

Health & Human Biology Sample Theme Courses

This document provides a list of courses that recent HHB concentrators have used to fulfill the various theme and two related elective requirements.

The courses listed here are only examples; you are not restricted to choosing from this list.

Courses listed may not be offered every year. It is up to the student to develop a cohesive grouping of four theme courses that offer depth of learning in the area of interest. Students may find other courses of interest and should discuss these with the concentration advisor in choosing a cohesive grouping for the theme. Students should strive to articulate how the four selected theme courses complement and supplement one another in a clear way.

Mind, Brain, Behavior

Mind, Brain, Behavior encompasses the study of causes and consequences of brain and behavioral health wellness through the lens of myriad fields including contemplative studies, education, cognitive science and more. Examples of specific interests relevant to this theme include young adult development, traumatic brain injury, addiction, nervous system disorders, mental health, mindfulness, cognitive wellness, and more. Departments offering relevant coursework include but are not limited to CPSY, Education, Contemplative Studies, Public Health, and Sociology. Many students who pursue capstones and research do so with faculty from within the Division of Biology and Medicine as well as [the Carney Institute for Brain Science](#), but experiences with non-BioMed faculty are common, as well.

Example Theme Courses (not all may be offered every semester)

CPSY	0110: Mechanisms of Animal Behavior	CPSY	1510: Psychology of Hearing
CPSY	0200: Human Cognition	CPSY	1570: Perceptual Learning
CPSY	0220: Making Decisions	CPSY	1610: Cognitive Development
CPSY	0400: Brain Damage and the Mind	CPSY	1650: Child Language Acquisition
CPSY	0500: Perception and Mind	CPSY	1700: Abnormal Psychology
CPSY	0510: Perception, Illusion, and the Visual Arts	CPSY	1760: The Moral Brain
CPSY	0610: Children's Thinking	CPSY	1790: Personality and Clinical Assessment
CPSY	0701: Personality	COST	1020: Cognitive Neuroscience of Meditation
CPSY	0800: Language and the Mind	ANTH	0200: Culture and Human Behavior
CPSY	1150: Memory and the Brain	ANTH	0300: Culture and Health
CPSY	1193: Laboratory in Genes and Behavior	ANTH	1300: Anthropology of Addiction & Recovery
CPSY	1290: Laboratory in Cognitive Processes	ANTH	1880: From Magic Mushrooms to Big Pharma
CPSY	1291: Computational Cognitive Science	EDUC	0800 Human Development
CPSY	1400: The Neural Basis of Cognition	EDUC	1270: Adolescent Psychology
CPSY	1490: Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging: Theory and Practice	EDUC	1710: History & Theories of Child Dev.

PHIL 0020: Mind and Matter

CPSY 1492: Computational Cognitive Neuroscience

PHIL 1520: Consciousness

PHIL 0990F: Perception

SOC 1440: Intimate Violence

Planetary Health

Planetary Health is a multidisciplinary field that focuses on the human health impacts of human-caused disruptions of Earth's natural systems. Students studying planetary health might focus on the health and wellness implications of climate change, global trade/travel and species invasions, land-use change, the loss of biological diversity and ecosystem function. Because environmental factors that influence health and well-being are often intertwined with sociocultural factors, many students simultaneously explore the social dimensions of environmental health from sustainable and equitable development perspectives. Biology, Public Health, and the [Institute at Brown for Environment and Society](#) (IBES) are examples of departments whose faculty offer relevant coursework and support undergraduate research.

