

RELIGION AND MEDICINE

SPRING, 2012

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Adjunct, Philosophy/Religious Studies

Three credit hours 11453 PAR 320

THURSDAYS 6:00-8:50 PM MK201

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SYLLABUS

Course Description-

Traditionally, societies have turned to *Religion* to explain mysteries of birth, death and much of what occurs in between. Worldwide religions may be classified broadly into Western (monotheistic Judaism, Christianity and Islam) and Eastern (Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism and others), each with a somewhat different “world view” and approach to life and death. Religion has also offered moral values and guidelines for how people can live together, observing “right and wrong” behavior. Nowhere is this more apparent than in how societies view health, sickness and approaches to health care.

The word *medicine* is derived from the Latin *ars medicina*, meaning the art of healing. Modern *Medicine* also involves the “science” as well as the “art” of healing. It encompasses a variety of health care practices evolved to maintain and restore health by the prevention and treatment of illness. Contemporary Western medicine applies health science, biomedical research, and medical technology to diagnose and treat injury and disease, typically through medication or surgery, but also through therapies as diverse as psychotherapy, and radiation. Eastern medicine may be devoted more to re-establishing the normal “balance” of health. Bridging these approaches are many “alternative” approaches to healthcare.

This course explores how different religious beliefs influence approaches to health care and important life and death decisions.

2.

Instructor-

I am a retired Plastic Surgeon. We moved to Western North Carolina in June, 2010. Before moving here full time I was associated with the University of South Florida for 18 years. During my practice time in Tampa, I was Chief of Plastic Surgery at USF and Director of the Burn Center at Tampa General Hospital.

Prior to moving to Tampa in 1992 I was Chairman of Surgery and Interim Dean of the Pritzker School of Medicine at the University of Chicago and have previously been on the faculty at Johns Hopkins, Yale, Columbia and the University of Southern California. At the University of Chicago I was also Associate Director of the Center for Clinical Medical Ethics.

When I retired from clinical practice in 1999, I joined the Ethics Center at USF in the Department of Philosophy where I taught the *Religion and Medicine* and the *Ethics of Sport*. I completed my Masters Degree work in Religious Studies, wrote my thesis on *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and graduated from USF in August, 2004. As a Naval Officer I served on active duty with the United States Marine Corps.

Advising and Counseling-

I do not maintain an office at Western Carolina University. The contact numbers I have provided are my home phone, fax and email numbers. You are welcome to use them. I will be happy to meet with students by prior arrangement. Since I am dependably on the campus every Thursday evening before class, these times would be a particularly good time to meet.

Disability-

There may be students who have disabilities recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Western Carolina University is committed to providing equal educational opportunities for students with documented disabilities. Students who require reasonable accommodations must identify themselves as having a disability and provide current diagnostic documentation to Disability Services. All information is confidential. Please contact Disability Services for more information at (828) 227-2716 or 144 Killian Annex. You may also visit the office's website:

<http://www.wcu.edu/12789.asp>

Writing

This is a "writing intensive" course .

Format for Papers-

Students will be expected to write three preliminary papers/reviews and a final paper. The topics are detailed in the "Class Schedule."

Each of the preliminary papers should be 900 words in length (three pages with two citations) and the final paper about 1,800 words (6 pages with a minimum of 5 citations). . Any standard format for citations is acceptable. The purpose of citations is to allow the reader to refer to your original sources and perhaps derive more information. For that reason the author (if known), and accurate source of your information is critical.

All papers must be submitted in typewritten form, spaced at 1.5 with one inch margins on 8 ½ X 11 inch white paper, preferably in Regular Times New Roman font at 12 (which is the font of this syllabus, although I have single spaced it). In such format, a single typewritten page will have about 300 words. The papers should be **stapled** together in the left upper corner. **I expect papers to be on time and in proper format.**

Re-writes-

The goal of writing papers is to learn and demonstrate an understanding of the material and to improve skills of written communication. To maximize the value of this portion of the class, each student is allowed, if they wish, to re-write and emend any of the preliminary three papers to demonstrate increased understanding of the material or process of written communication. Such **RE-WRITES** must be submitted by the dates indicated in the schedule. The revised material will be considered (but will not eliminate the original grade) when assigning a score for each of the papers. Re-writes are **NOT** mandatory.

