CUTTING COLD FLESH: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE HUMANITIES

COURSE DIRECTORS: Steven J. Peitzman, MD, Professor, and Rhonda L. Soricelli, MD, Adjunct Assistant Professor, DUCoM

COURSE FACULTY: Patrick Connors, artist and adjunct faculty, The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts; Dennis DePace, PhD; Ted Fallon, MD; David H. Flood, PhD; 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. Students will find opportunities to reflect upon this "rite of passage" and their medical studies in general as course faculty and guests introduce the breadth of the Medical Humanities

REQUIREMENTS FOR ACADEMIC COURSE CREDIT: There are multiple opportunities for students to acquire the required nine units for this course. Please read carefully:
- One unit will be awarded for each of the nine noon presentations that students sign-in at and participate in, beginning with Humanities Grand Rounds on September 17 in Auditorium 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).
- One unit will be awarded to students who complete any of the three make-up assignments available. Please contact Dr. Soricelli (RLSoricelli@comcast.net) to request an assignment. To receive academic course credit, students must also complete the electronic course survey no later than November 25, 2013.

SCHEDULE: There are eight sessions held on Tuesdays and Fridays from 12:00 – 12:50 p.m. Rooms vary – see schedule below. Session IX is offered three times in order to accommodate all students within small groups. Students who attend more than one of Dr. Fallon’s sessions will receive only one unit for their attendance.

I. Tue. Sept 17 (SAC-A) Cutting Cold Flesh: A History of Students Dissecting Bodies (Steven J. Peitzman, MD)
II. Fri. Sept 20 (SAC-A) Art, Anatomy, and Philadelphia’s Master Painter, Thomas Eakins (Patrick Connors, artist)
III. Tue. Sept 24 (AUD-A) Praying Skeletons, Glorious Nudes: A Cultural History of Anatomical Art (Steven J. Peitzman, MD)
IV. Fri. Sept 27 (SAC-A) Resurrectionists! (David H. Flood, PhD)
V. Tue. Oct 1 (SAC-A) Religious and Spiritual Aspects of the Dead (Florence Gelo, DMin.)
VI. Fri. Oct 4 (AUD-B) 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)
VII. Tue. Oct 8 (SAC-A) Cadaver and Identity (Guests: Austin Williams, MD, MSEd; Pam Hermann, MS)
VIII. Fri. Oct 18 (AUD-A) From the Lab to the Museum: Exploring the Experience of Dissection (Rhonda L. Soricelli, MD)
IX. Tue. Nov 5 (G-23G) or Fri. Nov 8 (SAC-A) Creative & Affective Responses to Death & Dissection (Ted Fallon, MD)

All students must attend one of the three sessions offered by Dr. Fallon.

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 Anatomy website to help guide you in this process as are selected student reflections from the past five 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 can be brought to class or 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.

Make-up Assignments: Please contact Dr. Soricelli.

*Students may register for this course in Room SAC-A 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.