

Course Description: Religion & Medicine ENRH-145

Course Directors: *Maria Box and Ashley Wallace, PC3*

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Jarett Berry

Department: Division of Cardiology in Dept. of IM and Dept. of Clinical Sciences

Student Liaison(s): *N/A*

Start Semester/Date: *Fall - 2017*

Requirements:

5 Minimum participants for course to be conducted

30 Maximum number of students per course (if applicable)

Rationale:

For centuries, various world religions have claimed to offer something of value to the study of health, disease, and healing. From the Judeo-Christian-Islamic tradition to Eastern religions, faith communities have sought to develop rich and meaningful theological beliefs underpinning an understanding of physical well-being and the practice of Medicine. In fact, it could be argued that medicine has its roots in the religiously inclined healers of Ayurveda, traditional Chinese herbal medicine, Qi, and the ancient tribal witch doctors. Furthermore, physicians and patients today both approach the healing art of Medicine having been shaped by a variety of significant worldviews and beliefs. Religious beliefs often play an incredibly formative role in shaping both these worldviews and the expectations surrounding physician-patient encounters within the world of Medicine.

It is therefore of utmost importance that future healthcare practitioners develop an understanding of the wide array of religious beliefs concerning Medicine, not only in order to better understand their patients, but also to be able to reflect upon their own role in working to provide healing.

Through dialogue with one another and with religious leaders and physicians from a diverse background of beliefs, we hope to foster a deeper appreciation of the rich and varied history of religious understanding of Medicine and to reflect upon ways that such an appreciation might influence our future practice as culturally competent healthcare professionals.

Objectives:

1. To develop in students an understanding of the religious diversity of their future patients, both in American and global contexts. This is akin to the popular notion of “cultural competency”, but as it concerns religion rather than culture in general.
2. To gain knowledge of the history of the most significant world religions, as well as their core beliefs and worldviews.
3. To gain an understanding of how religious beliefs can and do inform physicians, patients, and their interactions in the healthcare setting.

Format

- There will be 12 sessions, each 1 hour in length
 - Some sessions will be taught by the course directors
 - Others will be taught by guest speakers from diverse religious backgrounds and the local faith communities
- Each session will consist of a ~40 min talk on the subject of the week, allowing time for questions, discussion, and orders of business.
- We will provide the opportunity to make up a maximum of two classes for each student.
 - One class can be made up by attending a Dallas-area or university lecture that in some way deals with the intersection of religion & medicine and by writing a half-page response to said lecture.
 - One class can be made up by reading an academic article or watching an online video of a lecture or presentation related to religion & medicine, and by writing a half-page response to said media.
 - As relevant opportunities become available throughout the semester we will create and disseminate a list of appropriate lectures, articles, and other opportunities to the students of the course via Moodle.

Student Evaluation

Grades will be pass / fail. Attendance is required to receive credit for the course.

Course Evaluation

Grading will be pass/fail. To receive transcript acknowledgment, students must:

- Receive credit for at least 10 of 12 sessions (OR 9 of 12 sessions and a make-up OR 8 of 12 sessions and two make-ups)
- AND complete the online course evaluation form

Schedule

·Session 01 | Monday, September 11 | 5pm

- Course Introduction & Importance
- Introduction to the History of World Religions

·Session 02 | Monday, September 18 | 5pm

- Introduction to the History & Core Beliefs of Judaism
- Judaism as Relates to an Understanding of Health & Medicine

·Session 03 | Monday, September 25 | 5pm

- Introduction to the History & Core Beliefs of Catholic Christianity
- Catholic Christianity as Relates to an Understanding of Health & Medicine

·Session 04 | Monday, October 2 | 5pm

- Introduction to the History & Core Beliefs of Protestant Christianity
- Protestant Christianity as Relates to an Understanding of Health & Medicine

·Session 05 | Monday, October 9 | 5pm

- Introduction to the History & Core Beliefs of Islam
- Islam as Relates to an Understanding of Health & Medicine

·Session 06 | Monday, October 16 | 5pm

- o Introduction to the History & Core Beliefs of Hinduism
- o Hinduism as Relates to an Understanding of Health & Medicine

·Session 07 | Monday, October 23 | 5pm

- o Introduction to the History & Core Beliefs of Buddhism
- o Buddhism as Relates to an Understanding of Health & Medicine

·Session 08 | Monday, October 30 | 5pm

- o Introduction to the History & Core Beliefs of Mormonism
- o Mormonism as Relates to an Understanding of Health & Medicine

·Session 09 | Monday, November 6 | 5pm

- o A Chaplain's Perspective on Health and Medicine

·Session 10 | Monday, November 13 | 5pm

- o A Physician's Perspective on Spirituality and the Sick/Dying Patient

·Session 11 | Monday, November 27 | 5pm

- o Special Topics

·Session 12 | Monday, December 4 | 5pm

- o Special Topics

*Special Topics sessions will have their focus on a specific guest speaker from variety of religious backgrounds, and their specific field of academic interest, their unique practice setting, or an exploration of an interesting issue of religio-medical relevance.