

IDH2930, sec. 3143: (Un)Common Read (Spring 2022)  
W | Period 10 (5:10PM–6:00PM), Hume 0119

## The Way of Medicine



Robert Thom. Hippocrates - Medicine Becomes a Science (1958)

Instructor: Sara Agnelli  
Meeting Time/Location: W 5:10PM–6:00PM /Hume 0119  
Office Hours: W 4:05PM – 4:55PM/McCarthyD  
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## **Course Overview**

What is medicine and what is it for? What does it mean to be a good doctor? Why do we value the doctor-patient relationship, and how does it define medicine? When and how do medical students learn relational competences within their medical education and training? Answers to these questions are essential both to the practice of medicine and to understanding the moral norms that shape that practice.

The *Way of Medicine* articulates and defends an account of medicine and medical ethics meant to challenge the reigning provider of services model, in which clinicians eschew any claim to know what is good for a patient and instead offer an array of “health care services” for the sake of the patient’s subjective well-being. Against this trend, Farr Curlin and Christopher Tollefsen call for practitioners to recover what they call the Way of Medicine, which offers physicians both a path out of the provider of services model and the moral resources necessary to resist the various political, institutional, and cultural forces that constantly push practitioners and patients into thinking of their relationship in terms of economic exchange.

## **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Through the book, you will learn about the ancient ethical tradition from which contemporary medicine and bioethics has departed; (2) explore the nature of medicine as a practice, health as the end of medicine, the doctor-patient relationship, and the rule of double effect in medical practice; (3) discuss a number of ethical issues from the beginning of life to its end; (4) think about how to envision medicine in the future, especially after the COVID-19 health crisis.

## **Course Outline**

Classes will combine student-centered activities with brief introductions to the day’s reading. Accordingly, you will be expected to have read the assigned readings and be prepared to comment and participate in meaningful discussions.

<b>W1</b>	Introduction	01/05
<b>W2</b>	<i>reading</i> Preface	01/12
<b>W3</b>	<i>reading</i> The Way of Medicine	01/19
<b>W4</b>	<i>reading</i> The Requirements of Practical Reason	01/26
<b>W5</b>	<i>reading</i> The Doctor-Patient Relationship	02/02
<b>W6</b>	<i>reading</i> Autonomy and Authority	02/09
<b>W7</b>	<i>reading</i> The Rule of Double Effect	02/16
<b>W8</b>	<i>reading</i> Sexuality and Reproduction	02/23
<b>W9</b>	<i>reading</i> Abortion and Unborn Human Life	03/02

<b>W10</b>	<i>Spring Break</i>	03/06
<b>W11</b>	<i>reading</i> Medicine and the End of Life	03/16
<b>W12</b>	<i>reading</i> Last Resort Options	03/23
<b>W13</b>	Conscientious Medicine	03/30
<b>W14</b>	Guest Lecturer (Online)	04/06
<b>W15</b>	Guest Lecturer (Online)	04/13
<b>W16</b>	Conclusion	04/20

### **Texts and Resources**

Farr C., Tollefsen C. (2021). *The Way of Medicine. Ethics and the Healing Profession*. Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press.

### **Course Requirements**

#### **1. Attendance, Class Participation & Homework Preparation (60%)**

Attendance & Class Participation: Attendance *and informed participation at all class meetings is required*. This means that you show up to class on a regular basis and complete your assignments on time. The entire success of the course is that you *get involved, get interested and get motivated* to the history of a world which in many ways produced our own.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

1. Class begins promptly. A student is counted as being tardy if he/she connects after class has started.
2. A student is counted as being absent if he/she fails to attend the class.
3. The student's final grade will be deducted by 1% from his/her final grade for each unexcused absence after the second unexcused absence of the semester.

Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to what was covered in class. Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse, there will be no make-up option for missed exams/assignments. Where possible, makes-ups should be arranged prior to absence. Alternatively, students should contact me on their return to classes.

Homework Preparation: you should complete the reading or viewing by the assigned class period and be ready to discuss it.

#### **2. Final Project (40%)**

At the end of the course, students will write a 3-page essay addressing the following topic:

“As medical schools revisit their curriculums in the post-Covid age, they should follow the lead of those who grasp intuitively that medicine is not a science but an art that uses science as one of many tools. The scale of the Covid crisis should force both scientists and humanists to ask new questions, to realize how much they don't know — and perhaps to learn more

from one another.”

Your essay should be 3-4 typed pages long (double-spaced, one-inch margins). Work on this final project will be divided into 3 parts: selection of the topic (due Feb 24, 25%), preliminary outline & bibliography (Mar 30, 25%), and the essay (due Apr 27 50%). Your work must be submitted on the due date unless you have asked for and received permission to extend the deadline or unless you have a valid excuse. Essays will be graded with regard not only to content and organization, but also to presentation, grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Your research should be documented accurately. Secondary sources, whether textual or internet based, must be acknowledged. Unattributed use of sources will earn you an E for the course. Essays must be emailed to saraclassics@ufl.edu by 11:59pm April 27.

### **Break-down of final grade**

Attendance Class Participation & Reading Preparation 60%

Final Project 40%

### **Grading Scale**

A. 100–93 (4.0)	C. 76–73 (2.0)
A- 92–90 (3.67)	C- 72–70 (1.67)
B+ 89–87 (3.33)	D+ 69–67 (1.33)
B. 86–83 (3.0)	D. 66–63 (1.0)
B- 82–80 (2.67)	D- 62–60 (0.67)
C+ 79–77 (2.33)	E 59– (0)

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF’s Grading Policy, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#gradestext>

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### **Accommodation**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must first register with the Disability Resource Center by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter to present to the instructor. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

<https://disability.ufl.edu/> (352) 392 8565

### **Evaluate your Instructor**

Students should provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at [evaluations.ufl.edu](https://evaluations.ufl.edu). The University will announce specific times at the end of the semester for evaluation. Students may view summary results of these assessments at:

[evaluations.ufl.edu/results](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results)

### **Honor Code**

Familiarize yourself with the University of Florida Student Honor Code and obey it always. You can find the Student Honor Code online at:

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-honor-code/>

## **Counseling and Wellness**

Students who face difficulties completing the course or need counseling or urgent help should call the Counseling and Wellness Center. Do not wait until the end of the semester for help.

[counseling.ufl.edu](http://counseling.ufl.edu)

## **Important Dates**

Feb 24	Topic Selection
Mar 9	No Class (Spring Break)
Mar 30	Preliminary Outline & Bibliography
Apr 27	Final Project (to be emailed to <a href="mailto:saraclassics@ufl.edu">saraclassics@ufl.edu</a> )

## **In-class Recording**

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student.