



Course Syllabus

[Chaminade University Honolulu](https://www.chaminade.edu/)

3140 Waialae Avenue - Honolulu, HI 96816

Course Number: BI 488-91

Course Title:

Magic, Science, and Belief: The Global Quest for Health

Department Name: Biology

College/School/Division Name: Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Term: Spring 2026

Course Credits: 3

Class Meeting Days: Online

Class Meeting Hours: Online

Class Location: Online



Instructor Name: Dr. Helen Turner

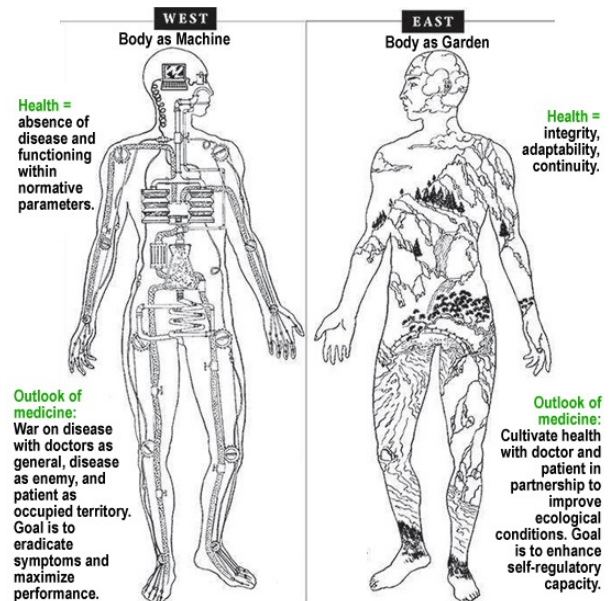
Email: hturner@chaminade.edu

Phone: 808 778 8920 (texting OK – please mention name and BI 488 in your text)

Office Location: CTCC 255 (snacks generally available)

Office Hours: by appointment

(email me)



1. University Course Catalog Description

Magic, Science, and Belief: The Global Quest for Health (3). Designed to give students an interdisciplinary experience, this course will explore historical and contemporary theories and practice of medicine, examining in parallel ancient, modern, non-Western and Western views of health, disease and healing. *Pre-requisites:* senior standing or permission of instructor.

2. Course Overview

This course will examine the inter-relationship between ancient religions and medicine (e.g. shamanism, magico-medical healing) and the worldwide development of various cultural medical systems (CMS) and epistemologies. Students will journey through time studying the evolution of medical thought and practice across Indigenous, Asian, African and European cultures in the last several thousand years. We will compare theories of disease, treatment/intervention frameworks and connectivity with spiritual and supernatural practices of various CMS and contrast them with the development and advances of Western 'scientific medicine'. As we reach the current timeframe, we will examine what is 'lost in translation' when CMS and Western medicine interact, and explore the problematic aspects of cultural medicine appropriation by the nutraceutical industry. Finally, we will 'close the loop' by examining the contemporary resurgence and revaluing of CMS and the possibility of integrating this knowledge with Western medicine to create a holistic and effective integrative medicine. This is a **project-based** capstone course that integrates and applies knowledge learned throughout a student's time at Chaminade. Through in-class assignments and a capstone project, students will apply **Marianist and Native Hawaiian values** to real-world and personally meaningful questions, demonstrating **mastery of foundational skills** (critical thinking, logic, reasoning, and information literacy). The course fosters **global awareness**, engaging with diverse world views and perspectives. The course links to **Native Hawaiian values** and the Hawai'i-Pacific context through the examination of Pacific CMS and of the role of indigenous medicine as both ancestral knowledge and a contemporary response to health inequity. Grounded in **Marianist educational values** and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, the course is focused on the inter-relationships between spiritual and medical approaches to health and disease and the problems of justice and injustice in healthcare.

