

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

Winter 2018 (Mon/Wed 10:30am-11:50am), 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**

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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. Final. Students will write 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 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.
3. Class attendance (**20%**)

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.

Date	Speaker and Topic Theme
Wed Jan 10 th	Elijah Mueller , <i>“Eastern Orthodoxy and Medicine”</i> <u>Bio</u> : 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).
Wed Jan 17 th	Bing Nieh , <i>“Imago Dei and Human Flourishing in Relationships”</i> <u>Bio</u> : Bing Nieh is Assistant Pastor to University & 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.
Wed Jan 24 th	Lauris Kaldjian , <i>“A Protestant Perspective on Medicine and Medical Ethics”</i> <u>Bio</u> : 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.
Wed Jan 31 st	Matt Podszus , <i>“On Pinging the Essential Self”</i> <u>Bio</u> : 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.

Wed Feb 7 th	<p>Michelle Harrington, <i>“St. Francis: Death in the Midst of Life”</i> <u>Bio:</u> Michelle Harrington, AM is a doctoral candidate in Constructive Studies in Religious Ethics at the University of Chicago Divinity School. Her dissertation is titled <i>Laying Down One’s Life: Autonomy in the Time of Medicalized Death</i>. After receiving a BA in social and political ethics from Oglethorpe University, she was appointed a dissertation junior fellow at the Martin Marty Center and is also a graduate of the MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics.</p>
Wed Feb 14 th	<p>Herbert Lin, <i>“Medicine for the Soul: On Kierkegaard’s Therapeutic Uses of Humor and Irony”</i> <u>Bio:</u> Herbert Lin is a Ph.D candidate in theology at the University of Chicago Divinity School. His research focuses on theological ethics and rhetoric, particularly within the context of modernity and its challenges to Christianity and public religious discourse.</p>
Wed Feb 21 st	<p>Barnabas Lin, <i>“Dying to Live: The Paradox of the Christian Way for Human Flourishing”</i> <u>Bio:</u> Barnabas (Barney) Lin has been serving as a campus minister for Intervarsity Christian Fellowship since 2009. Having grown up in the womb of Transnational Corporations (in Singapore, Hong Kong, and Taiwan), and their orbiting services, he has found the promise of security illusory, at best, and enslaving and oppressive, at worst. He has always been drawn to suffering (the way it unveils reality in its vulnerability) and wonders about how Jesus’ promises for full and abundant life really applies to a world so desperately in need of healing and freedom. Barnabas has been pursuing a Masters of Divinity at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, loves nothing more than dialoguing about life’s big personal questions.</p>
Wed Feb 28 th	<p>Panel Members from L’Arche Chicago <i>“A Christian Perspective on Intellectual Disability”</i> <u>Bios:</u> Mic Altena, MDiv is Community Leader & Executive Director of L’Arche Chicago since 2013. He completed his Masters in Divinity at North Park Seminary in Chicago and is an ordained minister in the Christian Reformed Church. Mic has worked and volunteered in numerous settings for adults with intellectual disabilities in addition to work as a hospital chaplain. Luca Badetti, PhD also works at L’Arche Chicago as a Community Life Director. With a PhD in Disability Studies, as well as degrees in Clinical Psychology and Theology, Luca finds that his work in L’Arche utilizes both his personal talents and interdisciplinary background. Mike Marino is a Core Member at L’Arche Chicago. He is an artist and likes to draw comics that have a story behind them about the people he knows. He likes to do lots of different things and share his life in his art and hopes to move to Hollywood to do set design.</p>
Mon Mar 5 th	<p>Andrew Liaugminas, <i>“St. Aquinas and a Catholic Perspective on Health & Human Flourishing”</i> <u>Bio:</u> Fr. Andrew Liaugminas is a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and the Director and Chaplain of Calvert House. After his ordination to the priesthood in 2010, Fr. Liaugminas served as the Associate Pastor of Mary, Seat of Wisdom Parish in Park Ridge, Illinois, before being assigned to doctoral studies in Rome in 2013. Fr. Liaugminas completed the course of his doctoral studies in Dogmatic Theology in Rome. His doctoral thesis focused on the Christology of Saint Thomas Aquinas and Hans Urs von Balthasar, with an emphasis on the relationship of their christological thought to the theology of the Fourth Gospel.</p>

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

- Read Eric Cassell, “Ideas in Conflict: The Rise and Fall of New Views of Disease” and “The Changing Concept of the Ideal Physician,” in *The Nature of Suffering and the Goals of Medicine*, 2nd edition (Oxford University Press, 2004): chs. 1-2 (pp. 3-28).
- Read Lydia Dugdale, “Re-enchanting Medicine,” *JAMA Intern Med.* 2017;177(8): 1075-1076.

