

Module title: Global Medical Humanities: the Human in Medicine

Module code: COM6063

Credit value: 15

Level: 6

Pre-requisite modules:

Content Description

The module will introduce students to the field of medical humanities from a global and comparative perspective. It will examine key issues and debates in the field and encourage students to rethink their understanding of health, sickness, and the role of medicine today. Drawing on a range of works (literary and visual) from around the world, we will explore the ways in which medicine, illness, life and death are represented in different cultures and reflect on the ethical questions these raise.

Module Aims

1. To introduce students to the field of medical humanities from a global and comparative perspective.
2. To provide an understanding of why studying the humanities is of crucial importance to the practice of medicine.
3. To analyse specific cultural texts which explore medical ethics, cultural difference and ideas of life and death.
4. To equip students with concepts, methods and skills that will enable them to analyse literary and critical texts in a variety of cultures.
5. To enhance research and essay writing skills as well as students' self-reflexivity.

Learning Outcomes

Academic Content:

A1 To introduce students to the field of global medical humanities.

A2 To explore global medical humanities from a comparative and culturally sensitive perspective.

A3 To reflect on the role played by culture in our view of health and healthcare.

Disciplinary Skills – able to:

B1 To develop an ability to analyse complex literary and critical texts from around the world.

B2 To communicate, orally and in writing, in a clear, effective and succinct manner.

B3 To reflect on and critically synthesise the relationship between medicine and different theoretical perspectives from the humanities.

Attributes:

C1 To develop a critical awareness of a changing world.

C2 Capacity to understand differing and often deeply opposed ideas concerning human beings and the societies in which they live.

C3 Openness to varying interpretations of events and social issues, and the ways in which they are informed by different philosophical and cultural perspectives.

C4 Ability to work in partnership with others in the interests of achieving a common goal.

Activity Hours

Activity Type	Time spent (hours)
Lecture	11
Seminar	11
Guided independent study	128
Total	150

Indicative Reading List

- Camus, *The Plague* (French, 1947)
- Saramago, *Blindness* (Portuguese, 1995)
- Priscilla Wald, *Contagious: Cultures, Carriers and the Outbreak narrative* (2008)
- Higashida, *The Reason I Jump* (Japanese, 2007/2013)
- Small, *Stiches, a memoir* (English, 2009)
- Shakespeare, *Disability Rights and Wrongs* (2006)
- De Kerangal, *Mend the Living* (French, 2013)
- Coutts, *The Iceberg* (English, 2014)
- Chambers, *Untimely Interventions* (2004)
- Mpe, *Welcome to our Hillbrow* (South Africa, English, 2001)
- Coetzee, *Life and Times of Michael K* (South Africa, English, 1983)
- Clare, *Brilliant Imperfection* (2017)
- *Baseball in the Time of Cholera* (English, 2011)
- *Haiti in a Time of Cholera* (English, 2013)
- *Ship of Theseus* (Hindi, 2012)
- Barker C. and S. Murray (2017) *The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Disability*. Cambridge University Press.
- Bates et al., eds, V. (2014) *Medicine, health and the arts: approaches to the medical humanities*. Edited by V. Bates, A. Bleakley, and S. Goodman. London: Routledge.
- Bleakley, A. (2015) *Medical Humanities and Medical Education: How the Medical Humanities can Shape Better Doctors* (London: Routledge).
- Bleakley, A. (2017) *Thinking with metaphors in medicine*. Routledge.
- Bolaki, S. (2016) *Illness as many narratives: arts, medicine and culture*. Edinburgh, Scotland: Edinburgh University Press.
- Brody, H. (no date) 'Defining the Medical Humanities: Three Conceptions and Three Narratives', *Journal of Medical Humanities*, 32(1).
- Cole, T. R., Carlin, N. and Carson, R. A. (2014) *Medical humanities: an introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Crawford, P. et al. (2015) *Health humanities*. London: Palgrave.
- Crawford, P., Brown, B. J. and Charise, A. (eds) (2020) *The Routledge companion to health humanities*. Abingdon: Routledge.
- Diane Price Herndl (2005) 'Disease versus Disability: The Medical Humanities and Disability Studies', *PMLA*, 120(2).
- Dowell, Scott F., and Christopher R. Braden. 2011. "Implications of the Introduction of Cholera to Haiti." *Emerging Infectious Diseases* 17 (7): 1299–1300.
- Dunavan, Claire Panosian. (2017). "'Padon Pa Geri Maleng' ('Sorry Doesn't Heal the Scars')."

- The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene 96 (1): 258–59.
- Evans, M. and Finlay, I. G. (2001) Medical humanities. London: BMJ Books.
- Farmer, Paul. (1992). AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Frank, A. W. (1995) The Wounded Storyteller: Body, Illness and Ethics (Chicago: Chicago UP).
- Kirklin, D. (2011) 'Medical humanities and the on-going search for reliability, authenticity and humility', *Medical Humanities*, 37(2), pp. 67–67. doi: 10.1136/medhum-2011-010134.
- Frerichs, Ralph R. 2016. Deadly River: Cholera and Cover-Up in Post-Earthquake Haiti. Ithaca, NY: ILR Press.
- Marcum, J. (2008) An Introductory Philosophy of Medicine: Humanizing Modern Medicine (Dordrecht: Springer).
- Schmidt, U. and Frewer, A. (2007), History and Theory of Human Experimentation. The Declaration of Helsinki and Modern Medical Ethics (Franz Steiner, Frankfurt am Main/New York).
- Van der Eijk, P. J. (1999) Ancient Histories of Medicine: Essays in Medical Doxography and Historiography in Classical Antiquity (Leiden: Brill).
- Whitehead, A. et al, (2016), The Edinburgh Companion to the Critical Medical Humanities (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press).
- Woods, A. (2011) 'The limits of narrative: provocations for the medical humanities', *Medical Humanities*, 37(2), pp. 73–78. doi: 10.1136/medhum-2011-010045.