A Proposal to Create a Minor Degree Component  
in Medicine & Society  
at the University of Houston

Though the University of Houston does not have a medical school, it is the only public research university in a city where medicine and health care is an industry and social practice of immense importance, historically, economically, culturally. The Texas Medical Center is the largest in the world and home to two medical schools, two schools of nursing, and a score of programs in the allied health sciences, as well more than a dozen major hospitals, clinics, research laboratories, and other medical facilities. Collectively these institutions carry on an enormous amount of teaching and research. The University of Houston is cultivating its ties to the Methodist Hospital and to other institutions in the TMC, to the University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston, and to the medical community generally; these ties have usually been through the Colleges of Pharmacy, Optometry, Engineering, or Natural Sciences and Mathematics. This proposal would establish a multidisciplinary minor degree component that would organize and “package” pre-existing curricular and faculty resources across the University.

The minor would

1) encourage pre-health professions students to explore historical, economic, and cultural issues associated with health care;

2) introduce students of all majors to historical, economic, and cultural dimensions of health, illness, and health care;

3) support access to research, clinical, and instructional opportunities both on- and off-campus.

A steering committee to explore the advantages of a program in Medicine & Society has been meeting since September, 2004, with the following objectives:
1) Determining whether a minor in Medicine & Society would be attractive to undergraduates at the University of Houston.

2) Identifying courses currently taught at the University of Houston that would be appropriate for a minor degree component in Medicine & Society.

3) Proposing for approval a new course, “Readings in Medicine & Society,” which would be required of students completing the minor.

Medicine & Society Steering Committee

Bill Monroe (Honors College and English), Chair
Andy Achenbaum (Social Work), Co-chair
John Lienhard (History and Mechanical Engineering)
Joe Kotarba (Sociology)
Bill Nelson (Philosophy)
Alejandro Chaoul (M.D. Anderson and Rice University)
Andrea Smesny (Pharmacy)
Tracy Karner (Sociology)
Alison McDermott (Optometry)
Stanley Woo (Optometry)
Norris Lang (Anthropology)
Susan Rasmussen (Anthropology)
Janis Hutchinson (Anthropology)
Andy Gordon (Anthropology)
Whitney Boling (Health and Human Performance)
Matthew Franchek (Biomedical Engineering)
Ralph Metcalfe (Biomedical Engineering)
Thomas R. Cole (UT Health Science Center)
Joan Krause (Law Center)
Laura Kicklighter (Baylor College of Medicine)
Warren Holleman (Baylor College of Medicine)
Alice Cepeda (Social Work)
Diane Dorris (Academic Advising Center)
Avelardo Valdez (Social Work)
Lawrence Schulze (Industrial Engineering)
Medicine and Society

Proposed minor

Components of the Minor

1. Required 15 hours in designated Medicine and Society courses including:
   b. Four additional courses chosen from electives approved for the minor.
   c. A minimum of 12 hours must be taken in residence.
   d. A maximum of six hours of approved transfer credits may be accepted toward the minor.
   e. No more than six hours in a student's major may apply toward the minor.

2. Approved research, field-based service, internship/externship, or an additional 3-hour course from the list of approved electives.

3. A GPA of 3.0 is required in those courses completed for the minor.
Potential Electives

ANTH 3350  Women and Health: Anthropological Perspectives
ANTH 3364  Disease in Antiquity
ANTH 4331  Medical Anthropology
ANTH 4337  Anthropology of the Life Cycle
ANTH 4339  Alcohol, Drugs, and Culture
ANTH 4352  Biomedical Anthropology
ANTH 4353  Biocultural Adaptation
ANTH 4384  Anthropology of HIV
BIOE 1440  Frontiers in Biomedical Engineering
BIOL 1309  Human Genetics and Society
ECON 3368  Economics of Health Care
ENGL 4371  Literature and Medicine
HIST 3303  Disease, Health, and Medicine in American History
HIST 3397  History of Medicine
HLT 3306  Environmental Health
HLT 3381  Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
HLT 4308  Understanding Cancer
INDE 4337  Human Factors, Ergonomics, and Safety
OPTO 1300  Introduction to Health Professions
PHAR 2362  Principles of Drug Action
PHIL 3354  Medical Ethics
PHIL 3351  Contemporary Moral Issues
SOC 3345  Sociology of Death and Dying
SOC 3380  Introduction to the Sociology of Health Care
Effective Fall, 2005

☑ Undergrad Council ☑ New Course ☑ UH Core Course
☐ Grad/Prof Council ☑ Course Change ☑ Selected Topics Course

Core Category: none

ORIGIN:
1. Dept: English College: LAS
2. Person Submitting Form: William Monroe Telephone: 3-9007
3. PROPOSED COURSE:
   Instructional Area/Number/Title: HON 3301: Readings in Medicine & Society
   FIE Code: Sub Prefix Course Number Start Course Title
   003652 HON 3301 MEDICINE & SOCIETY

4. Justification for adding/changing course
   To provide for important discipline area
   (Additional Explanation if needed: )

5. If previously taught as a Selected Topics Course, you must complete this section:
   Course Name/Number/Title: 
   Content ID: Start Date: Stop Date: 

6. Proposed Catalog Listing/Description:
   Ex: 3.00 L, Prerequisites: KNS 1204: The study of medicine as a social practice, including medical ethics, public health policy, the history of health care, and the cultural context of medical practice.

7a. Authorized Degree Program: Degree Name: 

7b. OR Support Area: Honors

8. Grade Option: Letter (A, B, C, etc.)
9. Instruction Type: lecturer
10. How does this course affect major/minor requirements?

Next step
11. Dean’s Signature (hand copy): 
   Date: 

12. CURRENT COURSE (data may be obtained from Course Inventory)
   Instructional Area/Number/Title
   Start Date: 
   Content ID: 
   FIE Code: Sub Prefix Course Number Short Course Title (6 characters maximum)
   003652 HON 3301: MEDICINE & SOCIETY

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READINGS IN MEDICINE AND SOCIETY

Week One
T: Introduction and Overview (Achenbaum)
Th: Hippocrates and Galen (John Leinhard)

Week Two
T: History of Medicine (Paul Starr) continued
Th: Achenbaum

Week Three
T: Medical Anthropology (topics thas) continued
Th: Lang, Rasmussen, Gordon, Hutchinson

Week Four
T: Health Care in Houston
Th: The Life of a medical resident (Warren Holemas)

Week Five
T: Engineering, Technology & Medicine (topics thas) continued
Th: Lienhard, Metcalfe

Week Six
T: Bio-ethics, a clinical perspective
Th: Bio-ethics, a philosophical view (Norman Bailey)

Week Seven
T: Complementery/Alternative medicine
Th: Asian influences on preventive medicine (Alejandro Chaoul)

Week Eight
T: Strokes and brain injury
Th: Community-based/VA rehabilitation (Kia Eldred)

Week Nine
T: The Pharmacological Revolution
Th: HIV (Andrea Smesny)

Week Ten
T: The Physician in Literature continued
Th: (Bill Monroe)

Week Eleven
T: Health care financing
Th: Resource allocation (Ralph Herring)
Th: (Bill Nelson)
| Week Twelve  | T: Law & Health Care  | (Joan Krause) |
|             | Th: The Business of Health Care | (???) |
| Week Thirteen | T: The Future: DNA & Genetics  | (Alison McDermott) |
|             | ???                           | (Stan Woo) |
| Week Fourteen | T: Anti-aging                | (Tom Cole) |
|             | Th: Death                    | (Tracy Karner) |