A Proposal to Create a Minor Degree Component
in Medicine & Society
at the University of Houston
(Summer, 2005)

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.

Housed in the Honors College, the minor will be available to all University of Houston students. Academic advising will be coordinated through the Honors College.

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.
At the suggestion of Interim Provost Strickland, 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) Developing a new course, "HON 3301: Readings in Medicine & Society," required of students completing the minor. (Approved Spring 2005; offered Fall 2005, TTH 5:30-7:00 p.m.) This course will be offered each semester.

** 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 Canales (M.D. Anderson and Rice University)  
Andrea Smesny (Pharmacy)  
Tracy Kerner (Sociology)  
Alison McDermott (Optometry)  
Stanley Woo (Optometry)  
Norris Lang (Anthropology)  
Susan Reemtsen (Anthropology)  
Janis Hutchinson (Anthropology)  
Andy Gordon (Anthropology)  
Matthew Franchek (Biomedical Engineering)  
Ralph Metcalfe (Biomedical Engineering)  
Thomas R. Cole (UT Health Science Center)  
Joan Krause (Law Center)  
Warren Hollerman (Baylor College of Medicine)  
Alice Cepeda (Social Work)  
Diane Dorris (Academic Advising Center)  
Avetardo Valdez (Social Work)  
Lawrence Schulze (Industrial Engineering)  
Clifford Daste (University Professor, College of Technology)
Proposed minor and catalog language

**Medicine & Society Minor**

**Director:** William Monroe  
**Associate Director:** W. Andrew Achenbaum  
**Coordinator:** Helen Valier

Housed in the Honors College, the minor in Medicine & Society will be available to all University of Houston students. Academic advising is coordinated through the Honors College. The minor in Medicine & Society is designed to:

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.

The minor in Medicine & Society consists of three components.

1. 15 hours in designated Medicine & Society courses including:
   
   
   b. Four additional courses chosen from the list of elective courses approved for the minor.
   
   c. A minimum of 12 hours must be taken in residence; 9 must be advanced hours.
   
   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 elective courses.

3. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required in those courses completed for the minor.
The following is a partial listing of regularly offered courses that can be counted toward the minor. In addition, courses listed in each semester's class schedule under "Medicine & Society" are considered approved courses for the minor, even though those courses may not appear on the list below.

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
COMM 4333  Health and Communication
COMM 4397  Health Literacy
COMM 4397  Doctor-Patient Communication
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
I. History, Culture & Sociology of Medicine (as profession with links to community health and pharmacology, with various pathways to graduate education, and with dimensions changed by technology)

Aug 23  Introduction  Achenbaum and Monroe

Aug 25  Early episode(s) in history of medicine  Leinhard

Aug 30  History of US medicine  Achenbaum

Sept 1  Case studies of medical anthropology  Gorzón

Sept 6  The pharmacological revolution  Smeary

Sept 8  Engineering, technology & medicine  Metcalfe

Sept 13  Asian medical systems' influence on community and alternative medicine in the US (plus FEEDBACK*)  Chaoul

Sept 15  Religion, health, and well-being (cross cultural)  Rasmussen

Sept 20  Papers due and discussion of papers  Achenbaum

Sept 22  Women's health and gender-specific diseases  Kotarba

Sept 27  Race as a factor in mortality and morbidity  Hutchinson

Sept 29  Worker health and injury prevention  Schulze

Oct 4  Take-home Midterm DUE

II. Health, Well-being, Disease and Death over the Life Course (age, gender, race)

Oct 6  Diagnosis as Interpretation (plus FEEDBACK*)  Monroe

Oct 11  Cancer  (McDermott)?

Oct 13  Obesity  Jill Bush (Human Performance)?

