

HEALTH, CULTURE, AND SOCIETIES

Overview

As has become evident over the past several years, biological, social, cultural, economic, and political factors interact to shape experiences of health, illness, and disease in societies past and present. The Joint AOC in Health, Culture, and Societies (HCS) encourages analysis of these interwoven factors and their impact on health and well-being. It is designed to complement and deepen the learning experience in other AOCs for students interested in health-related careers, broadly defined. It is radically interdisciplinary (i.e., cross-divisional) and transdisciplinary (i.e., crossing the lines between academia, professional work outside of academia, and community engagement).

The HCS program provides an opportunity for students to explore different aspects and conceptions of health in their broader socio-cultural contexts. The underlying organization and cross-divisional design make this program appropriate for students who are interested in health from a humanistic (i.e., artistic, literary, historical, philosophical, or ethical), social scientific (i.e., anthropological, psychological, social, economic, or political), and natural scientific (i.e., biological, biochemical, physiological, or epidemiological) perspective, regardless of their primary area of concentration.

Along with an introductory course that presents interdisciplinary frameworks for understanding health, medicine, and disease, core course requirements focus on epidemiology, history of medicine, medical anthropology, medical ethics, and global health. A required professionalization seminar, offered as a group Independent Study Project (ISP), consists of career planning exercises and conversations with professionals in a wide variety of health-related fields. A required practicum allows students to explore internships and practical experiences with the support of core faculty and the Center for Career Engagement and Opportunity (CEO). CEO staff will assist students in securing practicums and help guide students on post-practicum reflections.

The Joint AOC in Health, Culture, and Societies will help prepare students for careers in medicine, nursing, and public health, as well as in allied health fields and specialized areas, including but not limited to art and music therapy, biophysics, data science, policy analysis, health advocacy, and healthcare administration. Moreover, this program allows students to become holistically educated citizens of health while providing flexibility, global vision, a focus on equity, and practical skills.

Faculty in Health, Culture, and Societies

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Requirements for the Joint AOC in Health, Culture, and Societies

A minimum of six (6) academic units, a professionalization seminar, and a practicum.

Code	Title
Introductory Course	
INST 2200	Health, Culture, and Societies: Interdisciplinary Explorations
History of Medicine Course	
Select one from the following examples:	
HUMN 2100	A History of Biomedicine*
HUMN 2110	Medicine and Literature*
RELI 2276	Islam and Medicine*
HIST 3870	The Black Death
Epidemiology Course	
Select one from the following examples:	
BIOL 2260	Epidemiology Matters: An Introduction*
BIOL 3260	Epidemiology of AIDS
BIOL 3270	Social Epidemiology
Medical Anthropology Course	
Select one from the following examples:	
ANTH 3165	Medical Anthropology
ANTH 3775	Beyond the Body: Anthropology of Surgery*
Medical or Biological Ethics Course	
Select one from the following examples:	
PHIL 2400	Introduction to Ethics*
PHIL 2450	Environmental Ethics
PHIL 2475	Animal Minds and Ethics*
HUMN 2620	Biomedical Ethics*
Global Health Course	
Select one from the following examples:	
ANTH 3225	Global Mental Health
ANTH 3330	Colonial Encounters*
BIOL 3050	Global Health and Humanity
Professionalization Seminar	
Professionalization Seminar usually offered as a Group ISP	
Practicum	
Practicum: Experiential course or internship related to health	
Recommended: Statistics or Quantitative Data Course	
Select one of the following:	
STAT 2100	Introduction to Applied Statistics*
STAT 2125	Statistics for Economics and the Social Sciences*
BIOL 2150	Biostatistics
STAN 2700	Dealing with Data I*
Optional Electives	
Many courses will add depth and focus to your studies although they may not fulfill a specific requirement; for example:	
POLS 3610	Politics of Health Care Policy in the U.S.
BIOL 3250	Public Health Disparities*
PSYC 3100	Psychology of Mental Health
INST 2650	Dance, Brain, and Parkinson's

LITR 2860	Nineteenth-Century British and American Literature: When Everything Changed*
PSYC 3350	Personality Psychology
BIOL 3550	Introduction to Microbiology

Optional Senior Thesis

Senior Capstone Project or Senior Thesis, and Baccalaureate Exam

Representative Senior Theses in Health, Culture, and Societies

- Addiction: Critique of the BDMA and Development of a Transdisciplinary, Biopsychosocial-Ecological Model
- Educating the Bodymind in Dickens's *Our Mutual Friend* and McCaffrey's *The Ship Who Sang*
- Understanding Perceptions of Fictional Depictions of Autism in the Media