Wed Jan 24th

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

- Meilaender, Gilbert. *Terra es animata: On having a life. The Hastings Center Report*, volume 23, number 4 (Jul-Aug, 1993):25-32.

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

Mon Jan 29th

Assigned Readings

- Read Robert Veatch, “The Hippocratic Oath and the Ethic of Hippocratism” and “The Limits of Professionally Generated Ethics,” in *Hippocratic, Religious, and Secular Medical Ethics: The Points of Conflict* (Georgetown University Press, 2012): chs. 1, 4 (pp. 10-29, 81-102).
- Read Leon Kass, “Regarding the End of Medicine and the Pursuit of Health,” *Public Interest* 1975;40: 11-42.

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 5th**

Assigned Readings

- Read *TCTW*: essay III, chs. 2-4 (pp. 213-254)

Wed Feb 7th

- Michelle Harrington, “St. Francis: Death in the Midst of Life”
- Assigned Reading: Michelle Harrington and Daniel Sulmasy, “Spiritual Preparation,” in *Dying in the Twenty-First Century: Toward a New Ethical Framework for the Art of Dying Well*, ed. Lydia Dugdale, 87-106 (MIT Press, 2015).

WEEK 7: “Faithful presence” in medicine: what are the theological resources?**Mon Feb 12th**

Assigned Readings

- Read Stanley Hauerwas, “Salvation and Health: Why Medicine Needs the Church,” in *Theology and Bioethics: Exploring the Foundations and Frontiers*, edited by Earl Shelp (Dordrecht: Springer, 1985).
- Read Allen Verhey and Warren Kinghorn, “‘The Hope to Which He Has Called You’: Medicine in Christian Apocalyptic Context,” *Christian Bioethics* 2016;22: 21-38.

Wed Feb 14th

Guest Speaker: Herbert Lin, PhD candidate, “Kierkegaard, Christian Existence, and Health”

- Farr Curlin, “Kierkegaardian Irony and the Practice of Medicine,” *Christian Bioethics* 2016;22: 62–79.

Reflection #2 Due by Friday Feb 16th (11:59pm)**WEEK 8: “Faithful presence” in medicine: are there historical resources?****Mon Feb 19th**Appreciative Inquiry Session on Reflection #2 (first 15 min of class)

Assigned Readings

- Read Guenter Risse, *Mending Bodies, Saving Souls: A History of Hospitals* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), ch. 2 (pp. 69-116).
- Read Jonathan Imber, *Trusting Doctors: The Decline of Moral Authority in American Medicine* (Princeton University Press, 2008): ch. 4 (pp. 65-103)

Wed Feb 21st

Guest Speaker: Barnabas Lin, “Dying to Live: The Paradox of the Christian Way for Human Flourishing.”

- 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 26th

Assigned Readings

- Read Vocation and Common Good Report: *Improvisations in Love*

Wed Feb 28th

Guest Speakers: Mic Altena, Luca Badetti, Mike Marino (L'Arche Chicago): "A Christian Perspective on Intellectual Disability"

- Assigned Reading: Read Luca Badetti, "Self and Community: The Importance of Interdependence and its Shadow Side." *Journal of Disability and Religion* 2016;20(3):154-162.
- Read: Wendell Berry, "Health is Membership"

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

WEEK 10: Concluding Thoughts and Class Review

Mon Mar 5th

Guest Speaker: Fr. Andrew Liaugminas,

"St. Aquinas and a Catholic Perspective on Health and Human Flourishing"

Assigned Readings: TBD

Wed Mar 7th

- Appreciative Inquiry Session on Reflection #3
- Class Review and Debriefing
- Class Reading: On Being a Doctor: "*Communion*"

FINAL PAPER DUE: FRIDAY MARCH 16th (noon)