Religious traditions provide ontologies for the human being and for disease, and attend to the moral dimensions of healthcare seeking and the practice of medicine. For many patients and healthcare providers their religious identity strongly informs their health and healthcare behaviors, and religious authorities (texts as well as interpreters of those texts) provide ethical guidance by which to navigate the challenges of contemporary biomedicine. This course will challenge students to consider the religious dimensions of health and the practice of medicine through a series of didactics that cover broad concepts relevant to the intersection of religion and biomedicine from the perspective of the Abrahamic traditions, and facilitated discussion sessions where students co-present readings that identify and address tensions between religion and medicine from contemporary secular and religious perspectives.

After conceptual foundations for the course are discussed in the initial didactic sessions (each spanning 50 min), the heart of the course will offer a deep dive into religious perspectives over sessions lasting 1.5 hrs. Each lecturer representing a faith tradition- Judaism, Catholic Christianity, Protestant Christianity, and Islam- and will address the following questions in their lecture: 1) What is health and the place/role of contemporary medicine in achieving health from the perspective of your tradition?, 2) What are some salient bioethical challenges faced by adherents of your faith tradition in their interaction with contemporary medicine and the theological/ethico-legal concepts that undergird these challenges? and 3) What does it mean to practice medicine in the context of living a good, faithful and rewarding life? Two sessions of the course will involve facilitated discussions of fellow presentation of reading materials.

Course Relationship to the topic of “Enhancing Life”: As this course uses the lens of religion to examine the meanings of health and of the practice of medicine, it indirectly addresses the role of the healer in enhancing human life. The restoration of health can be considered an enhancement of human living and part of the physician’s role. Some would argue that enhancing the human body beyond its natural capacities (cf. transhumanism) or embellishing upon some of its features (e.g. cosmetic surgery), may also entail the enhancement of human living. Yet at the same time religious traditions and some bioethicists, might object to these “enhancements” being part of the healer’s role or to be enhancements at all. This course will elicit such tensions through discussions over what does it mean to practice medicine in the context of living a faithful life and by considering the common bioethical challenges faced by patients and providers in contemporary medical practice. Finally as we deliberate over the pressing bioethical challenges of the day we will explicate the “counter-worlds” that motivate physician and patient healthcare decisions.

Time: Wednesdays, 10:00am -11:50am, March 28th, 2016 – May 18th, 2016

Location: W-732 (MacLean Center Library)

Learning Objectives: Attendees will be able to describe and compare the ways each of several religious traditions define health and view medicine as a means to promote and achieve health. Course attendees will also be able to identify bioethical challenges Jewish, Christian, and Muslim patients may confront and the values that are at-stake in these scenarios.

Course Sessions:
50 min sessions [45 min lecture, 5 min Q&A]:
Course Overview & Conceptual Grounds: Aasim I. Padela MD MSc and John Yoon MD
The Intersection of Religion & Biomedicine: Dan Sulmasy MD PhD
The History of Medicine and Religion- At the AMA and U of C: Daniel Kim MA
Final Version

Healthcare Chaplaincy: Current Practices & Controversies: George Fitchett, PhD & Marsha Sumner
Jehovah’s Witnesses and Medicine: Ray Williams

50 min facilitated discussion sessions [30 min presentation, 20 min discussion]
Religious Identities in the Halls of Medicine: Student Co-presentation of Cadge Ch 1-2
Religion and Medicine: Deliberating over an “Unholy” Alliance- Student Co-presentation of Sloan Ch 10/11

90 min sessions [with 10 min break in-between, and 15 min for Q&A]
Jewish Perspectives: Rabbi Yossi Brackman
Catholic Perspectives: John Hardt PhD
Protestant Perspectives: Wayne Detmer
Islamic Perspectives: Aasim I. Padela MD MSc

Course Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>10:00-10:50</th>
<th>10:50-11:00 (break)</th>
<th>11:00-11:50</th>
<th>Notes (Instructor Lead, etc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>30-Mar</td>
<td>Course Overview &amp; Conceptual Grounds (<em>Yoon and Padela</em>)</td>
<td>Daniel Sulmasy- The Intersection of Religion &amp; Biomedicine</td>
<td>Dr. Padela will Skype in for 20 min in the 10-10:50 slot</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>6-Apr</td>
<td>The History of Medicine and Religion: at the AMA at U of C (<em>Daniel Kim</em>)</td>
<td>Religious Identities in the Hall of Medicine: 2 fellows present Cadge Chapters 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>13-Apr</td>
<td>Rabbi Brackman - Jewish Perspectives</td>
<td>Dr. Padela not present</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>20-Apr</td>
<td>Wayne Detmer- Protestant Perspectives</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>27-Apr</td>
<td>Dr. Aasim Padela - Islamic Perspectives</td>
<td>Dr. Padela not present</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>4-May</td>
<td>Healthcare Chaplaincy: Current Practices and Controversies (<em>George Fitchett &amp; Marsha Sumner</em>)</td>
<td>Jehovah's Witnesses and Medicine (<em>Ray Williams</em>)</td>
<td>Dr. Padela not present</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>11-May</td>
<td>John Hardt- Catholic Perspectives</td>
<td>Dr. Padela not present</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>18-May</td>
<td>Religion &amp; Medicine: Deliberating over an “Unholy” Alliance: 2 fellows present Sloan Chs 10&amp;11</td>
<td>Special Topic from Current Events- Discussion of the Ethics of XXX in light of Religious Perspectives</td>
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Course Readings (to be supplemented by lecturers and on dropbox):

*Week 1:* Dan Sulmasy- The Intersection of Religion & Biomedicine.

*Week 2:*
Final Version

Daniel Kim- The History of Medicine and Religion: at the AMA at U of C

Fellows Presentation: Religious Identities in the Hall of Medicine

Week 3: Rabbi Brackman - Jewish Perspectives
  
Week 4: Wayne Detmer – Protestant Christian Perspectives
  • Berry, Wendell. Health Is Membership. Delivered as a speech at a conference, "Spirituality and Healing", at Louisville, Kentucky, on October 17, 1994

Week 5: Aasim I. Padela - Islamic Perspectives
  • Waugh EH. The Islamic Tradition: Religious Belief and Healthcare Decisions. The Park Ridge Center.


Ray Williams- Jehovah’s Witnesses and Medicine

Week 7: John Hardt- Catholic Christian Perspectives

Week 8: Fellows Presentations Religion & Medicine: Deliberating over an “Unholy” Alliance