

**Rush Medical College
Humanities & Medicine**

Block Faculty:

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Guest Lecturers:

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General Description of the Course:

This elective is an 11-13 session course that examines how empathy, observation and interpretation impact and are impacted by one's experiences of literature and the arts. Particular attention will be paid to the ways in which observation and engagement with the arts parallels observation and engagement in patient care. Individual sessions will focus on the role of perspective in describing medical events, differences and similarities in observational skills in the arts and medicine and the use of movement and drama exercises to examine how one experiences and is experienced by others. Course activities will include museum visits, movement activities, acting exercises and reading and writing about selected works of literature.

Course Objectives:

1. Describe how one's cultural life will impact and be impacted by one's medical practice.
2. Compare the role of empathy and models of empathic engagement in arts and in medicine.
3. Discuss the impact of authorial perspective on the portrayal of major medical events.
4. Demonstrate observational abilities through viewing works of art.
5. Consider personal biases and judgment in evaluating works of art in relation to future medical practice.
6. Recognize the role that movement and non-verbal behavior play in the therapeutic relationship.
7. Enact the concerns and perspectives of fictional patients.
8. Appraise arts activities as a means of community engagement.
9. Compare artistic and medical practice as they relate to providing care and relieving suffering.

Course Components:

1. Exploration and discussion of the role of empathy and interpretation in literary and medical story-telling.
2. Museum-based explorations of observation, empathy and bias in responding to the visual arts.
3. Movement-focused examination of body language and movement as means of understanding, engaging and communicating with people in a medical context.
4. