



MARTHA BRADLEY EVANS
Center for Teaching Excellence

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

HUM 2250 – 001 – Introduction to Medical Humanities

Class Number: 14174

Spring Semester 2025

Course Description

This course introduces students to the ways in which the disciplines of the Humanities have examined and analyzed questions concerning health care and the history of medicine. Students will be introduced to some of the central debates in medical ethics, to the complexities of interpersonal and public communication in the arena of health care, and to the diverse ways in which health has been interpreted and medicine practiced in different societies.

Texts

Metagnosis: Revelatory Narratives of Health and Identity, Danielle Spencer
(ISBN: 9780197510766)

Health Problems: Philosophical Puzzles about the Nature of Health, Elizabeth Barnes
(ISBN: 9780192883476)

Course Outcomes and Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate developed views on questions concerning health care and the nature of health
- Demonstrate understanding of some central debates in medical ethics
- Demonstrate understanding of the complexities of communication in health care
- Apply the skills of close reading to a variety of texts (print, graphic, and digital).
- Construct a complex critical argument supported by textual evidence.
- Create autobiographical narratives that reflect critically on how identity is produced.
- Interpret strategies of self-representation in autobiographical genres using a variety of critical and theoretical approaches.
- Analyze the ways in which subjectivity and the experience of embodiment are shaped by broader social, cultural, and discursive factors, and the ways in which these factors affect relationships to health care.
- Assess the stakes of self-representation for differently embodied subjects and identify concrete implications of storytelling in medical practice and cultural meaning-making.

Course Requirements

- Attendance – 10%
- Reading Responses – 20%
- Graphic Narrative – 20%
- Course Essay – 30%
- Anthology Project – 20%

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be calculated by points earned out of the 500 total possible points. The grading scale below will be used (based on percentage of points out of 500 earned and rounding up from .5 and down below that):

A+ ≥ 96.5 > A ≥ 93.5 > A- ≥ 90 > B+ ≥ 86.5 > B ≥ 83.5 > B- ≥ 80 > C+ ≥ 76.5 > C ≥ 73.5 > C- ≥ 70 > D+ ≥ 66.5 > D ≥ 63.5 > D- ≥ 60 > F

University Policies

Updated mandatory syllabus policies regarding the ADA Act, Safety at the U, Addressing Sexual Misconduct, and Academic Misconduct can be viewed at: <https://cte.utah.edu/instructor-education/syllabus/institutional-policies.php>

Preliminary Course Schedule

Week 1 (Jan 7 & 9): Course Introduction

Week 2 (Jan 14 & 16): Metagnosis Ch. 1 & 2; **Response #1 Due**

Week 3 (Jan 21 & 23): Metagnosis Ch. 3; **Response #2 Due**

Week 4 (Jan 28 & 30): Metagnosis Ch. 4; **Response #3 Due**

Week 5 (Feb 4 & Feb 6): Metagnosis Ch. 5

Week 6 (Feb 11 & Feb 13): Metagnosis Ch. 6; **Graphic Narrative Due**

Week 7 (Feb 18 & Feb 20): Metagnosis Ch. 7; **Response #4 Due**

Week 8 (Feb 25 & Feb 27): Metagnosis Ch. 8; **Response #5 Due**

Week 9 (Mar 4 & Mar 6): Metagnosis Ch. 9 & 10; **Response #6 Due**

Week 10 (Mar 11 & Mar 13): (Spring Break)

Week 11 (Mar 18 & Mar 20): Health Problems Ch. 1; **Course Essay Due**

Week 12 (Mar 25 & Mar 27): Health Problems Ch. 2; **Response #7 Due**

Week 13 (April 1 & April 3): Health Problems Ch. 3; **Response #8 Due**

Week 14 (April 8 & April 10): Health Problems Ch. 4; **Response #9 Due**

Week 15 (April 15 & April 17): Health Problems Ch. 5; **Response #10 Due**

Week 16 (April 22): Health Problems Ch. 6

Finals Week (April 24 – 30): **Anthology Project Due**