MEDICAL HUMANITIES ELECTIVE

CUTTING COLD FLESH:
PERSPECTIVES FROM THE HUMANITIES

Revised and Sharpened Edition for 2016

COURSE DIRECTOR: Steven J. Peitzman, MD, FACP, Professor of Medicine

COURSE FACULTY (DUCOM or as noted): Patrick Connors, MFA, artist and adjunct faculty, The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts; Demetrius Coombs, DUCOM ms 2017; Ted Fallon, MD; Cheryl Hanau, MD; Bruce Hirsch, PhD; 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, and artistic contexts. First- and second-year students will find opportunities to reflect upon their “rite of passage” while the course introduces Medical Humanities faculty and special guests.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ACADEMIC COURSE CREDIT  Please read carefully:

- Attendance is expected at all sessions. If a session is missed owing to illness or a persuasive conflict, a ‘make-up’ activity will be made available for students who wish course credit. Completion of an evaluation is also required for credit.

SCHEDULE:  Sessions are Fridays from 12:00 – 12:50 p.m.  EXCEPT as indicated below

I.  Friday, September 23 * (Aud, B)  Anatomical Selfies: Students as Dissectors (S. Peitzman)

(MIND THE GAP! COURSE RESUMES OCTOBER 14)

II.  Friday October 14  (Aud A)  The Artist and Anatomy (P. Connors, guest)

III.  Friday, October 21  (Aud A)  Bodies for Anatomy and the Notorious Perkof Atlas (D. Coombs and S. Peitzman)

IV.  Friday, November 4  (SAC)  Dissection and Discovering Disease (C. Hanau and S. Peitzman)

V.  TUESDAY November 8, 4:00 – 5:30 PM  (Aud, B)  Video: Still Life: The Humanity of Anatomy (2002) by Thomas Cole, PhD, with class discussion led by B. Hirsch and R. Soricelli

VI.  Friday, November 11  (Aud A)  “In the Lab, At the Museum, On the Streets: Exploring the Experience of Dissection Through Image and Word.” (R. Soricelli)

VII.  Thursday November 17  (A1)  Creative & Affective Responses to Death & Dissection (Ted Fallon, MD) You will be asked to do a bit of writing on the spot. Students with surnames A-K should attend on the 17th; L-Z on the 18th.

OR, Friday Nov 18  (A2)

* This initial session is also a Humanities Grand Rounds, open to all DUCOM students, faculty, staff.

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), drawing or other work of art. The commentary from Patient and Physician course may be submitted if it reflects evident work and thought. Selected submissions may be chosen for posting on the Medical Humanities web site with submitter’s permission. Submit to Dr. Peitzman at speitzma@drexelmed.edu

*Students may register for this course at Session I. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Peitzman at speitzma@drexelmed.edu or humanities.coordinator@drexelmed.edu.
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