



MEDICAL HUMANITIES PROGRAM

HUMANITIES ELECTIVE: "MEDICINE AND ART"

"Image as Lens: An Exploration of the Patient's World of Illness and Suffering Through the Visual Arts"

INSTRUCTOR: Flo Gelo, D.Min., Associate Professor, Department of Family, Community and Preventive Medicine, & Director, Humanities Scholar Program, Drexel University College of Medicine.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: - The course challenges medical students to symbolically encounter the human struggle with illness and death through the visual arts. This mode of learning will reinforce a whole person paradigm for clinical judgment and patient care.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of the course students will be able to:

1. Explore the role of the visual arts in improving understanding of patients and the patient experience
2. Identify themes in the visual arts that depict the human encounter and response to illness and suffering.
3. Identify attitudes represented in art that enhance understanding of the patient/physician relationship and characterize good medical practice.
4. Examine how the doctor as "scientist" and "clinician" influences and shapes the doctor as "person".
5. Identify personal barriers to encountering human suffering and in providing whole person care.
6. Engage in personal and professional self-reflection about the human side of medicine through creative encounters.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Academic credit for this course is granted on a pass-by-participation basis which requires attendance at a minimum of five of the six sessions, participation in class discussion, completion of a creative course project, and an electronic course survey which must be completed no later than December 4, 2009.

Schedule: 1 Monday, Oct. 5, Humanities Grand Rounds, 12:00-12:50 in Aud. A, and 1:00-1:50 in Aud. B. Four Tuesdays, Oct. 6, Oct. 13, Oct. 20, Nov. 3, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Seminar Rm. TBA. Museum Visit – TBA

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| I. October 5 | "Empathy in Medicine and Art," Humanities Grand Rounds
12:00-12:50 – Aud. A, and 1:00-1:50 – Aud. B (Grand Rounds Credit) |
| II. October 6 | Introduction to the visual arts and medicine
How artists create art to heal themselves
How art is used to depict inner emotional states
Provide opportunities to express thoughts and feelings that stimulate self expression |
| III. October 13 | Discussion - the nature of human beings
Illness and suffering as portrayed in the visual arts
Hope and healing: artists depict their vision |
| IV. October 20 | Exploring the role of doctor as person in the medical encounter
Cultivating empathy through self-reflection |
| V. November 3 | Examining the intersections between visual arts & medicine – student presentations and discussion (based on a chosen or created work of art) |
| VI. TBA | Philadelphia Museum of Art – Time to arranged by consensus. Also, Grand Rounds Credit. |

***Registration for this course is at the first session. There is no pre-registration. If you have questions regarding this course, please contact Roseann Bilardo, Humanities Program Coordinator, at rbilardo@drexelmed.edu, or 215-991-8464.**