1640 Health and Disease in World History 3

**Other core courses (at least 9 units must be at the 300 level or above):**
- Art-Arch 3632 Renaissance Bodies: Art, Magic, Science 3
- Chinese 126 Chinese for Medical Purposes 3
- Classics 3801 Ancient Greek and Roman Medicine 3
- Classics 4361 Topics in Ancient Studies (when offered as Science and Medicine in Ancient Greek and Rome) 3
- Classics 4647 Ancient Madness 3
- Drama 456 A Madman in the Theater: The History of Insanity on Stage from Sophocles to Shaffer 3
- East Asia 4033 Culture, Illness and Healing in Asia 3
- ELit 370 The Writing and Representation of Pain (ELit 370 in University College) 3
- E Lit 391 Literature and Medicine 3
- French 447 The Medieval Literary Arts (when offered as Body & Disability in Medieval Literature) 3
- Hist 2216 Books and Bodies (Hist 2216 in University College) 1

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History 301R</td>
<td>Historical Methods — European History (when offered as The Black Death and the Plague in Europe)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hist 3067</td>
<td>Current Questions in the History of Medicine</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>History 3672</td>
<td>Medicine, Healing and Experimentation in the Contours of Black History</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>History 4990</td>
<td>Advanced Seminar: History of the Body</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>History 49CJ</td>
<td>Advanced Seminar: Medicine on the Frontiers</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>IS 326</td>
<td>The Doctor Is In: Anton Chekhov and Narrative Medicine (IS 326 in University College)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music 3031</td>
<td>Music and Healing</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil 233F</td>
<td>Biomedical Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil 3001</td>
<td>Philosophy of Medicine</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil 366</td>
<td>Art and the Mind-Brain</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil 4212</td>
<td>Philosophy of Neuroscience</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil 423</td>
<td>Philosophy of Biological Science</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGSS 3041</td>
<td>Making Sex and Gender: Understanding the History of the Body</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGSS 310</td>
<td>From Hysteria to Hysterectomy: Women's Health Care in America</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGSS 316</td>
<td>Contemporary Women's Health</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGSS 360</td>
<td>Trans* Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing 3112</td>
<td>Exposition: Writing and Medicine</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Please note:** The 9 credits of advanced medical humanities core courses (at the 300 level or above) must also come from at least two different disciplinary categories (Art History, Classics, History, Languages/Literature/Culture, Music, Philosophy, WGSS).

**Affiliate courses from complementary disciplines in the sciences and social sciences (no more than 3 units total applied to the minor) include:**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMCS 226</td>
<td>Sociological Approaches to American Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthro 3201</td>
<td>Gender, Culture and Madness</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthro 3283</td>
<td>Introduction to Global Health</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthro 3310</td>
<td>Health, Healing and Ethics: Introduction to Medical Anthropology</td>
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<td>Anthro 3620</td>
<td>Anthropological Perspectives on the Fetus</td>
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<td>Anthro 3625</td>
<td>The Female Life Cycle in Cross-Cultural Perspective</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthro 3626</td>
<td>Adventures in Nosology: The Nature and Meaning of Disease</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psych 399</td>
<td>Living, Dying and Death: A Biopsychosocial Approach to Understanding the End of Life</td>
<td>3</td>
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Additional Information

The minor is available beginning with the Washington University Class of 2018. Interested students may be admitted to the medical humanities minor as early as their sophomore year. The minor will require a written application and a brief interview, with the aim of accepting 15-20 students per graduating class for the minor's first two years.

An up-to-date list of medical humanities courses and medical humanities affiliate courses can be found by searching Washington University Course Listings for the "CFH MH" and "CFH MHA" attributes, or by consulting the lists online (http://cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu/undergraduate/medical_humanities/requirements).

Courses

For Medical Humanities courses, please consult the Minors section of this page or search Course Listings (https://acadinfo.wustl.edu/Courselisting/Semester/Search.aspx) for the CFH MH (Medical Humanities) and CFH MHA (Medical Humanities: Affiliate) attributes.