

MEDC 30030 / CHRM 30030 Religious Perspectives on the Clinical Encounter**Spring 2019 (Apr 1st – June 3rd)**

Mon 1:30pm – 3:00pm 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 2nd floor. As soon as you leave the elevator, turn right and make immediate left into the hallway (Center for Health & Social Science). Conference room will be on your left.

Instructor: John D. Yoon, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Assistant Director, Program on Medicine and Religion, The University of Chicago

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Office hours: By appointment, but generally Wed before class, Office W314 (Mitchell Hospital)

Co-Instructor: Aasim I. Padela, MD, MSc

Associate Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine,

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Course TA: Daniel Kim

PhD Candidate in Religious Ethics

Email: dkim327@uchicago.edu**Practicum Supervisor: Rev. Polly Toner, MDiv**

Hospital Chaplain at the University of Chicago Medicine

Email: Polly.Toner@uchospitals.edu**Course Description:**

Medicine is a moral practice, and suffering, illness, and dying are among the most deeply challenging of all human experiences. It is not surprising then that religious and spiritual traditions inform the ways many patients and clinicians understand, navigate, cope with, and make decisions related to illness. These traditions are a significant source of personal identity for some clinicians and also serve as a moral framework through which groups of patients and providers address challenges in healthcare. A burgeoning literature on the religious characteristics of clinicians delineates how clinicians' religious traditions and commitments can shape their clinical practices ([Program on Medicine and Religion](#)). Drawing from this literature and the primary course text, *Hostility to Hospitality: Spirituality and Professional Socialization within Medicine* (Editors: Michael Balboni, PhD & Tracy A. Balboni, MD, Oxford University Press, 2018), this course will provoke learners to consider the religious and spiritual dimensions of the clinician-patient relationship, while covering broad concepts relevant to the intersection of the clinical encounter with religion (the Abrahamic traditions of Islam, Christianity, and Judaism). Students will engage the course text's primary argument that contemporary medicine with its secular-sacred divide is suffering from a form of collective spiritual sickness—namely, that depersonalizing, social forces through the market, technology, and legal-bureaucratic powers are reducing clinicians to tiny cogs in an unstoppable machine. This course will explore these hostilities threatening medicine and offer a path forward for the partnership of modern medicine and religion/spirituality. Guest speakers will also enrich the course by offering a personal perspective on the ways their religious traditions inform their approach to the clinical encounter.

Course Sponsor: The [Hyde Park Institute](#) and the Kern Foundation

Course Materials:

The primary course text will be: Michael Balboni, PhD & Traci Balboni, MD: "[Hostility to Hospitality: Spirituality and Professional Socialization within Medicine](#)" Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018). Link to e-book [here](#). A companion course packet of selected mandatory readings will be also be made available through Canvas.

Course Requirements and Grading (Pass/Fail).

This course is offered as a pass/fail elective credit course for Pritzker 1st year medical students, and is also available for graduate credit (letter grade or pass/fail) in the Divinity School.

1. Reflective participation: All 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 your personal experience during the course practicum) which is having a formative influence on their perspectives of religion/spirituality and the clinical encounter. Students will then have the opportunity to share these reflections to the group for further feedback and discussion.
2. Course Practicum—Shadowing with a Hospital Chaplain: In order to pass the course, all students are expected to shadow a hospital chaplain and observe at least two separate clinical encounters in which spiritual care is being provided. One of your three required personal reflections (see above) should be describing your reflections related to this experience. To schedule an appointment for this practicum (most likely on Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday evenings), please email Polly Toner at Polly.Toner@uchospitals.edu. A video description of her work is noted [here](#).
3. Final paper (for graduate students only: 50% final paper, 50% course participation). For those students taking this course for a letter grade, students will write a final paper (10-12 pp. double-spaced) that synthesizes and evaluates ideas discussed in the course with a clear thesis and argument. Alternatively, the final paper offers the opportunity to research a topic related to religion/spirituality and medicine in a way that explicitly engages particular religious tradition in addressing a contemporary issue impacting the clinical encounter (see Optional Readings below for a [Dropbox link](#) to some pertinent resources).

