

HEALTH HUMANITIES & BIOETHICS
SUMMARY OF PHASE 2 SELECTIVES
8/30, 9/20, 10/18 & 11/29/21
3:00 – 4:50 p.m.

SELECTIVES PHASE 2

Title: **Inclusive Reflective Practice – Cultivating skills to enhance interpersonal effectiveness**

Instructor: Kwasi Boaitey, LMSW, PCC, Director Culturally Responsive Management

Description: Students will develop and explore how to cultivate an inclusive reflective practice through the integration of their cultural experiences. Students will utilize cultural humility (an evidence based clinical framework developed to disrupt the impact of implicit bias and the resultant harm in medicine) and emotional intelligence skills to develop deliberate inclusive reflective practice. Students will gain an understanding of how relate and synthesize how cultural experiences effect meaningful responsive behaviors which can enhance or dampen his, her, or their success in the roles, relationships, and responsibilities in medical practice.

Title: **Discomfort with Death?**

Instructor: Michael L. Brennan, DNP, FNP and Timothy Quill, MD

Description: In our death-denying culture, it is difficult to “get good at death.” Yet, as future physicians it is imperative to develop some comfort and confidence regarding end-of-life issues. In the vortex of thoughts, emotions, perceptions, hopes and fears that engulf dying individuals and their families during the dying process, the skilled physician-healer can play a pivotal role.

We will use books, films, guest presenters, and deep dialogue to penetrate to the heart of death, loss, and grief – and the role of the provider. While it is impossible to always say or do “the right thing”, we can all do better at developing our communication skills around death & dying. That is the focus of this selective. We are very fortunate to be invited to Dr. Quill’s living room for an in-depth discussion of death with dignity.

Title: **Introduction to Rochester’s community wellness-based resources in the visual arts**

Instructor: Susan Dodge-Peters Daiss, MA, MDiv, Senior Associate, Medical Humanities & Bioethics and Memorial Art Galler

Description: In 2019 the World Health Organization issued a final report on “the evidence of the role of the arts in improving health and well-being.” In conclusion it stated: “The arts contribute to ‘core determinants of health; playing a critical role in health promotion; helping to prevent the onset of mental illness and age-related physical decline; supporting the treatment or management of mental illness, noncommunicable diseases and neurological disorders; and assisting in acute and end-of-life care.’ ” The Rochester community has a wealth of arts and wellness-based programs. This selective will focus on four of the community’s visual arts programs. In addition to direct

participation, the students will be introduced to the evidence-based research supporting the value of these and related programs to individual and community health.

Title: **Medical Research, Social Movements and Communal Memory**

Instructor: James H. Evans, Jr., Ph.D., Litt.D. President and Professor of Theology Emeritus, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School; Adjunct Professor, Medical Humanities & Bioethics

Description: This Selective will address the history of medical research in the context of social movements and the cultural memory which they embody. The questions which will guide this seminar concern the basic assumptions, aims and methods of research methodologies; their relationship to broader social movements and the memories of specific communities. Discussions will touch on community based research; contemporary social justice trends, and the struggle to recover recollections that are important to the emergence of scientific knowledge. The focus will be on the historical and contemporary experience of the African American community. We will employ short readings, mini-lectures, discussion groups, videos and podcasts to explore this subject matter.

Title: **Connecting to Rochester to Address Social Determinants of Health**

Instructor: Theresa Green, PhD, MBA Assistant Professor Public Health Sciences, Center for Community Health & Prevention, SON; Director of Community Health Education and Policy, Center for Community Health & Prevention

Description: In this course we will explore practical ways that medical students, and health providers in general, can address social determinants that impact their patients' lives. This will include learning about Rochester resources and initiatives such as RMAPI, RASE Commission, Monroe County Department of Public Health, and many others. Students will learn how to effectively connect with resources through things like 2-1-1, social workers and Medical-legal partnerships as well as learning directly from specific agencies. We will also discuss advocacy and policy change to address underlying problems impacting health disparities.

Title: **Psychiatric Autobiography**

Instructor: Laurence B. Guttmacher, MD, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Medical Humanities; Kristina Mossgraber, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) – Rochester.

Description: A disease is what an organ has; and illness is what a patient has. Understanding how a patient experiences their illness and what it means to them is expressed biomedically in the body, but is also deeply personal and foundational to the BPS approach to patient care. Students will learn about individual experiences of mental illness through the patient's own stories. All readings will come from autobiographical works written by those who have suffered mental illness. The readings will attempt to coordinate with MBB II which will be coincident with the beginning of the course. Readings will include Kay Redfield Jamison, Anthony Solomon, William Styron, and others. Participants will be expected to go over the reading and two students each week will be asked to make a brief presentation on the illness that we are addressing.

