

Online Course Synopsis Handbook

2007 Spring RELIGION 182-01

Bulletin Course Description

Religious, social, and cultural understandings of pain and suffering, disease, mental illness, sexuality and sexualities, abortion, and euthanasia. Close reading and interpretation of historical, scientific, and philosophical texts as well as various media and art forms. Instructor: Staff

(Instructor named in bulletin description above may not be current. For current instructor, see listing below.)

Title MED/REL AMER SOCIETY

Department RELIGION

Course Number 182

Section Number 01

Primary Instructor Meador, Keith G

Permission required? N

Synopsis of course content

This course considers historical and contemporary conversations regarding religion and medicine in America. We examine the development of "scientific" medicine and healthcare while considering the engagement of religious communities in this transformation. Transitions in understandings and expectations of both medicine and religion as responses to suffering and illness are discussed and located as part of broader social and intellectual developments. The evolving nature of our notions of disease and the "therapeutic" in American society and their ethical implications as interpreted within religious traditions are examined. Issues considered within this context include pharmacotherapeutics, genomics, mental health, enhancement "therapies", medical research, and end-of-life care. Finally, we examine the current "religion and health" movement and its implications for both religion and medicine.

Textbooks TBA

Assignments TBA

Exams

Mid-term and final take-home exams

Term Papers

None

Grade to be based on

Class attendance and participation, exams, and other assignments TBA