3. Marianist Values

This class represents one component of your education at Chaminade University of Honolulu. An education in the Marianist Tradition is marked by five principles and you should take every opportunity possible to reflect upon the role of these characteristics in your education and development:

1. Education for formation in faith
2. Provide an integral, quality education
3. Educate in family spirit
4. Educate for service, justice and peace
5. Educate for adaptation and change

4. Native Hawaiian Values

Education is an integral value in both Marianist and Native Hawaiian culture. Both recognize the transformative effect of a well-rounded, value-centered education on society, particularly in seeking justice for the marginalized, the forgotten, and the oppressed, always with an eye toward God (Ke Akua). This is reflected in the 'Olelo No'eau (Hawaiian proverbs) and Marianist core beliefs:

1. Educate for Formation in Faith (Mana) E ola au i ke akua ('Olelo No'eau 364) May I live by God
2. Provide an Integral, Quality Education (Na'auao) Lawe i ka ma'alea a kū'ono'ono ('Olelo No'eau 1957) Acquire skill and make it deep
3. Educate in Family Spirit ('Ohana) 'Ike aku, 'ike mai, kōkua aku kōkua mai; pela iho la ka nohana 'ohana ('Olelo No'eau 1200) Recognize others, be recognized, help others, be helped; such is a family relationship
4. Educate for Service, Justice and Peace (Aloha) Ka lama kū o ka no'eau ('Olelo No'eau 1430) Education is the standing torch of wisdom
5. Educate for Adaptation and Change (Aina) 'A'ohe pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi ('Olelo No'eau 203) All knowledge is not taught in the same school

5. Course Learning Outcomes and alignment to Gen Ed and Marianist Educational Values

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Analyze** ancient, modern, non-Western and Western approaches to medicine, emphasizing differences and similarities across time, cultures, geography, and epistemologies
 - a. **Gen Ed Alignment:** *Global Awareness*
 - b. **Marianist Educational Values Alignment:** *This outcome reflects **Educate for Adaptation and Change** and **Educate in Family Spirit** by engaging students with diverse cultural and epistemological traditions and fostering respect for multiple ways of knowing across time and place.*
2. Applying an interdisciplinary approach, **compare and contrast** spiritual and medical approaches to health and disease in various cultures
 - a. **Gen Ed Alignment:** *Values: Integral (Holistic) Education/Global Awareness*
 - b. **Marianist Educational Values Alignment:** *This outcome advances **Educate for Formation in Faith** and **Provide an Integral, Quality Education** by encouraging students to consider health and healing through holistic frameworks that integrate spiritual, cultural, and medical perspectives.*
3. **Evaluate** the roles of reason and belief in personal, community and societal understandings of health, disease and medicine
 - a. **Gen Ed Alignment:** *Values: Integral (Holistic) Education/Global Awareness.*
 - b. **Marianist Educational Values Alignment:** *This outcome supports **Educate for Formation in Faith** and **Provide an Integral, Quality Education** by inviting students to thoughtfully examine the interplay between belief, reason, and evidence in personal and societal approaches to medicine.*
4. By examining the historical roots and contemporary resurgence of Traditional, Complementary and Integrative (TCI) Medical Systems, **evaluate** their potential for synthesis with modern Western medicine in support of holistic and equitable healthcare.
 - a. **Gen Ed Alignment:** *Skills or Educational Foundations: Critical Thinking*

- b. **Marianist Educational Values Alignment:** *This outcome embodies **Educate for Service, Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation** by critically assessing how diverse medical traditions can contribute to more equitable, culturally responsive, and holistic healthcare systems.*
5. By **integrating** diverse sources of evidence, viewpoints and epistemologies, **evaluate** the potential of TCI Medical Systems for synthesis with modern Western medicine in support of holistic and equitable healthcare.
- a. **Gen Ed Alignment:** *Skills or Educational Foundations: Critical Thinking*
- b. **Marianist Educational Values Alignment:** This outcome reflects **Educate for Adaptation and Change** by developing students' capacity to synthesize multiple forms of evidence and knowledge in response to complex, real-world healthcare challenges.
6. Demonstrate mastery of foundational skills (critical thinking, logic, reasoning, and information literacy) and application of Marianist and Native Hawaiian values through in-class assignments and a capstone project
- a. **Gen Ed Alignment:** *Capstone GELO*
- b. **Marianist Educational Values Alignment:** *This capstone outcome integrates **All Five Marianist Characteristics**, emphasizing holistic education, ethical reasoning, community responsibility, cultural respect, and the application of knowledge in service of the common good.*