Title: **The Art of Being: Seeing ourselves and others using an arts-based approach**

Instructor: Kristin Hocker, EdD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing, School of Nursing

Description: Using different forms of artistic expression as the foundation, this selective will utilize the five-question protocol from the *Art of Observation* to develop a practice of slowing down the ways in which we engage in art as a tool to slow down our assumptive thinking and critically analyse what visual art reveals to each of us. In this selective we will engage in reflective discussions about how artistic expression can provide lessons around our human experiences and the complex stories that reflect diverse ways of being in the world. Students will apply what they learn in the discussions to their professional role as healthcare providers to consider the ways they can show up with inquiry, curiosity and humility when encountering diverse patients, families and communities.

Title: **Little Wounds: What Short Stories Reveal about Modern Medicine and Illness**

Instructor: Erik Larsen, PhD, Assistant Professor, Medical Humanities & Bioethics

Description: This seminar will explore four short works of fiction about experiences of illness and modern medical care. Our purpose is to reflect on how literature, as an imaginative medium, allows us to creatively investigate major issues in medicine, including medical paternalism, unrealistic patient expectations, and physician guilt and grief surrounding a patient's death. Works by Franz Kafka, William Carlos Williams, and Charlotte Perkins Gilman, among others, will be considered. Time in class will be spent in discussions focused on the stories and their application to contemporary healthcare situations. The course will provide students with the opportunity to reflect imaginatively on challenging situations and conflicts they may encounter in their careers as physicians.

Title: **Mindfulness and Medicine: Showing up for when it matters**

Instructor: Dr. Patricia Luck, MBChB (MD), MPhil, MSc Medical Humanities, Assistant Professor, Medical Humanities & Bioethics

Description: This reading elective will explore the relevance of presence and mindfulness practice to medicine through readings, reflective practice and small group discussions. We will be engaging with the principles of intention, attention and attitude that underlie the practice of mindfulness in medicine, and explore our capacity to flourish in amidst the challenges we face.

Title: **From the Carceral System to the Bedside: The ins and outs to providing care to patients who are justice-involved**

Instructor: Diane Morse, MD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Medicine, Director, Women's Initiative Supporting Health, Center for Community Health and Prevention; Carly Eiduson, SMD Y2 Medical Student; Tessa Oliver, SMD Y2 Medical Student

Description: Within a 90 mile radius of the city of Rochester, there are over thirty federal, state, and country prisons, jails, and immigrant detention centers, as well as county and state supervision in the form of probation, parole, and treatment courts. The prevalence of mass incarceration in the US makes it inevitable that medical students will intersect with patients who are justice-involved during their careers. By including the voices of individuals with lived experience in the carceral system, and those who care for them, this selective will focus on understanding the health needs and experiences of people who are formerly and currently incarcerated in the Rochester area. We will focus on the re-entry process and the various barriers that people face in terms of health, including but not limited to: the experience and management of substance use disorder during and after incarceration, reproductive healthcare including pregnancy and contraceptive care in the jail and prison system, and the process of re-entry. This selective will be co-taught with people who have lived experience in the carceral system and faculty, through the use of media, narrative, and patient interviews.

Title: **Chasing Herd Immunity for COVID-19: Vaccine Skepticism, Systemic Barriers, and Communicating the Limits of our Knowledge**

Instructor: Katherine Schaefer, PhD. Associate Professor, WSAP

Description: To achieve COVID herd immunity, a large fraction of the US will need to accept the new vaccines. Furthermore, recent research suggests that annual boosters may be required, meaning that vaccine acceptance will need to be continually renewed. However, current polls in the USA and the results of vaccination drives suggest that only roughly half of respondents are enthusiastic about getting a COVID vaccine. A large body of research exists on factors contributing to skepticism about MMR and influenza vaccines; new pandemic research suggest many of the same factors and new ones account for vaccine hesitancy and resistance, including media, social community norms, mistrust of scientific research, profit motives, safety issues and access to vaccines, and risk and uncertainty. In this seminar, we will analyze work that has been done from humanities, anthropological, and public health perspectives to explore the many factors that contribute to (what is seen as) vaccine resistance, and work with how communicating around uncertainty complicates an already fraught situation.

5/8/21