The Undergraduate Program

Medicine, Literature, and Society major

The Medicine, Literature, and Society (MLS) track requires fifteen (15) courses of study. Students interested in the MLS track are strongly encouraged to fulfill their Columbia College or School of General Studies science requirement with classes in human biology (e.g., Human Species, Genes and Development) or human psychology (e.g., Mind, Brain, and Behavior).

- *Introduction to ICLS (CPLS V3900)*, required for all ICLS majors and normally taken in the spring of the sophomore year
- **three courses** with a CPLS designator, or courses designated as comparative in nature by the various language-literature or social science departments (i.e., CL-- courses)
- **three courses** within a given department/discipline that address the student's focused interest (Literature and Medicine; Medical Anthropology; History of Medicine/Public Health) but most importantly develop the methodological skills of that discipline
- **two courses** requiring readings in a language other than English, preferably conducted in the target language and for which written assignments are composed in the language as well
- **four courses** in interdisciplinary studies that address the nexus of the student's interests (Literature and Medicine; Medical Anthropology; History of Medicine/Public Health) OR an individual area of specialization (e.g., Disability Studies; Neuroscience and the Human; Technology Studies; Discourses of the Body; Biopolitics; Biopolitics; etc.)
- **one course** of engaged scholarship/service learning/independent project (this may be fulfilled by appropriate study abroad and/or study elsewhere in the US)
- *Senior Seminar in Medicine, Literature, and Society (CPLS V3992)*
- senior thesis (optional)

The one-course requirement in engaged scholarship/service learning/independent project addresses the Institute's conviction that the study of embodied beings and communities requires the knowledge that only such practical experience offers. Students should discuss their options for the fulfillment of this requirement with the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS). Students are strongly encouraged to study abroad.

Students should consult frequently with the DUS to ensure that their program of study develops in consonance with the intellectual project described in the focus statement that was presented as part of the admissions process. The faculty understands that this statement is itself a work in progress, but also that it serves as a useful guide to the student's academic pursuits and course selection.