# Health, Medicine, and Society

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**Core Faculty**

Sirry Alang, Ph.D. (Department of Sociology and Anthropology);  
Kelly Austin, Ph.D. (Department of Sociology and Anthropology);  
Christopher Burke, Ph.D. (Department of Psychology);  
Stephen Cutcliffe, Ph.D. (Department of History);  
Dena Davis, Ph.D. (Department of Religion Studies);  
Elizabeth Dolan, Ph.D. (Department of English);  
Sharon Friedman, Ph.D. (Department of Journalism and Communications);  
Judith Laeker, Ph.D., (Department of Sociology and Anthropology);  
Linda Lowe-Krentz, Ph.D. (Department of Biological Sciences);  
Jesseca Marsh, Ph.D. (Department of Psychology);  
and Lucy Napper, Ph.D. (Department of Psychology).

An interdisciplinary Health, Medicine, and Society minor is offered in the College of Arts and Sciences. A committee composed of faculty from several departments across the college developed and participate in the program. Students interested in declaring a minor in Health, Medicine, and Society should contact the Office of Interdisciplinary Programs (incasip@lehigh.edu).

The challenge of meeting the increasingly complex health needs of growing and aging populations is moving to the forefront of national and international concerns in the 21st century. The Health, Medicine, and Society field focuses on the social scientific and humanistic dimensions of health and medical care to develop an understanding of the impact of health, illness, and medical care on individuals, families, and societies. This minor is intended to serve students who wish to be involved in some aspect of the health care industry or health policy and also students who are interested in communications, the pharmaceutical industry, law, business, agency work, and other careers where understanding health care is essential.

**MINOR IN HEALTH, MEDICINE, AND SOCIETY**

The minor in HMS consists of one core course and three elective courses for a total of 16 credits. To declare a minor in HMS, students must complete a minor declaration form. (http://catalog.lehigh.edu/coursesprogramsandcurricula/artsandsciences/healthmedicineandsociety/2015-16_hms_minor_declaration_form.pdf)

### Required Core Course (select one)  

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HMS/SOC 160</td>
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<tr>
<td>HMS 170</td>
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<td>HMS 180</td>
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### Electives (select three)  

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<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HMS/ENGL 115</td>
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<tr>
<td>HMS/PHIL/REL 116</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>HMS/JOUR/ES 117</td>
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<tr>
<td>HMS/STS/HIST 118</td>
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<td>HMS/PSYC 138</td>
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<td>HMS/SOC 152</td>
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<td>HMS/ANTH 155</td>
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<td>HMS/SOC 162</td>
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<td>HMS 211</td>
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<td>HMS/REL 226</td>
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### Courses

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HMS/PSYC 327</td>
<td>Health Psychology</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECO 368</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOS 010</td>
<td>Biochemistry in the 21st Century</td>
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**Total Credits:** 16  
1 If more than one core course is taken, core course may substitute for elective.  
2 Additional HMS designated courses may be offered each semester, consult with the Office of Interdisciplinary Programs for a complete listing of HMS courses.

### Courses

**HMS 115 (ENGL 115) Topics in Literature, Medicine, and Health 4 Credits**  
Largely focused on narratives about health, illness and disability, this course will examine individual experiences with attention to social context. Topics may include the physician/patient relationship, illness and deviance, plague literature, gender and medicine, autism, AIDS, mental illness, aging.

**Repeat Status:** Course may be repeated.  
**Attribute/Distribution:** HU

**HMS 116 (PHIL 116, REL 116) Bioethics 4 Credits**  
Moral issues that arise in the context of health care and related biomedical fields in the United States today, examined in the light of the nature and foundation of moral rights and obligations. Topics include: confidentiality, informed consent, euthanasia, medical research and experimentation, genetics, and the distribution of health care.

**Attribute/Distribution:** HU

**HMS 117 (ES 117, JOUR 117) Environmental Health Risks and the Media 4 Credits**  
This course explores the risks and effects of environmental contamination on human health and behavior as well as the role of the mass media in alerting citizens to potential environmental health risks. Environmental topics vary but usually include air and water pollution, endocrine disrupters and radioactive waste.

**Attribute/Distribution:** SS
HMS 118 (HIST 118, STS 118) History of Modern Medicine 4 Credits
Introduction to Western medical history from the 18th century to the present day. Students will explore patient/practitioner relationships; examine changing ideas concerning health, sickness, and disease; chart changes in hospital care and medical education; and tackle topics such as eugenics, medical experimentation and health insurance.

Attribute/Distribution: HU

HMS 138 (PSYC 138) Abnormal Psychology 4 Credits
Examines research and theory on the patterns, causes, and treatment of various forms of abnormal behavior.

