CCTS 21004 / RLST 26315
Christian Traditions and Medicine in the Late Modern World

Winter 2018 (Mon/Wed 10:30am-11:20am), Jan 3-March 7
M214 CheSS Conference Room (Section of Hospital Medicine), Mitchell Hospital
(Enter through the Ellis Ave entrance near bookstore and work your way South, then West to the “A West“ elevator to the 3rd floor. To your right, the conference room will be at the end of the hallway).

Co-Instructor: Daniel Kim, MA, MPH
PhD Student in Religious Ethics
The University of Chicago Divinity School
Email: dkim327@uchicago.edu
Office hours: By appointment

Co-Instructor: John Yoon, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Program on Medicine and Religion, The University of Chicago
E-mail: jdyoon@uchicago.edu
Office hours: By appointment, but generally Mon/Wed after class, Office W314 (Mitchell Hospital)

Course Description: What is the meaning of medicine in our contemporary world? How has it changed over time, and what are its normative conditions and challenges? What religious and spiritual resources might Christian traditions bring to bear on such questions? This course rests on the assumption that contemporary challenges in medicine stem from a moral pluralism reflecting the cultural conditions of late modernity, as well as from a growing inability to maintain clinical excellence in an increasingly complex and bureaucratic health care system. We will first examine this assumption and its sociological, historical, and theological significance. In parallel, we will engage guest speakers throughout the course who will help us comparatively explore several Christian responses to modernity and to diverse domains of medicine. Lastly, we will critically explore James Hunter’s constructive proposal of “faithful presence,” and what that might mean in the context of medicine. Our goal, ultimately, will be to reflect on the conditions and challenges of modern medicine and to appraise the historical and theological resources that the Christian traditions may offer.

Learning Objectives:
Students will be able to

- identify and analyze salient aspects of the culture of modern medicine—its institutional parameters, self-understanding as a practice, and conditions of practice—and the ways in which it reflects modernity more broadly;
- describe and comparatively appraise several Christian responses to modernity and their implications for medicine and its various domains of practice;
- critically evaluate the possibilities of James Hunter’s idea of “faithful presence” with respect to modern medicine, and do so in light of historical and theological resources.

Course Materials:
All readings are journal articles or book excerpts and are available through the university library’s electronic resources or on Canvas. These readings will provide sociological, historical, and theological analyses of medicine, modernity, and diverse Christian responses to them, as well as historical and theological accounts of the ways in which Christianity intersects with medicine. We will also engage guest speakers throughout the course who will share from their subject expertise and day-to-day experiences of health and healthcare.
Course Requirements and Grading:
Students must have already completed the SOSC sequence.

1. Reflective participation (40%): Students will participate in Appreciative Inquiry sessions (3 total) during the quarter. Students will write 1–1.5 page personal responses (single spaced; can be longer, but max 1500 words) to any key idea in the course (drawn either from the readings, group discussions, or guest speakers) that is having a formative influence on their vocational aspirations or personal perspectives toward medicine and health. Students will then have the opportunity to share these reflections during the first 15 minutes of one of the Monday course sessions [0 points if no personal response is turned in; 1 point if a personal response is given that exhibits very little integration with course content; 2 points if personal response is given that effectively integrates course content].

2. Midterm/Final. Students will write a mid-term paper (5-6 pp. double-spaced) (20%) and a final paper (10-12 pp. double-spaced) (40%) that synthesize and evaluate ideas discussed in the course. Students may expand on a previous abstract or address a new question of their own. The final paper may expand on or be related to the mid-term, but it also need not be. Regardless, each paper should have a clear thesis and develop key arguments around it, drawing on readings from the course as well as from outside resources as appropriate.

Guest Speakers
Engagement with guest speakers is an important component of this course. Guest speakers will represent various Christian traditions and/or areas of medical practice. They will share their theological or experiential insights, deepening our understanding of particular religious traditions and the everyday challenges of modern medical practice or their approach to health. These sessions will also be open to the public, so students not enrolled in the course are welcome to attend the guest speaker session of the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker and Topic Theme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed Jan 10th</td>
<td>Elijah Mueller, “Eastern Orthodoxy and Medicine”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bio: Fr. Elijah Mueller is the Orthodox Christian Fellowship University Chaplain at the University of Chicago and Director of St. Macrina Orthodox Institute. He completed his PhD in Religion at Marquette University, and lives in the Hyde Park neighborhood, where he serves St. Makarios the Great Orthodox Mission (OCA, Diocese of the Midwest).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Jan 17th</td>
<td>Bing Nieh, “Imago Dei and Human Flourishing in Relationships”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bio: Bing Nieh is Assistant Pastor to University &amp; Missional Ministries at Holy Trinity Church in Hyde Park. He holds degrees from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Master of Divinity and Master of Theology), and is completing his PhD at Trinity in Intercultural Studies. Prior to his service on the pastoral staff at Holy Trinity Church in Chicago, he served on the pastoral teams at The Orchard Evangelical Free Church and Parkside Church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Jan 24th</td>
<td>Lauris Kaldjian, “A Protestant Perspective on Medicine and Medical Ethics”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bio: Dr. Kaldjian is the Director of the Program in Bioethics and Humanities in the Carver College of Medicine at the University of Iowa, where he is also a professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and holds the Richard M. Caplan Chair in Biomedical Ethics and Medical Humanities. He received his M.D. from the University of Michigan, an M.Div. and Ph.D. in Christian ethics from Yale University, and he completed his residency and fellowship training at Yale in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bio: Matt Podszus directs collegiate work for the Navigators in Chicago. Together with his wife, they give leadership and support to the staff working on the campuses of Chicago, and help coordinate with the leaders of other missions for the sake of collaboration. He is a graduate from the University of Kansas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Feb 7th</td>
<td>Michelle Harrington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Feb 14th</td>
<td>Herbert Lin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Feb 21st</td>
<td>Barnabas Lin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Feb 28th</td>
<td>Panel Members from L’Arche Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Mar 5th</td>
<td>Andrew Liaugminas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COURSE SCHEDULE & READINGS

