MEDICAL HUMANITIES ELECTIVE

CUTTING COLD FLESH:
PERSPECTIVES FROM THE HUMANITIES

COURSE COORDINATORS: Steven J. Peitzman, MD, Professor, and Rhonda L. Soricelli, MD, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Drexel University College of Medicine

COURSE FACULTY: Patrick Connors, artist and adjunct faculty. The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts; Dennis DePace, PhD; Anna Dhody, MFS, Curator of the Mütter Museum; Ted Fallon, MD; Florence Gelo, DMin; Steven J. Peitzman, MD; Rhonda L. Soricelli, MD.

PURPOSE: Dissecting the cadaver has long been a defining task and privilege of the medical student, as anatomy was the first medical science. This course places dissection and the study of anatomy in their historical, cultural, literary, spiritual, and artistic contexts. First- and second-year students will find opportunities to reflect upon their "rite of passage" and their work in general while the course introduces Medical Humanities faculty and special guests.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ACADEMIC COURSE CREDIT: Students must acquire eight units for this course. Please read carefully:

- One unit will be awarded for each of the ten noon presentations that students sign-in at and participate in, beginning with Humanities Grand Rounds on September 19 in AUD A (students will also get Grand Rounds credit). Students are strongly encouraged to attend as many noon sessions as possible.
- One unit will be awarded to those students who submit a creative reflection on dissection (details below).
- Students must also complete the electronic course survey no later than November 25, 2014.

SCHEDULE: There are ten sessions held on Tuesdays and Fridays from 12:00 – 12:50 p.m. Most are in AUD A. Session X is offered twice in SAC-A in order to allow for smaller groups. Students will be assigned alphabetically to one of the sessions.

I. Fri. September 19
   Cutting Cold Flesh: A History of Students Dissecting Bodies (Steven J. Peitzman, MD)

II. Tue. September 23
   The Artist’s Anatomy of the Human Body (Patrick Connors, artist)

III. Tue. September 30
   Praying Skeletons, Glorious Nudes: A Cultural History of Anatomical Art (Steven J. Peitzman, MD)

IV. Fri. October 3
   Religious and Spiritual Aspects of the Dead (Florence Gelo, DMin.)

V. Fri. October 10
   Resurrectionists! (Steven J. Peitzman, MD & Rhonda L. Soricelli, MD)

VI. Fri. October 17
   Relevance of Anatomical Museums in the 21st Century (Anna Dhody, MFS)

VII. Fri. October 24
   Screening of documentary Still Life: The Humanity of Anatomy (2002) by Thomas R. Cole, PhD with discussion. (Dennis DePace, PhD and Rhonda L. Soricelli, MD)

VIII. Fri. October 31
   Cadaver and Identity (Pam Hermann, MS and other guests)

IX. Tue. November 4
   From the Lab to the Museum: Exploring the Experience of Dissection (Rhonda L. Soricelli, MD)

X. Fri. November 7 (SAC-A)
   Creative & Affective Responses to Death & Dissection (Ted Fallon, MD)

   Tue. November 11 (SAC-A)
   All students must attend one of Dr. Fallon’s sessions. Students with surnames A – K should attend on Nov. 7; students with surnames L – Z should attend on Nov. 11. If you have a scheduling conflict, please contact Dr. Soricelli at RLSoricelli@comcast.net.

Creative Reflection Option: Students are strongly encouraged to prepare and submit a “reflection” on their experience in Anatomy or in this course – a poem, brief essay (300 – 500 words), or work of art. Several poems and excerpts from Body of Work: Meditations on Mortality from the Human Anatomy Lab by Christine Montross (2004) are posted on the Medical Humanities website to help you in this process as are selected student reflections and art work from the past few years. Dr. Fallon’s sessions are also designed to help students create their reflections. Feel free to bring what you are working on to his class! All reflections must be submitted to Dr. Soricelli no later than November 25. Written work should be sent by email in a Word document to RLSoricelli@comcast.net. Art should be sent electronically as a Jpeg file (preferred). NOTE: Students may present a revision of work previously submitted for the “Physician and Patient” Course provided that previous submission is acknowledged and the work demonstrates meaningful thought and effort.

*Students may register for this course at Session I or II. No pre-registration is required. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Soricelli by email: RLSoricelli@comcast.net or Dr. Peitzman at steven.peitzman@drexelmed.edu.