MEDICAL HUMANITIES PROGRAM ELECTIVE

“Image as Lens: An Exploration of the Patient’s World of Illness and Suffering Through Visual Arts.”

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

PURPOSE: 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. By the end of the course students will be able to:
1. Identify themes in the visual arts that depict the human encounter and response to illness and suffering.
2. Identify attitudes represented in art that enhance understanding of the patient/physician relationship and characterize good medical practice.
3. Examine how the doctor as “scientist” and “clinician” influences and shapes the doctor as “person”.
4. Identify personal barriers to encountering human suffering and in providing whole person care.
5. 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 Grand Rounds, four classroom sessions, visit to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, participation in class discussion, completion of creative course project and an evaluation which must be completed via email or returned to Manju Mathen, Academic Coordinator, Room C-9G, Manju.Mathen@drexelmed.edu no later than October 15, 2013.

SCHEDULE:
I. Aug 29 12:00-1:00 PM G23G Grand Rounds: “Visual Arts and Medicine”
   Repeated: 1:00-2:00 PM G23G

II. Sept 19 5:00-7:00 PM Rm. A1 The Nature of Suffering? Medicine, Illness and Suffering as Portrayed in the Visual Arts. Hope and Healing: Artists Depict Their Vision

III. Sept 26 5:00-7:00 PM Rm. A1 The Role of Doctor as Person in the Medical Encounter. Cultivating Empathy through Self Reflection

IV. Oct 2 MUSEUM TOUR** Using Artwork to Enhance Clinical Skills

V. Oct 10 5:00-7:00 PM Rm. A1 Examining the intersections Between Visual Arts & Medicine – Student Presentations and Discussion (based on a chosen or created work of art)

VI. Nov 7 5:00-7:00 PM Rm. A1 Independent Projects

*Registration for this course is at the first session. There is no pre-registration. If you have questions regarding this course, please contact the Medical Humanities coordinator at 215-991-8464.

** Time to be announced.