5. Alignment of Gen Ed and Course Learning Outcomes

GELO Category	CLO 1	CLO 2	CLO 3	CLO 4	CLO 5	CLO 6
Skills or Educational Foundations				Critical Thinking	Critical Thinking, Information Literacy	Critical Thinking, Information Literacy
Marianist Values	Integral (Holistic) Education/ Global Awareness	Integral (Holistic) Education/ Global Awareness	Integral (Holistic) Education/ Global Awareness Education for Formation in Faith			
Integrative Interdisciplinary Experience	Capstone	Capstone	Capstone	Capstone	Capstone	Capstone

6. Course Prerequisites

Senior standing or permission of instructor.

7. Required Learning Materials

- Reading materials are assigned per week and provided on Canvas

8. Course Website:

The course is available through Canvas

9. Course Outline

Section	Topic	Activity	Assignments	POINTS
MODULE 1 Week 1	Introduction to the course	1.1. Watch faculty introduction video	1.1. Discussion post: your interest in the course, what you hope to learn	25
	Introduction to Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCI)	1.2. Watch https://www.who.int/health-topics/traditional-complementary-and-integrative-medicine# and read this article https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/08/1139832	1.2. Worksheet: Answers to reflection questions: (1) Why do you think such a center is necessary? (2) Can you suggest 3 differences between the Western and Traditional medicines that the video alludes to based on your current understanding of the two terms? (3) Give three examples of how you think Western and Traditional medicine relate to one another in practice in the US today. (4) How do you think they relate in a developing country?	50
		1.3. Download this report: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241506096 and read Chapters 1 and 3	1.3. Worksheet: Tell me three things that surprised you when reading Chapters 1 and 3.	25
MODULE 2 Week 2	Magic, religion and science: epistemologies of human suffering and healing	2.1. Watch Lecture One.	2.1. Reflection. What surprised or interested you most in this lecture? What questions and thoughts do you have after listening?	25
		2.2. Read these blog posts: https://blogs.loc.gov/headlinesandheroes/2022/04/10-strange-medical-practices-from-history/ https://www.healthline.com/health/old-medical-treatments-make-your-stomach-turn	2.2. Worksheet: Choose an ailment (it could be one you have experienced) then answer these questions. 1. Tell us how you think it would have been diagnosed and treated 50 years ago 2. Tell us how you think it would have been diagnosed and treated 100 years ago 3. Tell us how you think it would have been diagnosed and treated 1000 years ago 4. Tell us how you think it would have been diagnosed and treated 10 000 years ago 5. Tell us what treatment you think you would get for this ailment here in Hawai'i today, or in China, or in Sudan.	50

		2.3. Medicine and Me evaluation	2.3. Worksheet. Complete the Medicine and Me worksheet. Comment on at least one other post.	25
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MODULE 3 WEEK 3	Exploring the relationship between TCI and Western medicine: <i>dismissal, integration, appropriation</i>	3.1. Watch Lecture Two	3.1. Reflection. During the lecture, note one point where you paused, felt uncertain, disagreed, or became especially curious. Describe that reaction in context and explain how it relates to your own background, experiences, or worldview.	25
		3.2. Read 'Medicine in Motion' paper 3.3. Read CHINESE/WESTERN medicine paper Both are in this folder: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZWTgNsJ0qRQIWuZEVXLZoB4S-oUgWJO?usp=drive_link	3.2. Worksheet: Describe what surprised or interested you most in this paper? What questions and thoughts do you have after reading?	25
			3.3. Worksheet: Post a brief reflection on this paper. What surprised or interested you most in this paper? What questions and thoughts do you have after reading?	25
MODULE 4 WEEK 4	Medicine in Motion Case Study	4.1. Major Assignment 1: TCI Policy Brief	4.1. MAJOR ASSIGNMENT 1: Illustrated Policy Brief: Translating TCI Medicine into Public Health Practice	300
		4.2. Watch the Introduction to the Capstone Research Paper Video	4.2. See assignment for video	
MODULE 5 WEEK 5	Medical Systems I: The West	5.1. Watch Lecture Three	5.1. Reflection. Did any part of the lecture connect to how you think about healing, suffering, or care beyond the clinical sense? Explain.	25
		5.2. Read this article https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2095754820300545	5.2. Worksheet. What surprised or interested you most in this paper? What questions and thoughts do you have after reading?	25
MODULE 6 WEEK 6	Medical Systems II: The East	6.1. Watch Lecture Four and Read these materials	6.1. Reflection. During the lecture, note one point where you paused, felt uncertain, disagreed, or became especially curious. Describe that reaction in context and explain how it relates to your own background, experiences, or worldview.	25

