Participating Units

- School of Communication Studies
- Department of English
- Geographic Science Program
- Department of Health Sciences
- Department of History
- Department of Integrated Science and Technology
- Program in Interprofessional Education
- Department of Justice Studies
- Department of Philosophy and Religion
- Department of Psychology
- Department of Sociology and Anthropology
- Women’s and Gender Studies
- School of Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication

Advisory Board

Dr. Amanda Biesecker, Department of Integrated Science and Technology

Dr. Rebecca Brannon, Department of History

Dr. Becca Howes-Mischel, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Dr. Michael J. Klein, School of Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication

Ms. Kristy Liskey, Physician Assistant Program

Dr. Cathryn Molloy, School of Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication

For more information, contact

Dr. Michael J. Klein
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Or visit us at

www.jmu.edu/medical-humanities
The Program

Typically, we approach the human body from a medical, diagnostic model. But physicians have long recognized that this approach to health and well-being is not sufficient for understanding our somatic life. The cross disciplinary minor in medical humanities provides students with a humanistic and social study of illness, health and the body. Drawing upon concepts found in the disciplines contributing to the minor, courses in the curriculum share the common focus of examining how individuals and institutions articulate and disseminate conceptions of the body, including constituent issues such as race, ethnicity, sexuality and gender.

Designed to complement any major, the goals of the medical humanities minor include helping students:

- Think critically about ways in which conceptions of illness, health and the human body are shaped through disciplinary perspectives.
- Articulate the ways in which race, ethnicity, sexuality and gender are socially constructed.

To learn more, please visit us at www.jmu.edu/medical-humanities.

Minor Requirements

Choose six courses (18 credit hours) from the following courses. No more than two courses from a single subject (e.g. ANTH, ENG, SCOM, SOCI, etc.) can count toward the minor.

ANTH/SOCI 352. Birth, Death, Sex: Exploring Demography
ANTH 360. Medical Anthropology
ANTH 376. Anthropology of Reproduction
ENG/WGSS 368. Women’s Literature
ENG 423. Advanced Studies in Gender and Sexuality in Literature
GEOG 323. The Geography of Human Genetics, Infectious Diseases and Diet
HTH 372. Human Sexuality
HIST 306. A History of the Body in the West
ISAT 456. Ethical, Legal and Social Implications of Biotechnology
ISAT/WGSS 485. Gender Studies in Science
IPE 415. Ethical Decision-Making in Healthcare
PHIL 262. Problems in Applied Ethics
PSYC 308. Health Psychology
REL 280. Religion and Science
SCOM 471. Culture and Health Communication
SOCI 336. Race and Ethnicity
SOCI/WGSS 337. Sociology of Gender
SOCI 375. Medical Sociology
SOCI 385. Madness and Society: Sociology of Mental Health and Illness
WRTC 458. Scientific and Medical Communication
WRTC 488. Writing in the Health Sciences

Additionally, special topics courses offered by the participating units may also count. A current list will be distributed to students in the minor each semester.