

# MEDICAL HUMANITIES, SOCIETY & ETHICS MINOR

<https://cola.unh.edu/interdisciplinary-studies/program/minor/medical-humanities-society-ethics>

## Description

As an interdisciplinary minor, medical humanities, society and ethics (MHSE) teaches students to use methods from the humanities and social sciences to examine issues related to illness, health, healthcare, the body and the mind in their social, cultural and historical contexts.

MHSE takes as its starting point the dual claim that the central human experiences of health and illness as well as the systems of knowledge that have emerged to classify them are culturally shaped phenomena. Bodies and minds experience illness; people suffer; they age; they die. But the meanings people attach to these processes are not givens in the natural world. They are rather forged within a particular society's attitudes, values, beliefs and practices expressed through language, behavior, ritual and art. They are, moreover, contingent on time and place. Even the modern scientific discipline of medicine, its truth claims, and its terms are embedded in historical cultural domains. They have as much to do with attitudes to gender, race, socioeconomic status, relations of power, structures of authority and social hierarchies as they do with biology.

MHSE aims to bridge the gulf that exists between science and experience, biology and culture by challenging students to examine critically the origins and nature of their beliefs and values about illness and health as well as the beliefs and values embedded in their society's social, cultural, educational, legal and political institutions.

MHSE students will learn that humanistic interpretive practices make cross-cultural and comparative studies of health and illness possible. The minor encourages students to take a broad community and global perspective on experiences of health and illness that address equity, policy and resource allocation.

## Requirements

Students are required to take 20 credits in courses that are on the approved list (see below) or that are approved by the minor advisory committee through a petition process. Independent studies, practica and transfer credits may also count for the minor with the approval of the committee.

- At least 4 credits must be at the 600 or 700 level.
- No more than 12 credits may come from the same department.
- At least 12 credits must be taken in residence at UNH.
- No more than 4 credits may be taken from courses outside of the College of Liberal Arts.

## List of Approved Courses

Code	Title	Credits
ANTH 525	Anthropology of the Body: Fat, Fitness and Form	4
ANTH #610	Medical Anthropology: Illness and Healing	4
ANTH 685	Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa	4
ANTH 695	Globalization and Global Population Health	4

CLAS 550C	Identities and Difference in the Ancient World: Sex and Desire in Greece and Rome	4
ENGL 415C	Literature and Medicine	4
ENGL 787	English Major Seminar (Only topic: Literature and Medicine)	4
GERM 798	Special Studies in German Language and Literature (Only topic: Narrating Madness in German Literature)	4
HIST 437H	Honors/The Mad Among Us: A Global History of Mental Disorder	4
HIST 440B	Honors/Medicine, Society, Science, and the Law: Who Makes Your Health Care Decisions?	4
HIST 498	Explorations of Historical Perspectives (Only topics: Pandemic! From the Black Death to Coronavirus or Childhood in Global History)	4
HIST 500	Introduction to Historical Thinking (Only topic: Landscape, Environment and Disease)	4
HUMA 526	Humanities and Science (Only topics: The Undead Humanities and Cognitive Science of Religion)	4
PHIL 410	Happiness, Well-Being, and a Good Life	4
PHIL 424	The Future of Humanity: Science, Technology, and Society	4
PHIL 440B	Honors/Who's Human Now?	4
PHIL 447	Artificial Intelligence, Robots, and People	4
PHIL 630	Neuroscience and Philosophy	4
PHIL 660	Law, Medicine, and Ethics	4
PHP 908	Public Health Ethics (undergrads allowed with special permission)	3
PSYC 531	Psychobiology	4
PSYC 733	Drugs and Behavior	4
PSYC 736	Attention Disorders	4
SOC 570	Sexual Behavior	4
SOC 620	Drugs and Society	4
SOC 625	Mental Health and Society	4
SOC 635W	Medical Sociology	4
SOC #720	Sociology of Drug Use	4
SOC 788	Advanced Medical Sociology	4

- Students must receive a grade of C- or better for a course to count toward the minor requirements.
- Once students have declared the minor, they are required to meet with the coordinator or appropriate core faculty advisor at least once per year for regular review and assessment of their program, learning outcomes and progress toward the degree.