

# Introduction to the Medical Humanities

Course credits: 6 hp

Language of instruction: English

This course, designed for PhD candidates in biomedicine, health, humanities and social sciences, offers an introduction to the medical humanities as a field of research and provides a basis for performing interdisciplinary studies related to health and medicine. It is obligatory for all PhD students within Uppsala university's Graduate Programme in Medical Humanities and open to PhD students from other programmes and universities in Sweden and abroad. It is organized as a series of seminars, supplemented by written assignments based on course literature and guest lectures.

## Course aims and learning outcomes

This is an advanced theoretical and empirical course in the medical humanities as a field of research, including its origins and development and the core themes and central challenges in the field. The course is designed to enhance understanding of the different cultures of biomedical and humanities research and the way in which the medical humanities can combine and bridge their perspectives, methodologies, and objectives. Upon completing the course, PhD students should have achieved and demonstrated the following learning outcomes:

- a capability to describe and discuss the medical humanities from a theoretical viewpoint and with concrete examples of research in the field;
- a familiarity with the medical humanities as an international, interdisciplinary field of research including key phases in its development, trends and characteristics of the field nationally and internationally, and important forums for publication and scholarly exchange;
- an awareness of the different methodologies and ways of organizing and publishing research in the humanities, social sciences, biomedicine and health;
- an understanding of how quality in research is defined in the humanities, social science, biomedicine and health, including similarities and differences;
- a critical understanding of the value and challenges of research in the medical humanities;

The course thus intends to enable students to place themselves and their research projects in relation to a larger academic context both in the medical humanities and their respective disciplines, to encourage interaction and exchange between PhD students in the medical humanities, and to create awareness of and engagement in overarching themes and perspectives that are relevant for the field as a whole.

## Examination

Performance in the course is graded on a pass/fail scale, on the basis of: 1) compulsory attendance and participation in the various parts of the course; 2) written and oral assignments and essays.

