

ARTSSCI 4CT3 / MEDICAL HUMANITIES INQUIRY

2017-2018, Term 2, Wednesdays 11:30--2:20 in BSB 105

Instructor: Dr Sara H. Mendelson: mendelso@mcmaster.ca

Assistant: Ms Atara Messinger: messina@mcmaster.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays at 2:30-3:30 in LRW-3038

This course introduces students to the rapidly developing international field known as medical humanities. It explores the interconnections between health, medicine, the arts, and the humanities, with a particular focus on issues of medical ethics and the use of narrative techniques in clinical practice.

READINGS

This is a text-based seminar. Please bring your Coursepack with you to the first seminar and every other seminar in which assigned readings are in the Coursepack. When we read particular books, please bring them with you. Come prepared for the first seminar by reading the Hippocratic Oath. All readings NOT marked with an asterisk in the list given below can be found in the Coursepack (available at the Campus Store).

Required Texts (available for purchase from the Campus Store):

Medical Humanities Coursepack (2018 edition).

*Izzeldin Abuelaish, *I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey*, Vintage Canada, 2011.

*Margaret Edson, *W;t* (sometimes catalogued as *Wit*).

*Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012.

Weekly schedule of required readings and seminars

Jan. 10: Introduction. The Hippocratic Oath. **Coursepack.**

Jan. 17: Edmund D. Pellegrino, "The Reconciliation of Technology and Humanism: A Flexnerian Task 75 Years Later," from *Flexner: 75 Years Later: A Current Commentary on Medical Education*, edited by Charles Vevier, University Press of America, Lanham, MD, 1987. **Coursepack.**

Jan. 24: Robert Jay Lifton, *The Nazi Doctors: Medical Killing and the Psychology of Genocide* (selections). **Coursepack.**

Guest Speaker: Dr Ruth Wilson, Professor of Family Medicine, Queen's University. "Leprosy in Canada: An Historical Case Study."

Jan. 31: Thucydides on the plague, *The Peloponnesian War*, translated by Rex Warner (Book 2, Chap.5). **Coursepack.**

Feb. 7: Rita Charon, "The Parallel Chart," from *Narrative Medicine: Honoring the Stories of Illness* (2006). **Coursepack.**

Guest Speaker: Dr. David N. Mendelson, Department of Internal Medicine, Michael Garron Hospital (formerly Toronto East General Hospital).
 “The Parallel Chart: A Canadian Pilot Study.”

Feb. 14: Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*.
 Hippocratic writings on epilepsy, “The Sacred Disease.” **Coursepack.**

Feb. 21: READING WEEK

Feb. 28:*NB: Essay proposals are due at the beginning of class today.**
 Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* (as above)
 Jerome Groopman, *The Measure of Our Days* (selections). **Coursepack.**

Mar. 7: Atul Gawande, “Letting Go: What should medicine do when it can’t save your life?” originally published in *The New Yorker*, Aug. 2, 2010. **Coursepack.**

Mar. 14: Margaret Edson, *W;t* (also catalogued as *Wit*). If a group would like to organize a brief reading of a selection from *Wit* for this week, we would all be grateful. If more than one group is interested, please consult with me to prevent duplication.

Mar. 21: Margaret Edson, *W;t* (as above)
 Megan O’Rourke, “Story’s End: Writing a Mother’s Death,” originally published in *The New Yorker*, Mar. 7, 2011. **Coursepack.**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Rachelle Sender, Hamilton Health Sciences.
 “M.A. I. D.: Assisted Death in Canada.”

Mar. 28: *NB: Term essays are due at the beginning of class today.**
 Izzeldin Abuelaish, *I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey*.

Apr. 4: Conclusion: themes and issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be one 2000-word paper, due at the beginning of class on March 28th. Paper topics will be distributed in late January, and paper proposals will be due on February 28th at the beginning of class. You are required to consult **in person** either with Dr. Mendelson or Ms. Messinger about your paper proposal **BEFORE** it is due. The penalty for late submission of assignments is five percentage points per day.

There will be a two-hour examination in April.

HOW YOUR FINAL MARK WILL BE DETERMINED

Seminar participation:	25%
Paper proposal	10%
Term paper	30%
Final examination	35%

EXPLANATORY NOTE: Seminars are unique learning experiences which require full attention and maximal participation. We ask that you **not use any electronic media while the seminar is in session**. This includes the use of cellphones, computers, and any other electronic device. Please put your cellphone in silent mode. If you receive a message during class you will have ample opportunity to answer it during the break or at the conclusion of the seminar. As for computers, we have found them disruptive. They distract the attention of users, their neighbours, and their instructors. Your cooperation in these matters is greatly appreciated. Exceptions to this rule will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

RE: THE USE OF WIKIPEDIA: We do not recommend the use of Wikipedia, except for the purpose of orienting you with the barest minimum of information to enable you to begin looking elsewhere. Wikipedia is not sufficiently reliable to cite in a paper.

Academic Integrity Statement

McMaster Policy on Academic Integrity:

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences—e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty: 1) Plagiarism—e.g., the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained. 2) Improper collaboration in group work. 3) Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF)

In the event of an absence, students should review and follow the Academic Regulations in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work.” Please consult the MSAF statement on our website (<https://artsci.mcmaster.ca/forms-requests/>) and direct any questions or concerns to Shelley Anderson or Rebecca Bishop in the Arts & Science Program Office as appropriate.

Email Contact and Student Responsibility

Please Note: The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of students to check **their McMaster email** and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes. Announcements will be made in class and by using the course email distribution list.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or email sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

*NOTE: please print assignments on ONE SIDE ONLY, double spaced in 12 point font, with no cover sheet. You can rely on us to recycle and/or reuse all paper products.