6 February 2009

To: Committee on Educational Programs
From: Arleen Tuchman, Director, Medicine, Health, and Society
Subject: Changes to the requirements for the major

Since we are requesting a change in the major and minor requirements, which would have a direct bearing on the classes students would choose to take next year, I hope you will be able to make a decision before registration begins for fall classes.

We are proposing three changes:

1. We no longer want to require MHS 201, Fundamental Issues in Medicine, Health, and Society, for either majors or minors. The course will continue to be taught, as long as we have qualified faculty to teach it. We will, moreover, count it as one of our core courses, but it will no longer be required.

   *Explanation:* The number of students choosing MHS as their major and minor has grown rapidly. We now have 222 majors and 26 minors, and we see no signs of this ending any time soon. We are finding it extremely difficult to accommodate the number of students who need this course to satisfy the major and minor requirements. A traditional department could solve this problem by setting up multiple sections of the course, but MHS does not have enough dedicated faculty at this point to take this step.

2. We would like to raise the number of hours of course work that a student could take in MHS-designated classes for the major from 18 to 21, and for the minor from 9 to 12.

   *Explanation:* Previously majors could take up to 18 hours of course work in MHS-designated classes, minors up to 9 hours, in addition to MHS 201. By increasing the maximum hours to 21 and 12 respectively, we are keeping the maximum number of MHS-hours constant.

3. We need to raise the number of additional courses required of majors from 8 to 9, and of minors from 3 to 4.

   *Explanation:* Since we are keeping the number of required core courses at 3 for majors, we need to increase the number of additional courses required of students from 8 to 9 in order to maintain the major’s 36 hour requirement. We also need to increase the number of required courses for minors from 3 to 4 in order to maintain the minor’s 18 hour requirement.

We recognize that in some ways we are “watering down” the major and minor. This is not a step that we take lightly. Nevertheless, we believe that even without MHS 201, the major still has intellectual integrity. For one, MHS 201 has not functioned as an introduction to the major for at least two years. This is because the demand on the course is so high that students have not been getting into the course until their senior (occasionally their junior) year. Despite this, students express satisfaction with the major, and are especially pleased with the combination of structure (core courses) and flexibility that is one of the signature features of the major.

More concretely, the integrity of the major rests in the requirement that students take at least three broadly-conceived courses in three different disciplines, and in the fact that most students take more than the three required core courses. In addition, they have access to a growing number of MHS courses that are not part of the core. Lest you be concerned that students would no longer be required to take an MHS-designated courses, I should mention that MHS-designated courses are not different in kind from the other courses we include in our core. An MHS designation simply means that the course is not being taught elsewhere in the College. Because the College of A&S no longer permits the cross-listing of courses, any course housed in another department must keep the departmental designation.
We would prefer to have a foundations course as part of the major, and hope to return to this issue should MHS’s staffing situation improve. However, at this time MHS’s dedicated faculty includes one untenured Associate Professor and two Senior Lecturers. My many requests for faculty lines for MHS resulted this year in an approved search for one assistant professor, whose appointment we would share with Sociology. However, even if this search proves successful, and even if the new faculty member has the expertise to teach such a broadly conceived interdisciplinary course, we would still be too understaffed to offer MHS 201 on a regular basis.

Thank you for considering our request.
Program of Concentration in Medicine, Health, and Society
The major requires a minimum of 36 hours of course work, distributed as follows:

1. Medicine, Health, and Society 201, Fundamental Issues in Medicine, Health, and Society (3 hours).

Note: Of the 33 remaining hours, no more than 12 hours may be in the same department; no more than 21 hours may be in courses designated MHS.

2. 1. Three of the following core courses (9 hours): Anthropology 240, Medical Anthropology OR Anthropology 250, Anthropology and Healing; Biological Sciences 105, Human Biology; Economics 268, Economics of Health; Classics 171, Ancient Greek Medicine and Its Legacy OR History 280, Modern Medicine OR History 282, Chinese Medicine OR MHS 230, Early Medicine and Culture; MHS 201, Fundamental Issues in Medicine, Health, and Society; MHS 202, Perspectives on Global Public Health OR MHS 203, U.S. Public Health Ethics and Policy; MHS 205, 205W, Medicine and Literature OR Spanish 274, Literature and Medicine; Philosophy 108, 108W, Introduction to Medical Ethics OR Philosophy 270, Ethics and Medicine; Psychology 268 OR Peabody Psychology 2560, Health Psychology; Sociology 237, Society and Medicine OR Sociology 268, Race, Gender and Health.