		https://www.mdpi.com/2227-9032/9/3/257	6.2. Worksheet: Start building worksheet that compares and contrasts what you know so far of Western and Asian (Chinese, Japanese, Korean) medical systems. How are they similar, how do they differ?	200
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MODULE 7 WEEK 7	Medical Systems III: India	7.1. Watch Lecture Five and read this paper: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4691612/pdf/JDR2016-6979370.pdf	7.1. Reflection. What is one thought you had <i>during</i> the lecture that you did not have before it began, and what prompted that thought?	25
			7.2. Worksheet. Continue building reflection worksheet that compares and contrasts Indian medicine with what you know so far of Western and Asian (Chinese, Japanese, Korean) medical systems. How are they similar, how do they differ?	
MODULE 8 WEEK 8	Medical Systems IV: Africa	8.1. Watch Lecture Six videos and Review these reports: The Wikipedia page on Traditional African Medicines and https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0378874118323857?via%3Dihub https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article/file?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0105972&type=printable	8.1. Reflection. What surprised or interested you most in these videos? Tell me two examples of new ideas that you encountered.	25
			8.2. Worksheet. Continue building reflection worksheet that compares and contrasts African medicine with what you know so far of Western and Asian (Chinese, Japanese, Korean), Indian medical systems. How are they similar, how do they differ?	
MODULE 9 WEEK 9	Medical Systems IV: Indigenous medicine	9.1. Watch Lecture Seven and read this article	9.1. Reflection. Choose some moments in the videos (a slide, story, comparison, or question) that caught your attention. Describe what you were thinking <i>at that moment</i> , why it mattered to you.	25

		https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7425891/	9.2. Worksheet. Continue building reflection worksheet that compares and contrasts Indigenous medicine with what you know so far of Western, Asian (Chinese, Japanese, Korean), Indian and African medical systems. How are they similar, how do they differ?	
			MAJOR ASSIGNMENT 2: Complete your reflection work sheet that compares and contrasts the Western and TCI medical systems discussed in this course. Finalize and submit by end of semester	300
MODULE 10 WEEK 10	Mind, body and spirit:	10.1. Watch Lecture Eight.	10.1. Reflection. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> what are three things you agree with that you heard in these videos? what are three things you disagree with that you heard in these videos? 	25
MODULE 11 WEEK 11	Pitfalls, pseudoscience and misinformation: Critical evaluation of TCI and Western medicine evidence	11.1. Watch Lecture Nine	11.1. Reflection. Name an assumption—about medicine, knowledge, culture, or health—that you realized you were making during the lecture? How was that assumption reinforced, challenged, or unsettled?	25
WEEKS 12-15	These weeks are dedicated to the writing of your capstone paper and finishing up other major assignments.		12.1. Capstone Research Paper 12.2. Capstone Research Information Literacy Quiz	800 100

A note on deadlines:

Deadlines are ~2 weeks for most assignments. Major assignments 1 and 2 have longer deadlines and the Capstone Research paper and associated quiz are at the end of the semester.

