## Course Objective

Medical humanities draws on many disciplines and fields—including history, literature, art history, media studies, philosophy, law, ethics, religion, theology, anthropology, psychology, sociology, and other arts and sciences—to study (a) the context of medicine, (b) the experience of medicine, (c) the goals of medicine, and (d) concepts in and of medicine. The goal of this course is to provide students with a broad exposure to medical humanities.

### Material Covered:

The course will have two sessions that are mandatory for all students: the first day of class and the last day of class. The first day of class will consist of a discussion that will provide an overview and conceptualization of medical humanities, as well as a description of the course. The last day of class will also be a group meeting, and the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the class as a whole.

The course will consist of 8 “sub-electives.” Students will have the choice of Topic A or Topic B during the first week, Topic C or Topic D during the second week, and so forth. The specific topics are listed below, but the basic structure can be observed in the following table.

### Structure of Sub-Electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Option 1</th>
<th>Option 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Topic A</td>
<td>Topic B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Topic C</td>
<td>Topic D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Topic E</td>
<td>Topic F</td>
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Students will have some autonomy in which topics they choose to pursue. We will have a flexible and informal “cap” (roughly half of the students in the group) on how many students will be able to pursue a given topic.

The topics to be covered in 2014-2015 include:

- A History of Medical Education in the United States
- Death, Dying, and the Importance of Spirituality in Medicine
- Health Policy
- Literature and Death
- Love and Friendship
- Narrative Medicine

While the sub-electives span a total of 3 weeks of seminar sessions, the remaining week of the month will focus on providing students research time to complete the required final project and essay.

### Skills Acquired:

After this course, students will be able to:

1) articulate a working knowledge of various topics in medical humanities.
2) apply various perspectives on medicine as offered by the humanities in seminar discussions.
3) produce new knowledge in medical humanities in the form of an essay/final project.

### Activities Of Elective

It is expected that students will spend 15-20 hours a week on reading assignments. Students should complete the reading for the day prior to coming to class. Students will be given a short take-home essay that will be due on the last day of class. This assignment should not require more than two hours. Students will be expected to complete a significant project during this course. The project chosen should reflect the student’s own interests and background. Most students select to write a research paper. However, students may produce an artistic work or other project that is approved by the course director. Research papers should be at least 20 pages in length, plus footnotes and bibliography.
Scheduled Duties of Student:

**Structured Time:** 10 hours per week.

**Reading Time:** 15 – 20 hours per week.

**Research Time:** 15 – 20 hours per week.

How Is Student Evaluated:

Your final grade will be determined by:

1. Participation in class discussions of the readings and completion of other weekly assignments (40%);
2. The student project (50%); and
3. The final essay (10%).

You must earn a final score of 70% to pass this class.

Who Evaluates Students:

Director and collaborating faculty