Example Theme Courses (not all may be offered every semester)

GEOL	0030: Climate and Climate Change
GEOL	1320: Intro to GIS for Environmental Applications
GEOL	1370: Environmental Geochemistry
PHP	1070: The Burden of Disease in Developing Countries
PHP	1700: Current Topics in Environmental Health
PHP	1710: Climate Change & Human Health
PHP	1964: Cancer Epidemiology & Prevention
RELS	0260: Religion Gone Wild: Spirituality & the Environment
PLCY	2555: Environmental Policy, From the Ground Up
ENVS	0110: Humans, Nature and the Environment
ENVS	0490: Environmental Science in a Changing World
ENVS	1245: Air Pollution & Chemistry
ENVS	1552: Science & Power: The Corruption of Environmental Health
ENVS	1555: Urban Agriculture: The Importance of Localized Food Systems
ENVS	1913: China's Environment: Power, Pollution, and Hope
ENVS	1355: Environmental Issues in Development Economics
ENVS	0130: The Engineer's Burden: Why Changing the World Is Difficult

Global Health

Global Health is a collaborative and transnational approach to improving health and achieving health equity for all people worldwide. Global Health draws on many disciplines within the health sciences, sociology, anthropology, international relations, and economics. Students who pursue this theme might study prevention and control of global pandemics, transnational differences in vaccine development and delivery, and the economic factors that impact the diagnosis, prevention, surveillance and treatment of communicable and non-communicable disease. The [School of Public Health](#), BioMed, [Brown's Global Health Initiative](#), and the [Institute at Brown for Environment and Society](#) (IBES) are examples of the affiliations of faculty who support coursework and research relevant to this theme.

Example Theme Courses (not all may be offered every semester)

GEOL	0030: Climate and Climate Change
GEOL	1320: Intro to GIS for Environmental Applications
GEOL	1370: Environmental Geochemistry
ENVS	0110: Humans, Nature and the Environment
ENVS	0490: Environmental Science in a Changing World
ENVS	1355: Environmental Issues in Development Economics
ENVS	0130: The Engineer's Burden: Why Changing the World Is Difficult
INTL	0700: Global Health, Humanitarianism, & Inequality
PHP	1070: Burden of Disease
PHP	1160: The Global Burden of Mental Illness: A Public Health Approach
PHP	1710: Climate Change & Human Health
PLCY	1825: The New National Security: Transnational & Cross-Border Issues
ANTH	0110: Anthropology and Global Social Problems
ANTH	0300: Culture and Health
ANTH	1020: AIDS in Global Perspective
ANTH	1255: Anthropology of Disasters
SOC	1620: Globalization and Social Conflict
SOC	1340: Principles and Methods of GIS

Social Determinants of Health

Study of the Social Determinants of Health encompasses both qualitative and quantitative examination of social factors and their influence on health outcomes. These influences can be exerted at levels ranging from individual and family circumstances to societal factors such as economic policies, social norms, and political systems. The history of medicine, health communication, and alternative approaches to healing are examples of a few additional areas of study applicable to this theme.

Example Theme Courses (not all may be offered every semester)

ANTH	0300: Culture and Health
EDUC	1270: Adolescence in Social Context
HIST	1490: History of Medicine I: Medical Traditions in the Old World Before 1700
HIST	1491: The Development of Scientific Medicine in Europe and the World
HIST	1971T: Knowing & Believing: Galileo to Darwin
HIST	1978C: Health and Healing in the Colonial and Post-Colonial Africa
PHP	1070: Burden of Disease in Developing Countries
PHP	0310: Health Care in the United States
PHP	1680I: Pathology to Power: Disability, Health and Community
PHP	1740: Principles of Health Behavior & Health
PHP	1520: Promotion Intervention Emergency Medicine Systems
PHP	2380: Health Communication
SOC	1550: Sociology of Medicine
GNSS	1960B: Health and Healing in American History
GNSS	1960C: Gender, Sexuality and Science
GNSS	090C: Reproductive Health
HIST	1180: The Rise of the Scientific Worldview
HIST	1190: 19 th Century Roots of Modern Medicine
AFRI	1920: Health Inequality in Historical Perspective
AFRI	1930: Race, Difference and Biomedicine: Historical Considerations
CPSY	1550D: Biomedicalization: The Body as a Social Problem
RELS	0525: The History & Practice of Yoga in India & Beyond