I do not penalize for late assignments provided they are submitted prior to the end of the semester BUT the deadlines are provided to HELP you – if you follow them they will keep you on track and prevent work building up to unfeasible levels at the end of the semester

10. Assignments and Grading

Here's how your grade breaks down:

	POINTS	% of grade
Assignments	500	25%
Major Assignment 1	300	15%
Major Assignment 2	300	15%
Capstone Paper	800	40%
Capstone Paper Information Literacy Quiz	100	5%
total	2000	100

Letter grades are given in all courses except those conducted on a credit/no credit basis. Grades are calculated from the student's daily work, class participation, quizzes, tests, term papers, reports and the final examination. They are interpreted as follows:

A	900 points or greater	Outstanding scholarship and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative
B	800-899 points	Superior work done in a consistent and intellectual manner
C	700-799 points	Average grade indicating a competent grasp of subject matter
D	600-699 points	Inferior work of the lowest passing grade, not satisfactory for fulfillment of prerequisite course work
F	599 points or fewer	Failed to grasp the minimum subject matter; no credit given

11. Policies, Guidance and Assistance

11.1. Technical Assistance for Canvas Users:

- Search for help on specific topics or get tips in [Canvas Students](#)
- [Live chat with Canvas Support for students](#)
- Canvas Support Hotline for students: +1-833-209-6111
- Watch this [video to get you started](#)
- [Online tutorials](#): click on "Students" role to access tutorials
- Contact the Chaminade IT Helpdesk for technical issues: helpdesk@chaminade.edu or call (808) 735-4855

11.2. Tutoring and Writing Services

Chaminade is proud to offer free, one-on-one tutoring and writing assistance to all students. Tutoring and writing help is available on campus at Kōkua 'Ike: Center for Student Learning in a variety of subjects (including, but are not limited to: biology, chemistry, math, nursing, English, etc.) from trained Peer and Professional Tutors. Please check Kōkua 'Ike's website (<https://chaminade.edu/advising/kokua-ike/>) for the latest times, list of drop-in hours, and information on scheduling an appointment. Free online tutoring is also available via TutorMe. Tutor Me can be accessed 24/7 from your Canvas account. Simply click Account – Notifications – TutorMe. For more information, please contact Kōkua 'Ike at tutoring@chaminade.edu or 808-739-8305.

11.3. Late Work Policy

Requests for extensions due to extenuating circumstances (documented computer or medical problems, for example) will be considered but in general work received after the deadline will not be graded (i.e., will receive a score of zero).

11.4. Grades of "Incomplete"

Should you encounter a significant medical or personal event that prohibits you from completing the course requirements within the time that is allocated for this course, an incomplete grade can be given. Issuance is not automatic, and is at the discretion of the faculty member. An incomplete grade may be assigned to a student who has successfully completed with at least a passing grade the majority of the work of the course, and who has an unavoidable and compelling reason why the remainder of the work cannot be completed on schedule.

11.5. Writing Policy

Guidance on written assignment formatting and citation style will be provided in class.

11.5. Instructor and Student Communication

Questions for this course can be emailed to the instructors. Online, in-person and phone conferences can be arranged. Response time will take place up to 24 hours..

11.6. Disability Access

If you need individual accommodations to meet course outcomes because of a documented disability, please speak with me to discuss your needs as soon as possible so that we can ensure your full participation in class and fair assessment of your work. Students with special needs who meet criteria for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions must provide written documentation of the need for accommodations from Kōkua 'Ike: Center for Student Learning by the end of week three of the class, in order for instructors to plan accordingly. If a student would like to determine if they meet the criteria for accommodations, they should contact the Kōkua 'Ike Coordinator at (808) 739-8305 for further information (ada@chaminade.edu).

11.7. Title IX Compliance

Chaminade University of Honolulu recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. Sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse will NOT be tolerated at CUH. If you have been the victim of sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, we encourage you to report this matter promptly. As a faculty member, I am interested in promoting a safe and healthy environment, and should I learn of any sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, I must report the matter to the Title IX Coordinator. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources by visiting Campus Ministry, the Dean of Students Office, the Counseling Center, or the Office for Compliance and Personnel Services.