Note: Students may take, for example, both Anthropology 240 and Anthropology 250, but History 280 and History 282; Philosophy 108 and Philosophy 270; Psychology 108 and Peabody Psychology 2560. One course will be counted toward the core; the other(s) will count toward electives (see below).

2. Nine additional courses, chosen from the following list of other approved courses.

Minor in Medicine, Health, and Society
The interdisciplinary minor consists of a minimum of 18 hours of course work, distributed as follows:

1. Medicine, Health, and Society 201, Fundamental Issues in Medicine, Health, and Society (3 hours).

Note: Of the 15 remaining hours, no more than 9 hours may be in the same department; no more than 12 hours may be in courses designated MHS.

2. 1. Two of the following core courses (6 hours): Anthropology 240, Medical Anthropology OR Anthropology 250, Anthropology and Healing; Biological Sciences 105, Human Biology; Economics 268, Economics of Health; Classics 171, Ancient Greek Medicine and Its Legacy OR History 280, Modern Medicine OR History 282, Chinese Medicine OR MHS 230, Early Medicine and Culture; MHS 201, Fundamental Issues in Medicine, Health, and Society; MHS 202, Perspectives on Global Public Health OR MHS 203, U.S. Public Health Ethics and Policy; MHS 205, 205W, Medicine and Literature OR Spanish 274, Literature and Medicine; Philosophy 108, 108W, Introduction to Medical Ethics OR Philosophy 270, Ethics and Medicine; Psychology 268 OR Peabody Psychology 2560, Health Psychology; Sociology 237, Society and Medicine OR Sociology 268, Race, Gender and Health.

Note: Students may take, for example, both Anthropology 240 and Anthropology 250, but History 280 and History 282; Philosophy 108 and Philosophy 270; Psychology 108 and Peabody Psychology 2560. One course will be counted toward the core; the other(s) will count toward electives (see below).

2. Four additional courses, chosen from the above list of other approved courses except for those listed under “Basic Biomedical Sciences Option.”
Program of Concentration in Medicine, Health, and Society

The major requires a minimum of 36 hours of course work, distributed as follows:

**Note:** No more than 12 hours may be in the same department; no more than 21 hours may be in courses designated MHS.

1. Three of the following core courses (9 hours): Anthropology 240, Medical Anthropology OR Anthropology 250, Anthropology and Healing; Biological Sciences 105, Human Biology; Economics 268, Economics of Health; Classics 171, Ancient Greek Medicine and Its Legacy OR History 280, Modern Medicine OR History 282, Chinese Medicine OR MHS 230, Early Medicine and Culture; MHS 201, Fundamental Issues in Medicine, Health, and Society; MHS 202, Perspectives on Global Public Health OR MHS 203, U.S. Public Health Ethics and Policy; MHS 205, 205W, Medicine and Literature OR Spanish 274, Literature and Medicine; Philosophy 108, 108W, Introduction to Medical Ethics OR Philosophy 270, Ethics and Medicine; Psychology 268 OR Peabody Psychology 2560, Health Psychology; Sociology 237, Society and Medicine OR Sociology 268, Race, Gender and Health.

**Note:** Students may take, for example, both Anthropology 240 and Anthropology 250, but one course will be counted toward the core; the other(s) will count toward electives (see below).

2. Nine additional courses, chosen from the following list of other approved courses.

Minor in Medicine, Health, and Society

The interdisciplinary minor consists of a minimum of 18 hours of course work, distributed as follows:

**Note:** No more than 9 hours may be in the same department; no more than 12 hours may be in courses designated MHS.

1. Two of the following core courses (6 hours): Anthropology 240, Medical Anthropology OR Anthropology 250, Anthropology and Healing; Biological Sciences 105, Human Biology; Economics 268, Economics of Health; Classics 171, Ancient Greek Medicine and Its Legacy OR History 280, Modern Medicine OR History 282, Chinese Medicine OR MHS 230, Early Medicine and Culture; MHS 201, Fundamental Issues in Medicine, Health, and Society; MHS 202, Perspectives on Global Public Health OR MHS 203, U.S. Public Health Ethics and Policy; MHS 205, 205W, Medicine and Literature OR Spanish 274, Literature and Medicine; Philosophy 108, 108W, Introduction to Medical Ethics OR Philosophy 270, Ethics and Medicine; Psychology 268 OR Peabody Psychology 2560, Health Psychology; Sociology 237, Society and Medicine OR Sociology 268, Race, Gender and Health.

**Note:** Students may take, for example, both Anthropology 240 and Anthropology 250, but one course will be counted toward the core; the other(s) will count toward electives (see below).

2. Four additional courses, chosen from the above list of other approved courses except for those listed under “Basic Biomedical Sciences Option.”