Prerequisites: PSYC 001

Attribute/Distribution: SS

HMS 152 (SOC 152) Alcohol, Science, and Society 4 Credits
Alcohol use and abuse, its historical function in society, moral entrepreneurship, status struggles and conflict over alcohol. Current problems with attention to special population groups and strategies for prevention of alcohol abuse.

Attribute/Distribution: SS

HMS 155 (ANTH 155) Medical Anthropology 4 Credits
Medical Anthropology is the study of how conceptions of health, illness, and healing methods vary over time and across cultures. Students will learn how social and cultural factors shape health outcomes in a variety of human contexts, and will study culturally specific approaches to healing, including Western bio-medicine. The course offers a broad understanding of the relationship between culture, health, and healing.

Attribute/Distribution: SS

HMS 160 (SOC 160) Medicine and Society 4 Credits
Health, illness, and the health professions from the sociological perspective. Social epidemiology, social psychology of illness, socialization of health professionals, organization of health care, patient-professional relationships and ethical issues in medical care.

Attribute/Distribution: SS

HMS 162 (SOC 162) AIDS and Society 4 Credits
Impact of the AIDS epidemic on individuals and on social institutions (medicine, religion, education, politics, etc.); social and health policy responses; international experience; effect on public attitudes and policy on people affected directly by AIDS.

Attribute/Distribution: SS

HMS 170 Medical Humanities 4 Credits
The focus on individual voices and particular historical moments in the humanities disciplines has much to add to our understanding of health and illness. This course will take up ethical, historical, and literary approaches to health. The course can count as the core course for the minor (instead of HMS/SSP 160), or it can be taken as one of the three electives.

Attribute/Distribution: HU

HMS 180 Introduction to Public Health 4 Credits
This course provides historical perspective on the contributions and roles of public health; introduces health status indicators of morbidity and mortality, concepts of rate, causation, and public health surveillance and vital statistics; and addresses determinants of health from an environmental, social, behavioral perspective. Aspects of health care delivery will be addressed from a population perspective and organizational structure. Course can count as the core course for the minor (instead of HMS/SSP 160), or taken as an elective.

Attribute/Distribution: SS

HMS 211 Peer Health Adviser Training 4 Credits
This applied course explores student health at Lehigh University and focuses on the development, implementation and evaluation of prevention strategies designed to make Lehigh a healthy and safe living, learning community by exploring student health-related data, examining campus-wide priority student health issues and developing evidence-based interventions. Peer Health Advisers are trained to provide peer-to-peer support, advice, resources and programming to promote healthy behaviors. Students completing the course are subsequently eligible to serve as Peer Health Advisers.

Attribute/Distribution: SS

HMS 221 Peer Health Adviser Training 4 Credits
This applied course explores student health at Lehigh University and focuses on the development, implementation and evaluation of prevention strategies designed to make Lehigh a healthy and safe living, learning community by exploring student health-related data, examining campus-wide priority student health issues and developing evidence-based interventions. Peer Health Advisers are trained to provide peer-to-peer support, advice, resources and programming to promote healthy behaviors. Students completing the course are subsequently eligible to serve as Peer Health Advisers.

Attribute/Distribution: SS

HMS 226 (REL 226) From Black Death to AIDS:Plague,Pandemic,Ethics and Religion 4 Credits
An investigation of the role of religion and ethical analysis in constructing meaning around the idea of plague and pandemic. The role of religion in the European bubonic plague epidemic, the influenza pandemic of 1918, and the AIDS crisis will be examined, with attention give to ethical analysis of the institutional response to pandemic disease as distortions have occurred for political, social, and religious reasons.

Attribute/Distribution: HU

HMS 291 Independent Study 1-4 Credits
Independent research and reading with a faculty member. After receiving initial approval from the HMS director, the student must prepare an independent study proposal, with readings and assignments, in consultation with a professor who agrees to direct the independent study. Open only to declared HMS minors who have complete HMS/SSP 160 in a previous term.

Attribute/Distribution: HU, SS

HMS 292 Supervised Research 1-8 Credits
Research project under the direct supervision of an HMS faculty member. Consent of instructor required.

Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

Attribute/Distribution: HU, SS

HMS 293 Internship 1-8 Credits
Practical experience in the application of health, medicine and society for both on- and off-campus organizations. Course is designed to provide credit for supervised experiential learning experiences. May be repeated for credit up to eight credits. Prerequisite: consent of the program director.

Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

HMS 300 Apprentice Teaching 1-4 Credits
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

Attribute/Distribution: HU, SS

HMS 315 (ENGL 315) Topics in Literature, Medicine, and Health 3,4 Credits
Analyzing the stories people tell about health, illness and disability, this course engages cultural studies approaches in order to explore the way those stories are told. Topics may include: illness and the graphic novel, the changing image of the healer in literature, collaborative storytelling with Alzheimer's patients, end of life narratives, tales from the ER, narrative ethics.

