Medical Humanities, Minor

Sven Bernecker, Co-Director
Annalisa Coliva, Co-Director
85 Humanities Instructional Building
http://www.humanities.uci.edu/medicalhumanities/

Medical Humanities is an interdisciplinary, humanistic, and cultural study of illness, health, health care, and the body. In contrast to the medical sciences, the medical humanities – which include bioethics, narrative medicine, history of medicine, culture studies, science and technology studies, medical anthropology, philosophy, dance, music, literature, film, and visual and performing arts – focus more on meaning making than measurement.

Students explore the boundaries between sickness and health, and learn to see life through a patient’s eyes. Topics include the authority of the physician, the role of the hospital, the doctor-patient relationship, the social dimensions of racial and gender differences, and changing conceptions of disease and healing.

The minor may be combined with any major and of particular interest to those students planning to attend medical school, nursing school, pharmacy school, and public health school, as well as students in the humanities seeking to pursue graduate work in the field of medical humanities.

Requirements for the Minor in Medical Humanities

A. Select one of the following:
   - MED HUM 1 Health, Wellness, and Conception of the Body
   - MED HUM 3 Art and Medicine

B. Select one of the following:
   - CLASSIC 10 Scientific and Specialized Terminology
   - DANCE 3 Scientific Concepts of Health
   - GEN&SEX 60A Gender and Science
   - PHILOS 3 Technology and Society
   - PHILOS 4 Introduction to Ethics
   - PHILOS 5 Contemporary Moral Problems

C. Select two of the following:
   - GEN&SEX 110D The Politics of Health and Medicine
   - PHILOS 121A Medical Epistemology
   - PHILOS 131C Medical Ethics
   - MED HUM 195 Capstone Seminar: The Clinical Moral Laboratory

D. Select three additional courses (two of which must be upper-division) chosen from those listed above in A, B, and C, and among a list of quarterly approved courses. With the approval of the Co-Directors of the Minor in Medical Humanities, other relevant courses may satisfy the requirements for the minor. ¹

¹ The list of quarterly approved courses is available on the Medical Humanities website (http://www.humanities.uci.edu/medicalhumanities/).

Residence Requirement for the Minor: Four upper-division courses required for the minor must be successfully completed at UCI. Two of the four may be taken through the UC Education Abroad Program, provided course content is approved in advance by the Co-Directors of the Minor in Medical Humanities.