Health and the Human Condition, Minor

The minor in health and the human condition is an interdisciplinary minor broadly focused on the intersection of the humanities (philosophy, ethics, history, and religion) and health sciences. Students who earn the minor gain an understanding of the medical field through three unique lenses: ethics and values, historical perspectives, and diversity/global perspectives.

The minor is administered by the Department of Classics and draws on courses from several units in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, including the departments of Anthropology, History, Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Health and Human Physiology as well as the Global Health Studies and Aging and Longevity Studies Programs.

Learning Outcomes

Students are expected to demonstrate:

- comprehension of the history and philosophy behind modern medicine and the human body; and
- familiarity with multicultural and temporal perceptions of healing, aging, and approaches to medicine.

Requirements

The undergraduate minor in health and the human condition requires a minimum of 15 s.h., including at least 12 s.h. in courses taken at the University of Iowa. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in all courses for the minor and in all UI courses for the minor. Coursework in the minor may not be taken pass/nonpass.

A maximum of 3 s.h. of work for another University of Iowa major, minor, or certificate may be counted toward the minor.

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The minor in health and the human condition requires the following coursework.

Ethics and Values

These courses focus on moral and ethical issues in the medical field and health care, such as bioethics, patient autonomy, and the role of the state.

Course #	Title	Hours
At least 3 s.h. from these:		
PHIL:1034	Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness	3
PHIL:1401	Matters of Life and Death	3
PHIL:2402	Introduction to Ethics	3
PHIL:2415/ GHS:2415	Bioethics	3
RELS:2260/ GHS:2260	Hard Cases in Healthcare at the Beginning of Life	3

Historical Approaches

These courses focus on the treatment and understanding of health and disease from the ancient world to the 20th century in order to contextualize students' understanding of the medical field today.

Course #	Title	Hours
At least 3 s.h. from these:		
CLSA:1181/ GHS:1181	Ancient Medicine	3
CLSA:3020/ GHS:3021	Mental Health in the Ancient World	3
HIST:3508/ GHS:3508/LAS:3508	Disease and Health in Latin American History	3
HIST:3162/ GHS:3162	History of Global Health	3
HIST:4203	Disability in American History	3
RELS:3580/ ANTH:3113/ ASIA:3561/ GHS:3113	Religion and Healing	3

Diversity and Global Perspectives

These courses invite students to consider the contemporary cross-cultural intersections of privilege and marginalization as related to health care. These include issues of gender, sexuality, race, disability, aging, colonialism, and social class.

Course #	Title	Hours
At least 9 s.h. from these:		
ANTH:2164/ GHS:2164	Culture and Healing: An Introduction to Medical Anthropology	3
ANTH:2181/ ASP:2181/ GHS:2181	The Anthropology of Aging	3
ASP:3135/ GHS:3050/ SSW:3135	Global Aging	3
ASP:3740/ MED:3740/ NURS:3740	End-of-Life Care for Adults and Families	3
GHS:4003	Case Studies in Global Health Inequities	3
GHS:3060	Studies in Complementary and Alternative Medicine	3
GWSS:3177/ NURS:3739	Women and Their Bodies in Health and Illness	3
RELS:3431/ ASIA:3431/ GWSS:3131	Gender and Sexuality in East Asia	3
SSW:3786/ ASP:3786	Death/Dying: Issues Across the Life Span	3-4
WLLC:3105/ CLSA:3105/ GHS:3105/ GWSS:3105	Contraception Across Time and Cultures	3