Presentations-

It is important that students have the opportunity to present some of their findings to other students. Each student will have the opportunity to present on at least one occasion during this session. I am aware that "public speaking" is the single most dreaded and unpopular activity of the average person.

4.

Mid-Term Examination

I have chosen to include a form of examination into this course and am introducing a "Mid-term Examination." It will be a combination of multiple choice and essay questions and its scope will be limited to material covered in the class. The examination is designed to be both "self-assessment" and informative to me about your progress, the examination will represent **20%** of the final grade.

Attendance/Decorum-

Although I may invite guest speakers, it is my intention to be in attendance at all 15 of our classes. I expect that every student will attend **EVERY** class. It is also expected that students will **arrive on time and remain throughout the class period.**

In addition to written material, grading will also be based on presentations and other evidence of class participation. Since there is **NO TEXT** as such and material is handed out and discussed during the class period, being late or missing class is particularly serious. Each unexcused absence will result in *3 points* deducted from the grade and unexcused absences of **FOUR or more** classes will result in **automatic failure**.

You will notice that some of the class time involves videos, some of which some of you may have seen before. It is mandatory that you watch them again with the class since they offer material for discussion and interpretation that you may not have considered on previous viewings.

Civil and Religious Holidays-

In addition to "Mid-term" break on Mar. 1 and "Spring Break" on April 5, I am unaware of any other civil or religious holidays but if I missed something, please let me know and we will make arrangements.

Laptop Computers

Some students may be uncomfortable with the apparent “informality” or lack of the traditional “structure” of courses since it does not involve an assigned text nor regular “quiz-type” evaluations. This class is a “partnership” between you and me and your ongoing involvement is necessary. Every class will begin with a didactic presentation by the instructor. As a courtesy both to the professor and other students it is requested that **everyone be on time. NO open laptops during class.** They are not necessary and are a distraction to professor and other students.

Note-taking and Electronic Devices-

I encourage students to be involved in the ongoing discussion of the issues that will be presented. Textual material for discussion will be handed out but this will be supplemented by our discussions. This material should serve, at least partly, as the framework for preparation of presentations and papers. I have no objection to your taking notes, recording or even video-taping these classes.

Academic Integrity-

It is anticipated that all work product will be the fruit of individual study and scholarship. There is, of course, an immense amount of material available on the subject of Religion, Ethics and Sport in books and in electronic material. The gathering, coordination and interpretation of such material are the responsibility of students. The copying and presentation of another author’s material as one’s own is considered “**plagiarism**” and is unethical and unacceptable. If identified and confirmed, evidence of such academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade.

Reference Material:

It is my intention to provide such written material as is appropriate to stimulate class discussion and to encourage individual pursuit of more detailed information.

The source material for Religion and Medicine immense. It is also readily available in libraries, bookstores and on the internet. Many of the classes will include films. It is important that they be viewed in class

Wikipedia.com

This is the “free” Encyclopedia. Individual writers may volunteer and others are free to “correct” or “emend” any citation. It is well done but is **NOT** necessarily authoritative when it comes to teachings of various religions.

Grading-

There is **NO** quota system for grades. Grades are not issued on the basis of any “curve” or “distribution” system. The grades will be based on class participation, attendance **AND** punctuality are considered), presentations, the mid-term examination and papers. The grades are not calculated with mathematical precision but are based approximately as described. There will be **NO** final examination.

Class Participation and Attendance	10%
Presentations and Preliminary Papers	30%
Mid-term examination	20%
Final Presentation and Paper	<u>40%</u>
	100%

GRADES

A+ Exceptional performance in all aspects of class including presentations and papers.

