

**WEEK 1** MEDICINE & THE ARTS – THE HEART OF THE MATTER  
INTERDISCIPLINARITY IN THE MEDICAL HUMANITIES

There are two fairly clear perspectives that I might call ‘from the outside in’, and ‘from the inside out’. Let me explain.

Looking at the practice of medicine or healthcare, from the outside perspective of the social sciences or the arts allows for a much more diverse understanding of what's actually going on than is given to us by a purely scientific understanding. Looking from the inside, from the medical world, out through the lenses of the social sciences and the arts, gives us different tools and insights

For example, the ethics by which we handle technology, complexity and the implications of that-- which may lead to some of the new breakthroughs in technology itself. It's also significant that we're making this online course from South Africa, as a developing country, with its enormous challenges of its history of division, of the legacy of inequity, and the challenges that we face in the health system.

And we think this brings a particular perspective to the discussion of medical humanities in terms of the broader picture of health in the world as a whole.



Steve Reid, 2015

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