Oct 18  Mental health  Floyd Robinson
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 20</td>
<td>Strokes and brain injury</td>
<td>Elderly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 25</td>
<td>Public health and preventive medicine</td>
<td>Helen Valier (?)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 27</td>
<td>Community-based/ VA rehabilitation</td>
<td>George &amp; Harden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>HIV and epidemics</td>
<td>Lang and Segu</td>
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<td>Nov 3</td>
<td>Anti-aging (plus FEEDBACK*)</td>
<td>Cole</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 8</td>
<td>Death and dying</td>
<td>Kahn</td>
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III. Law, (bio)ethics, and hard policy choices

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 10</td>
<td>Right-to-die/informed consent</td>
<td>Krause &amp; Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>Ethics of technological intervention</td>
<td>Stanley Reiser</td>
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<td>Nov 17</td>
<td>Our future selves: DNA and Genetic Manipulation</td>
<td>McDermott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 22</td>
<td>Bio-ethics: a clinical perspective</td>
<td>Bailey</td>
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<td>Nov 29</td>
<td>Resource allocation from a philosopher's view (plus wrap-up)</td>
<td>Nelson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>Papers due and discussion of papers</td>
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<td>Dec ??</td>
<td>Final Examination</td>
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* FEEDBACK sessions will be led by Dr. Ackerbaum, the instructor of record. These are conceived as 30 minute sessions for addressing potential confusions and responding to student questions. On these occasions the presenters will be limited to 45 minute sessions.
Medicine and Society Program

Director: William Monroe
Associate Director: W. Andrew Achenbaum
Coordinator: Helen Veliier

A minor in Medicine and Society requires 15-18 semester hours of approved course work, including HON 3301 "Readings in Medicine and Society" (note that this class is open to all University of Houston students; it is not restricted to those students enrolled in the Honors College); four additional courses chosen from a list approved for the minor, plus one of the following options: a special project or original research; an internship/externship (as arranged by the Program Coordinator); or an additional 3 hour course chosen from the approved list of electives. Students must complete at least 12 hours in residence, 9 hours of which must be at the advanced level. A maximum of 6 hours of approved transfer credits may be accepted toward the minor upon the approval of the Program Coordinator. No more than 6 hours of a student's major may apply toward the minor. A minimum 3.0 grade point average for all courses applied to the minor is required.

The academic requirements are as follows:
1) HONS 3301 'Readings in Medicine and Society'
2) A selection of four elective courses taken from the list of approved courses:
   ANTH 3350  Women and Health
   ANTH 3364  Disease in Antiquity
   ANTH 4331  Medical Anthropology
   ANTH 4337  Anthropology of the Life Cycle
   ANTH 4332  Biomedical Anthropology
   ANTH 4384  Anthropology of HIV
   ANTH 4394  Anthropology of the Body
   BIOL 1440  Frontiers in Biomedical Engineering
   BIOL 1309  Human Genetics and Society
<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>COMD 4301</td>
<td>Deaf Culture</td>
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<td>COMM 4333</td>
<td>Health Communication</td>
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<td>COMM 4397</td>
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<td>ECNS 6397</td>
<td>Economics of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 4371</td>
<td>Literature and Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 3385</td>
<td>Disease, Health, and Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 4395</td>
<td>Science, Technology and Empire</td>
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<tr>
<td>INDE 4537</td>
<td>Human Factors, Ergonomics, and Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPTO 1300</td>
<td>Introduction to the Health Professions</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 3354</td>
<td>Medical Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 3382</td>
<td>Sociology of Drug Use and Recovery</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCW 3397</td>
<td>Spirituality and Aging</td>
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Note: Courses are added to the approved list between editions of the catalog. Students may obtain a complete list of courses approved for this minor in the office of the Program in Medicine & Society, 212 M.D. Anderson Library.

3) Approved research, field-based service, internship/externship, or an additional 3-hour course from the list of approved elective courses.
ITEC 4397/TEPM 6397: Experiencing the Future of Health

Taught by Clifford C. Dacso, MD, MPH, MBA

This course builds on the foundation of other University classes to begin the process of designing healthcare interventions. Class participants will be exposed to current issues in healthcare as well as visions and arguments for the future. At the conclusion of the course, students will have understood the determinants of the future of healthcare worldwide and will have experienced the challenges of designing and critiquing scenarios.

Topics will include:
- The Environment of Health
- Cultural Determinants of Healthcare
- The Influence of Structures and Esthetics on Health
- What Does the Business Community Expect from a Healthcare System?
- What are the Political Drivers for Healthcare Futures?
- The Legal and Regulatory Structures of Healthcare
- HIV/AIDS as a Metaphor for Health Intervention
- International Healthcare, Development, and Human Rights
  - Technology and Research Drivers
  - Personal Health, Autonomy, and Efficacy
  - Scenario Planning Techniques

Class requirements: Sophomore status or above