11.8. Attendance Policy

The following attendance policy is from the Academic Catalog: Faculty members should also check with their divisions for division-specific guidelines. "Students are expected to attend regularly all courses for which they are registered. Student should notify their instructors when illness or other extenuating circumstances prevents them from attending class and make arrangements to complete missed assignments. Notification may be done by emailing the instructor's Chaminade email address, calling

the instructor's campus extension, or by leaving a message with the instructor's division office. It is the instructor's prerogative to modify deadlines of course requirements accordingly. Any student who stops attending a course without officially withdrawing may receive a failing grade. Unexcused absences equivalent to more than a week of classes may lead to a grade reduction for the course. Any unexcused absence of two consecutive weeks or more may result in being withdrawn from the course by the instructor, although the instructor is not required to withdraw students in that scenario. Repeated absences put students at risk of failing grades. Students with disabilities who have obtained accommodations from the Chaminade University of Honolulu Tutor Coordinator may be considered for an exception when the accommodation does not materially alter the attainment of the learning outcomes. Federal regulations require continued attendance for continuing payment of financial aid. When illness or personal reasons necessitate continued absence, the student should communicate first with the instructor to review the options. Anyone who stops attending a course without official withdrawal may receive a failing grade or be withdrawn by the instructor at the instructor's discretion.

11.9. Academic Conduct Policy

From the 2019-2020 Undergraduate Academic Catalog (p. 39):

Any community must have a set of rules and standards of conduct by which it operates. At Chaminade, these standards are outlined so as to reflect both the Catholic, Marianist values of the institution and to honor and respect students as responsible adults. All alleged violations of the community standards are handled through an established student conduct process, outlined in the Student Handbook, and operated within the guidelines set to honor both students' rights and campus values. Students should conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the ideals of the University. This includes knowing and respecting the intent of rules, regulations, and/or policies presented in the Student Handbook, and realizing that students are subject to the University's jurisdiction from the time of their admission until their enrollment has been formally terminated. Please refer to the Student Handbook for more details. A copy of the Student Handbook is available on the Chaminade website. For further information, please refer to the Student Handbook: <https://chaminade.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/NEW-STUDENT-HANDBOOK-19-20-Final-8.20.19.pdf>

11.10. Credit Hour Policy

The unit of semester credit is defined as university-level credit that is awarded for the completion of coursework. One credit hour reflects the amount of work represented in the intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement for those learning outcomes. Each credit hour earned at Chaminade University should result in 45 hours of engagement. This equates to one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester, 10 week term, or equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time. Direct instructor engagement and out-of-class work result in total student engagement time of 45 hours for one credit. The minimum 45 hours of engagement per credit hour can be satisfied in fully online, internship, or other specialized courses through several means, including (a) regular online instruction or interaction with the faculty member and fellow students and (b) academic engagement through extensive reading, research, online discussion, online quizzes or exams; instruction, collaborative group work, internships, laboratory work, practica, studio work, and preparation of papers, presentations, or other forms of assessment. This policy is in accordance with federal regulations and regional accrediting agencies. The minimum 45 hours of engagement per credit hour can be satisfied in fully online, internship, or other specialized courses through several means, including (a) regular online instruction or interaction with the faculty

member and fellow students and (b) academic engagement through extensive reading, research, online discussion, online quizzes or exams; instruction, collaborative group work, internships, laboratory work, practica, studio work, and preparation of papers, presentations, or other forms of assessment. This policy is in accordance with federal regulations and regional accrediting agencies.

This is a three-credit hour course requiring 135 clock hours of student engagement, per the official CUH Credit Hour Policy. Students enrolled in this course are anticipated to spend 135 hours working on the class:

- 1 hour each for 9 video lectures (~10 hours total)
- 35 hours in total on discussions and response/reflection assignments
- 15 hours researching and writing Major assignment 1
- 40 hours researching and writing Major assignment 2
- 40 hours researching and writing Capstone Research paper