

HEALTH HUMANITIES MINOR

Faculty

Coordinator: John Penniman

The health humanities is an interdisciplinary approach to the cultural, historical and ethical dimensions of health and medicine. Courses in the health humanities examine health and illness as concepts that are intimately connected to human bodies, human experiences and human cultures. Health contains and exceeds the human, and so humanities disciplines provide an expansive and interdisciplinary perspective on what it means to be healthy, ill, flourishing, languishing, living and dying. To explore health and illness in this framing is to engage in a wide spectrum of cultural literacies that are the hallmarks of a liberal arts education.

Bucknell's health humanities minor is designed for students from all three colleges and complements their studies in any other discipline. Students will explore the hidden, abandoned or neglected connections between health and its cultural, historical and environmental contexts. The courses of the minor prioritize textual and visual analysis, historical literacy, ethical reasoning, archival research, ethnography, as well as advanced levels of written and oral communication. In an age marked by historic global pandemics, health and illness remain urgent and contested categories requiring increasingly nuanced analysis and creative engagement. Students pursuing the health humanities minor will be uniquely prepared for a range of careers within and beyond health care.

Requirements of the Minor

The health humanities minor consists of five courses: HLTH 100 Intro to Health Humanities, one course from each of the three core categories, and one additional course at the 300 level from any core category. Students may request that credit from courses not listed here be counted toward the minor by contacting the director of the health humanities program.

HLTH 100	Intro to Health Humanities	1
Ethical and Philosophical Dimensions of Health		1
PHIL 220	Philosophy of Science	
PHIL 272	Philosophy of Biology	
PHIL 274	Bioethics	
RELI 226	Environmental Ethics	
RELI 227	Bioethics: Issues in Ethics, Medicine, and the Life Sciences	
Historical Engagements in Health and Medicine		1
ARTH 209	Art, Science, and Magic in the Medieval World	
ENLS 250	Renaissance Literature, 1485-1660 (only when titled Reading the Renaissance Body, taught by Emily Loney)	
ENLS 290	Special Topics (only when titled Plague, Contagion, and Illness, taught by Emily Loney)	
ENLS 350	Seminar in Renaissance Literature (only when titled Performing Disability in Early Modern Literature, taught by Emily Loney)	
ENLS 397	Seminar in Special Topics (only when titled Narrating Disability, taught by Emily Loney)	
HIST 171	Introduction to the History of Medicine	
HIST 212	Histories of Environmental Health and Justice	
HIST 213	North American Environmental History	
HIST 271	Health and Medicine in the 20th Century U.S.	
HIST 279	Topics in the History of Science and Medicine	
HIST 370	History of Science and Medicine	
RELI 250	How to Be Alone: Religion, Solitude, and Loneliness	
RELI 257	Yoga: Religion, History, Culture	
Social Contexts and Inequalities of Health		1
ANTH 290	Medical Anthropology	
ANTH 306	Culture and Madness	
ANTH 311	Mind, Madness and Medicine	
ANTH 312	Global Health	
CBST 315	Race, Sports and Politics	
ENLS 213	Special Topics in American Literature (only when titled Fiction and Reproductive Justice, taught by Chase Gregory)	
ENST 241	Environmental Health & Climate	

ENST 305	Gender, Environment & Health
RELI 312	Digesting Divinity: Religion, Food and Diet
SOCI 232	Sociology of Health and Medicine
WMST 262	Gender, Race and Health
WMST 350	Reproductive Justice & Health

One 300-Level Course from Any Core Area

1

Courses

HLTH 100. Intro to Health Humanities. 1 Credit.

Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3

This course introduces students to the social, historical, environmental and ethical dimensions of health and medicine. It will prepare students to engage with health and illness as products of cultural processes by educating them in core concepts, historical case studies and research methods essential to the humanities.