

# Medical and Health Humanities Courses FALL 2022

**Aug 22-27, 2022.**

## **Residential Courses on campus**

(accessible by Zoom for long distance learners)

### ***MDHM 600: The Arts in Medical and Health Humanities***

Residential on August 22 and 23.

In person and online. Instructor: Dr. Merel Visse.

Examines a current topic or question in the field of Medical and/or Health Humanities. This diverse field transcends the disciplinary boundaries of the academy and engages all aspects of human culture--science, history, ethics, philosophy, literature, religion, and art--in a discursive dialogue centered on what medicine and health mean in relation to the individual and society. Students have an opportunity to develop individual research projects that deepen and demonstrate their understanding of this field and its relevance to their educational interests and professional contexts. This year, we will examine vulnerability and precarity.

### ***MDHM 510: Introduction to Narrative Medicine***

Residential: August 24 and 25. In-Person and Online.

Instructor: Dr. Gaetana Kopchinsky.

Explores narrative and interpretive techniques that may enhance communication within the healthcare community as a whole. Narrative is everywhere in medicine: in patient stories, in the notes we write, in our formal presentations and in conversations with colleagues and families. Traditionally, healthcare education has provided little training in how best to create and interpret such narratives. Uses medical fiction, essays, poetry, great literature, illness narratives, medical autobiographies and case write-ups on Narrative

Medicine. Includes a combination of lecture and reading and writing workshops. Each semester, the focus of the course shifts within the overall framework of Narrative Medicine, and therefore this course can be repeated multiple times.

### ***MDHM 721 Politics of Public Health***

Residential: August 25 and 26. In-Person and Online.  
Instructor: Dr. Catherine Burns-Konefal.

Public health involves taking a population-based approach to health problems with a strong focus on ethical principles and issues of social justice. Assesses traditional public health policies using new perspectives emerging from critical medical anthropology and social medicine. Within this framework, students analyze a number of problems and policy issues, including socioeconomic inequities and their impact on health and access to care, environmental health, women's health, HIV/AIDS, obesity and diabetes, and the rise of drug-resistant tuberculosis and MRSA. Analysis may include evaluating the quality of health information in the mass media and considering how political, economic, social, and cultural forces affect public health policy. In addition to weekly readings and homework assignments, students write a research paper on some areas of politics and public health.

**All residential courses are followed by online sessions throughout the semester once a week between 7:00-9:30 PM.**

**A selection of electives (all online). Please visit the Caspersen School of Graduate Studies or Theological School catalog for a complete overview.**

*MDHM 793: Theory and Practice of Mindfulness.* Instructor: Erin Sheehan.

This course explores the theory and practice of mindfulness and the growing "mindfulness momentum" across Western culture. The first

part introduces students to the theory and practice of meditation. The second part engages current research in neuroscience associated with mindfulness and meditation. Lastly, we consider the widespread current application of mindfulness to areas including law enforcement, education and healthcare, for which mindfulness provides methods for the management of interpersonal relations without judgment or reactivity.

*MDHM 873: Medical and Health Humanities Practicum. Independent Study Instructor: Yvette Vieira.*

In this course Drew students will work with professionals to bring the Medical and Health Humanities to the field. The Medical and Health Humanities program is conducted in partnership with Atlantic Health Systems and a variety of institutions and communities across the country and abroad. We assist you in developing your practicum or internship at hospitals, non-profits, always tailored to your professional goals, to be completed in your local area or with one of our partners at Atlantic Health Systems in the New Jersey/New York area. Your experience during this course will be facilitated by your preceptor/supervisor on-site and is dependent on which organization you would like to be based out of and your specific academic interests.

*MDHM 683: Graphic Medicine: Embodiment, Illness, Health and The Visual Narrative, Instructor: Dr. Sloane Drayson-Knigge.*

Graphic Medicine, has its roots in the strongly autobiographical comics in the trend that emerged in the period of 'alternative comics' during the 1980s. In an ever-growing area of study amid a broad constituency—Humanities scholars, individuals involved in Comic Studies, medical and health care professionals, persons involved in personal caregiving, among others, a spectrum of perspectives, conceptualizations and communities have been engaged. Although this course will be attentive to those areas, it will primarily draw on Graphic Medicine's autobiographical roots and focus on personal iconographies which afford a compelling means of articulating the experiences and events of the authors' own stories.

*MDHM 750: Joy of Scholarly Writing. Online. Instructor: Dr. Laura Winters.*

Students embark on their individual dissertation journeys. Specifically, students will choose and refine their dissertation topics and initiate research into that choice. Reviews research skills and resources related to the various fields represented by the students/topics in the course. Early writing assignments will build towards composing a prospectus draft, and then an extended 20-page piece of scholarly writing related to their dissertation topics (shaped by Caspersen School guidelines). Students benefit from both sustained individual attention to their research and writing, along with group workshops. The work may foster individualized, imaginative approaches to scholarly writing, as well as solid critical thinking and perspectives on research materials and methods.

*REL 540: The Body in Religious Practice. In Person.*

### **End-of-Degree Courses**

MDHM 975: Master Project/Thesis. Independent Study. Instructor: Dr. Merel Visse.

MDHM 976: Master Project/Thesis Continuation. Independent Study. Instructor: Dr. Merel Visse.

### **Dissertation Courses**

MDHM 995: Prospectus. Independent Study. Instructor: Dr. Merel Visse.

MDHM 996: Dissertation. Independent Study. Instructor: Dr. Merel Visse.

MDHM 968: Dissertation Continuation Part-time or Full-time. Independent Study. Instructor: Dr. Merel Visse.