A/A- Excellent class participation and presentations. Papers demonstrate exceptional initiative and understanding of material

B+/B/B- Above average performance. Good class participation and presentations. Papers demonstrate good understanding of material.

C+/C/C- Standard, average performance. Adequate participation and acceptable presentations and papers demonstrating average understanding of material

D+/D/D- Less than average performance. Deficient participation and/or attendance does not demonstrate average understanding of material or work product is below average.

F Unacceptable performance. This may be the result of failure to attend class, failure to demonstrate understanding of material or to produce adequate presentations or papers. The most common reason for a failing grade is failure to attend class and/or submit material in a timely and accurate fashion. *Evidence of plagiarism will result in failure!*

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11453 PAR 320
Thursday, 6:00-8:50PM MK 201

SCHEDULE

There are 15 scheduled class periods.

First paper due Feb. 2

Second paper due (plus re-write of #1*) Feb. 23

Third paper due (plus re-write of #2) March 8

Re-writes of #3 due on Mar. 29

Final paper is due on May 3 (Last Day of Class)

*Include original with all re-writes.

January

Jan.12 Introduction to Religion (Eastern and Western)
Variations in the "Healing Arts"
Oath of Hippocrates
Scientific Method
"Natural" v. Placebo

Prepare First Paper "Describe the scientific basis for "a natural medicine."

You are to chose ONE, e.g. Saint John's Wort.or Saw Palmetto

Presentation and paper due on Jan. 26.

Presentation 3 minutes. Paper 3 pages with at least 3 references.

Jan. 19 History of "Western Religions"
Monotheism Judaism, Christianity, Islam
History of Western Medicine
Allopathic, Osteopathic, Homeopathic

Jan.26 Introduction to Principles and Practice of "Ethics"
Codes of Ethics
Beneficence, Non-Maleficence, Autonomy, Justice

February

- Feb. 2 Alternative Medicines
 Chiropractic, Naturopathy, Homeopathy,

 Presentations of “Natural” medicines
 Paper #1 is Due!
- Feb. 9 Eastern Religions –Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism,
 Confucianism, Sikhism
 Eastern Medicines- Reiki, Acupuncture, Contrapunction,
 Moxibustion

 Paper #2 Prepare a review Eastern and Western religions
 View health care. comparisons and contrasts
 for a specific condition such as abortion,
 infanticide, euthanasia,etc

 Presentations and Paper #2 are due on Feb. 23
 Re-writes of Paper #1 due on Feb.23 (attach original)
- Feb. 16 Movie –*The Exorcist*
 Physical manifestations of religious experiences
- Feb.23 REVIEW SESSION
 Presentations and Paper #2 (and rewrites of #1) are due

 Prepare Paper #3 Choose a specific religion such as
 _____and review its special attitudes
 toward health care issues.
 Such as Jehovah’s Witness followers refuse blood transfusion

 Paper #3 is due on March 8
 Re-writes of paper #2 due on Marr. 8

March

- Mar. 1 **Midterm Break No Class**
- Mar. 8 MID-TERM EXAMINATION
Presentations and
Paper #3 and Re-writes of Paper #2 are due
- Mar. 15 World Health Issues
 Maternal-Fetal Issues, Life- expectancy, Infectious Disease
 (AIDS, Malaria), Nutrition, Cultural Approaches to gender
- Mar. 22 Some "Special" health conditions:
 Organ Procurement and Transplantation
 In Vitro Fertilization
- Mar. 29 "Normalcy" What is deformity.
 Moral considerations of Aesthetic Surgery
- Re-writes of Paper #3 are due
 FINAL DATE for all re-writes

April

- Apr. 5 **Spring Break No Class**
- Apr. 12 Mental Health, Psychiatry, Psychoanalysis
 Mysticism,
- Apr. 19 TBA (Need for a make-up period, for example)
- Apr. 26 Final Presentations

May

- May 3 Final Presentations
 Final Papers Due!!