Attribute/Distribution: HU
HMS 316 (SOC 316) Social Epidemiology 4 Credits
Social epidemiology is the study of the distribution and social determinants of health and disease in human populations. This course introduces the basic principles of epidemiological study design, analysis and interpretation, covering topics such as how a disease spreads across populations and how public health interventions can help control or reduce the spread of disease. This course also reviews epidemiology as a social science by reviewing the social causes and consequences of health.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

HMS 322 (GCP 322, GS 322, SOC 322) Global Health Issues 4 Credits
Examines the sociological dimensions of health, illness, and healing as they appear in different parts of the world. Focuses on patterns of disease and mortality around the world, with special emphasis on major epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, and malaria; the relative importance of ‘traditional’ and ‘modern’ beliefs and practices with regard to disease and treatment in different societies; the organization of national health care systems in different countries; and the role of international organizations and social movements in promoting health.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

HMS 323 (ES 323, JOUR 323, STS 323) Health and Environmental Controversies 4 Credits
Exploration of health and environmental controversies from the perspectives of scientific uncertainty and mass media coverage. Examines genetic engineering, biotechnology, environmental health risks, and nanotechnology. Includes discussion of ethical and social responsibilities and interactions with the public.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

HMS 327 (PSYC 327) Health Psychology 4 Credits
An overview of the topic of health psychology. The course presupposes a preventative intervention approach to the problem of assisting healthy individuals to understand the relationship between behavior and health, and to engage those behaviors that promote health. This course will be underpinned with basic science and research on health psychology, but will include an application focus. Consent of department required.
Prerequisites: PSYC 001
Attribute/Distribution: SS

HMS 334 (PSYC 334, WGSS 334) The Psychology of Body Image and Eating Disorders 4 Credits
The course addresses the psychosocial aspects of the development of healthy and unhealthy body image and eating disorders. The roles of personality traits/individual factors, family and interpersonal functioning, and cultural factors will be examined, as will the impact of representations of body image in mass media. Public health and psychological interventions for prevention and treatment will be explored. Personal accounts/memoirs, clinical case presentations, and documentary and dramatic films will be incorporated in the presentation of topics.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

HMS 341 (SOC 341, WGSS 341) Women and Health 4 Credits
Relationships of women to the medical system. Influence of medicine on women's lives and the impact of the women's movement on health care.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

HMS 344 (PSYC 344) Health Care Reasoning and Decision-Making 4 Credits
Health care professionals diagnose physical and mental illnesses and create treatment plans to improve their patients' health. How do these professionals make decisions related to these important issues? We will explore the literature on how medical and mental health professionals reason and make decisions about health care issues. Topics to be covered include diagnosis, treatment decisions, access to care, and how these reasoning processes are swayed. Consideration will be given to patient decision-making as well. Consent of department required.
Prerequisites: PSYC 117 or PSYC 176 or COGS 007
Attribute/Distribution: SS

HMS 348 (PSYC 348) Drugs and Behavior 4 Credits
Why are some people more vulnerable to substance use problems than others? How can we effectively address substance abuse in our society? This course explores theories and research on the complex psychological, social, and biological factors that contribute to substance use and disorders. Topics include theories of addiction, characteristics of illegal and legal drugs, risk and protective factors, and research on substance abuse prevention.
Prerequisites: PSYC 001
Attribute/Distribution: SS

HMS 349 (PSYC 349) Participatory and Action Research in Psychology 4 Credits
Action research is used to understand important real-world social problems and promote social action. Participatory research engages community members as equals to help identify areas of focus and design studies and interventions. This course provides an overview of the rich history of these approaches in psychology, an in-depth look at how they can be used effectively, and an opportunity to gain hands-on experience.
Prerequisites: PSYC 121 or PSYC 153
Attribute/Distribution: SS

HMS 354 (POLS 354) U.S. Health Care Politics 4 Credits
Explores a range of health care programs and policies and their impacts on American society. Topics include the development of the U.S. approach to health care; public sector plans (Medicare and Medicaid); the role of managed care; the employer-sponsored system; the situation of the medically uninsured; the health care vested interests and lobbyists; movements for national health care; and options for change.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

HMS 386 (PSYC 386) Child and Adolescent Health Psychology 4 Credits
Focuses on developmental research and theory related to health and wellness issues in children and adolescents. Topics include children's understanding of biology and disease, disease management, medical consent, education and policy efforts to promote children's health.
Prerequisites: PSYC 107
Attribute/Distribution: SS