

MHS New and Special Topics Courses Spring 2025

MHS 2220: Vaccines and Public Health Policy

History of vaccination; specific episodes utilized to prevent illness, disability, and death. Social, ethical, and political controversies that vaccines have generated. Serves as repeat credit for MHS 3890-04 offered Spring 2024. (SBS)

- Instructor: Katherine Wen
- Counts toward MHS electives, and the concentrations in **Health Behaviors and Health Sciences** and **Health Policies and Economies**

MHS 2800: Foundations of Population Health Theory and Practice

Causes of morbidity and mortality. Socioeconomic, behavioral, and environmental factors of health. Role of government in protecting health. Analytic methods and recent challenges or controversies in the field. Noticing and interpreting through a population health lens, responding to strengthen population health, and reflecting on ethics and evaluating interventions. Serves as repeat credit for students who have earned credit for MHS 3890 section 05 offered Fall 2023, or MHS 3890 section 06 offered Spring 2024. [3] (SBS)

- Instructor: Julie Ward
- Counts toward MHS electives, and the concentrations in **Health Behaviors and Health Sciences** and **Inequality, Intersectionality, and Health Justice**; satisfies the **Core requirement**

MHS 2350: Italian Representations of Wellness and Illness

From 1300 to the present. Depictions of health and sickness in Italian literature, art, and film. Historical, cultural, and social dimensions of health in Italy and changes in the societal approach to health. Italian society's views on health, wellness, and the stigmatization of physical and mental illness. [3] (INT)

- Instructor: Anna Marra
- Counts toward MHS electives and the concentration in **Medicine, Humanities and the Arts**

MHS 2375: Families in Turbulent Times

Intergenerational contemporary issues that impact individual and family stress; change and resiliency strategies that impact health and access to healthcare. Serves as repeat credit for students who completed MHS 3890-08 offered Fall 2022, or MHS 3890-02 offered Spring 2023, or MHS 3890-08 offered Fall 2023. (SBS)

- Instructor: Jaime Bruce
- Counts toward MHS electives, and the concentration in **Health Behaviors and Health Sciences**

MHS 3120: Medicine, Science & Technology

Description: This section of 3120 emphasizes data, surveillance, and security; it takes the perspective that data, surveillance, and security are not merely neutral, technical responses to an uncertain and dangerous world. Rather, they are historical, social, and political products that make the world they seem to describe. Cloaked in expertise, objectivity, and the promise of progress, ideas about data, surveillance, and security are about the intersection of knowledge and force, as they dictate what to measure, how information is controlled, who is treated as dangerous, and what makes us safe. This course explores how health data, health surveillance, and health security shape our world and reveal the forces of inequality at work within it. Topics include the history of quantification, commodification of health data, self-tracking and algorithmic assessment technologies, the role of policing, borders, prisons,

and war in defining or undermining health, and self-determination and abolition under current technological regimes.

- Instructor: Ken MacLeish
- Counts toward MHS electives and the concentration in **Health Policies and Economics, Inequality, Intersectionality, and Health Justice** and **Medicine**, and **Medicine, Humanities and Arts**; satisfies the Disciplinary requirement

MHS 3080: Clinical Ethics in Practice

Critical engagement of ethical concerns, responses and ethical justifications in actual health care situations. Case studies presented by clinical ethicists and health care professionals. HCA

- Counts toward MHS electives, and the concentrations in **Inequality, Intersectionality, and Health Justice** and **Medicine, Humanities and the Arts**; satisfies the **Disciplinary requirement**

MHS 3890-01: Special Topics – Hysteria

Description: Who gets to say what? Whose narratives are believed, and whose are labeled as unreliable, even dangerous? And how do our own biases support these labels? The line between what's funny and what's inappropriate and bizarre has always been thin and inflected by dynamics of gender, race, and societal expectations. This interdisciplinary course builds upon four major categories to unpack hysteria, its history, and its current implications in medicine: medical history, mental health narratives, horror, and comedy. Since mental health pathology is often guided by what is considered socially appropriate behavior, we will think through how such standards impact who gets to be authentic and who risks being "crazy." We'll tackle the recent history of hysteria, a label that pathologized women who behaved inappropriately, as it connects to contemporary representations that toe the line between bawdy laughter, vulgarity, and straight-up uncomfortable.