WEEK 1: Introduction: what is this course about?

Wed Jan 3rd
Assigned Readings:
- Review Course Syllabus
- Wendell Berry, “Fidelity”

WEEK 2: Understanding the culture: what is the late modern world?

Mon Jan 8th
Assigned Readings
- Read Synopsis of James Davison Hunter’s *TCTW* (*To Change the World: The Irony, Tragedy, and Possibility of Christianity in the Late Modern World*) (Oxford University Press, 2010).
- Read *TCTW*: essay I, chs. 4 (pp. 32-47)
- Read *TCTW*: essay III, ch. 1 (pp. 197-212)

Wed Jan 10th
Guest Speaker: Fr. Elijah Mueller, “Eastern Orthodoxy and Medicine”
Assigned Readings:
- St. Basil’s, “The Long Rules”
- Prayers of the Sick
- Office of the Holy Oil

WEEK 3:

Mon Jan 15th
[No Class – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday]

Wed Jan 17th
Guest Speaker: Bing Nieh, “*Imago Dei* and Human Flourishing in Relationships”
Assigned Reading:
- Genesis 1; Colossians 1:1-20 (Bible, New Revised Standard Version)

Reflection #1 Due by Friday Jan 19th 11:59pm
WEEK 4: Science and modern medicine: is medicine “disenchanted”?

Mon Jan 22nd
Appreciative Inquiry Session on Reflection #1 (first 15 min of class)
Assigned Readings

Wed Jan 24th
Guest Speaker: Lauris Kaldjian, “A Protestant Perspective on Medicine in the Late Modern World”

WEEK 5: Moral pluralism in modern medicine: can we agree on its goals?

Mon Jan 29th
Assigned Readings

Wed Jan 31st
Guest Speaker: Matt Podszus, “On Pinging the Essential Self”
Assigned Reading [none]
Session topic: “What does it mean to be human? Second century church father, Irenaeus wrote, “The glory of God is living man.” Science and art, theology and philosophy all find themselves grappling with this question in an array of ways. What is its significance for us, and what do we make of its peculiar ubiquity? Will explore this topic during our time together: its import, its treatment in the biblical narrative and its practical out working in our lives.”

MIDTERM DUE FRIDAY Feb 3rd (11:59pm)
WEEK 6: “Faithful presence”: is it an adequate Christian response to modernity?

**Mon Feb 5\(^{th}\)**
Assigned Readings
- Read *TCTW*: essay III, chs. 2-4 (pp. 213-254)

**Wed Feb 7\(^{th}\)**
- Michelle Harrington, “St. Francis: Death in the Midst of Life”

WEEK 7: “Faithful presence” in medicine: what are the theological resources?

**Mon Feb 12\(^{th}\)**
Assigned Readings

**Wed Feb 14\(^{th}\)**
Guest Speaker: Herbert Lin, PhD candidate, “Kierkegaard, Christian Existence, and Health”

Reflection #2 Due by Friday Feb 16\(^{th}\) (11:59pm)

WEEK 8: “Faithful presence” in medicine: are there historical resources?

**Mon Feb 19\(^{th}\)**
*Appreciative Inquiry Session on Reflection #2 (first 15 min of class)*
Assigned Readings

**Wed Feb 21\(^{st}\)**
- Assigned Reading: Martin Luther King Jr, “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” (April 3, 1968)—his final speech before his assassination
WEEK 9: “Faithful presence” in medicine: what would it look like in practice?

**Mon Feb 26**
Assigned Readings
- Read Vocation and Common Good Report: *Improvisations in Love*

**Wed Feb 28**
Guest Speakers: Mic Altena, Luca Badetti, Mike Marino (L’Arche Chicago): “A Christian Perspective on Intellectual Disability”
- Read: Wendell Berry, “Health is Membership”

Reflection #3 Due by Friday Mar 2nd (11:59pm)

WEEK 10: Concluding Thoughts and Class Review

**Mon Mar 5**
Guest Speaker: Fr. Andrew Liaugminas,
“St. Aquinas and a Catholic Perspective on Health and Human Flourishing”
Assigned Readings: TBD

**Wed Mar 7**
- Appreciative Inquiry Session on Reflection #3
- Class Review and Debriefing
- Class Reading: On Being a Doctor: “Communion”

FINAL PAPER DUE: FRIDAY MARCH 16th (noon)