Optional Readings: For additional resources related to medicine, religion and bioethics from various religious traditions, further articles are found in a series called "*Religious Traditions and Healthcare Decisions*" by the Park Ridge Center for the Study of Health, Faith and Ethics. Dropbox link here: <https://tinyurl.com/y9zkaer5>

- The Anabaptist tradition / edited by Joseph J. Kotva Jr. 2002.
- The Assemblies of God Tradition / edited by Edith L. Blumhofer. 2002.
- The Buddhist tradition / by Paul David Numrich. 2001
- The Christian Science tradition / edited by Deborah Harris-Abbott & Stephen Gottschalk. 2002.
- The Church of God in Christ tradition / edited by Frederick L. Ware & Chere B. Hall. 2003.
- The Episcopal tradition / edited by Cynthia B. Cohen. 2002.
- The Hindu tradition / by Arvind Sharma. 2002
- The Islamic tradition / by Earle H. Waugh. 1999
- The Jehovah's Witness tradition / edited by Edwin R. DuBose & M. James Penton, 2002.
- The Jewish tradition / by Elliot N. Dorff. 2002.
- The Latter-day Saints tradition / edited by Deborah Abbott. 2002
- The Lutheran tradition / edited by Deborah Abbott & Paul Nelson, 2002.
- The Orthodox Christian tradition / by Stanley Samuel Harakas, 1999.
- The Presbyterian tradition / edited by Abigail Rian Adams, 2002.
- The Roman Catholic tradition / edited by Ronald P. Hamel & Kevin O'Rourke, 2002.
- The Seventh-day Adventist Tradition / edited by Edwin R. DuBose & James W. Walters. 2002.
- The Southern Baptist Tradition / edited by Paul D. Simmons, 2002.
- The United Church of Christ tradition / by Arlene K. Nehring. 2001.
- The United Methodist tradition / edited by Edwin R. DuBose. 2002.

Course Schedule: All lectures/discussions will be on **Mondays 1:30-3:00pm** in M-214

Week 1 (April 1): Course Introduction: Religious Perspectives on the Clinical Encounter

- Read Balboni & Balboni, "Ch.1 Introduction: A Rising Hostility in American Medicine" (pg.1-14).

Week 2 (April 8): An Ethical Debate: Is there a role for Religion in the Clinical Encounter?

- Read Curlin, "Religion and Spirituality in Medical Ethics"
- Read: Sloan, Richard P. Blind Faith: The Unholy Alliance of Religion and Medicine. St. Martin's Griffin, 2008. [Ch 10,11,14]
- **Course Instructor: Aasim Padela, MD, MSc (Islamic Perspectives)**
Read: Padela et al. "Religious Values and Healthcare Accommodation." JGIM, 2011.
Read Rahman, Fazlur. Health and Medicine in the Islamic Tradition Chapters 1 and 2

Week 3 (April 15): Empirical Perspectives on the Separation of Medicine and Religion/Spirituality

- Read Balboni & Balboni, "Ch.2 The Spiritual Event of Serious Illness" (pg. 15-36)
- Read Balboni & Balboni, "Ch.5 What Hinders Spiritual Care? Empirical Explanations"

Week 4 (April 22): Sociological Perspectives on the Separation of Medicine and Religion/Spirituality

- Read Balboni & Balboni, "Ch.6 Social Structures Separating Medicine and Religion"
- Read Balboni & Balboni, "Ch.7 The Secular-Sacred Divide in Medicine"

Personal Reflection #1 due by Monday April 22nd (before class)

Week 5 (April 29): Theological Perspectives on the Separation of Medicine and Religion/Spirituality – Part I

- Read Balboni & Balboni, "Ch.9 Toward a Theology of Medicine"
- Read Balboni & Balboni, "Ch.10 Theology Within the Patient-Clinician Relationship"

Week 6 (May 6): Theological Perspectives on the Separation of Medicine and Religion/Spirituality – Part II

- Read Balboni & Balboni, "Ch.11 The Sacramental Nature of Medicine"
- Read Balboni & Balboni, "Ch.12 A Spirituality of Immanence"

Week 7 (May 13): Restoring Hospitality to Medicine – Part I

- Read Balboni & Balboni, "Ch.13 Why Medicine Should Resist Immanence"
- Read Balboni & Balboni, "Ch.14 Problematic Rapprochement Strategies"

Personal Reflection #2 due by Monday May 13th (before class)

Week 8 (May 20): **Jewish Perspectives** on the Clinical Encounter

- Dorff, Elliot. Medicine in the Context of a Faithful Jewish Community [Unpublished Manuscript]
- Astrow, AB. Jewish Values, Empathy, and the Doctor-Patient Relationship. Soc (2015) 52:418-423.
- **Guest Speaker: Rabbi Yossi Brackman (Chabad House)**

Week 9 (May 27): Memorial Day Holiday (no class)

Week 10 (June 3): Restoring Hospitality to Medicine – Part II

- Read Balboni & Balboni, "Ch.15 Structural Pluralism for Medicine and Religion"
- Read Balboni & Balboni, "Ch.16 From Hostility to Hospitality"

- **Course Instructor: John Yoon, MD (Christian Perspectives)**

Read Hauerwas, "Salvation and Health: Why Medicine Needs the Church"

- Class Reading: Weinberg, "On Being a Doctor: Communion"

Personal Reflection #3 due by Monday June 3rd (before class)