- Instructor: Lauren Mitchell
- Counts toward MHS electives and the concentrations in **Inequality, Intersectionality, and Health Justice** and **Medicine, Humanities, and the Arts**

MHS 3890-02: Special Topics – Disability Culture, Technology, and Design

Description: We often think about technology made *for* disabled people. But did you know that disability communities also create their own technologies? In this dynamic, hands-on course, students will learn about how disabled people have changed our material world. Whether in the past or through emerging technologies, design by and for disabled people has transformed architecture, cities, art, media, fashion, and culture. The course will cover a wide range of disability communities, including physical, mental, cognitive, and sensory disabilities, as well as neurodivergence. The class will not only read about these technologies in scholarly literature, but also meet disabled designers and work on design projects. No prior design experience necessary.

- Instructor: Aimi Hamraie
- Counts towards MHS electives and the concentrations in **Global Health, Medicine, Humanities, and the Arts**, and **Inequality, Intersectionality, and Health Justice**

MHS 3890-03: Special Topics - Graphic Medicine: Illness Narratives in Medicine

Description: Graphic medicine, while decades old, has found new life in contemporary writings and art. We will cover health issues such as depression, infertility, cancer and more. Students will analyze graphic works for their medical content.

- Instructor: Courtney Peterson

- Counts towards MHS electives and the concentrations in **Health Behaviors and Health Sciences** and **Medicine, Humanities, and the Arts**

MHS 3890-04: Special Topics – Introduction to Psychedelics

Description: This course explores the chemistry of psychedelics, examining their structures and mechanisms of action. We will analyze their therapeutic potential for mental health disorders, alongside the evolving social and legal landscapes surrounding psychedelic use. Through discussions and case studies, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of this complex and emerging field.

- Instructor: Dusty Rose Miller
- Counts towards MHS electives and the concentrations in **Health Behaviors and Health Sciences** and **Health Policy and Economics**
- Note: Not yet posted on YES. To be added by October 28.

MHS 3890-05: Special Topics – Queer Illness Narratives

Description: This course meets at the intersection of narrative traditions of illness and queer literary history to survey the landscape of queer literature of health, medicine, and the body. We will read memoir, fiction, and poetry all the way from Shakespeare to the COVID pandemic, exploring matters such as narratological technique, the realities of writing from within marginalized communities, and embodiment in art to understand how writers in various times and places have represented the reality of pain and illness in queer literature (or literature that can be read queerly). Assignments will consist of analytical writing, and students may choose to write creatively, too.

- Instructor: Fatima Kola
- Counts toward MHS electives and the concentrations in **Inequality, Intersectionality, and Health Justice** and **Medicine, Humanities, and the Arts**

MHS 3890-07: Special Topics – Politics of AI

Description: Artificial Intelligence (AI) emerged over the past century not only through innovations in technology. AI emerged through equally transformative innovations in law. The aim of this seminar is to explore AI law, policy, and advocacy in historical and political contexts at the level of organizations, countries, and global governance. Students will develop skills to investigate, imagine, and design creative, justice-based approaches to living well together in a data-driven world. Lectures will introduce major American and international policy efforts and protests around AI tools and infrastructures. Discussions and case studies will focus on whether—and how—AI might be used to support greater creativity and freedom, with an emphasis on tools for health and environmental sustainability. Discussions will be based on assigned readings; short, case-based assignments over the semester will culminate in a collective final project.

- Instructor: Laura Stark
- Counts towards MHS electives and the concentrations in **Health Policy and Economics, and Inequality, Intersectionality, and Health Justice**

MHS 3890-08: Special Topics - Bringing Death Home

Description: This course is a deep-dive into a broad movement that some call Death Positivity, that aims to refamiliarize us with the lifework and rituals of dying and death. Its starting point is an assessment of the communal, familial and ancestral costs of this past century's medicalization of dying and death. Death Positivity is a movement that aims to take death back from hospitals, long-term care and nursing homes and to bring our dying *home*, where those we love can be celebrated and supported in

this culminating passage of our shared life. This class will help you explore grief and how to more compassionately support others in their grieving. It will take you to the flourishing of rituals of support for end-of-life and death care and mourning—and developing relationships with—ancestors. You'll look at the home wake and funeral movement. You'll consider the developing and vibrant array of alternatives to traditional burial. You'll think about hospice and palliative care, and investigate the idea of conscious dying, as well as the growing death doula movement. You'll reconceptualize death as a communal and familial event, as the last of life's great transitions, as the culmination of a human life, and as an event that can be (if supported and celebrated) fully and vibrantly life-affirming.

- Instructor: Dana Nelson
- Counts toward MHS electives and the concentration in **Medicine, Humanities and the Arts**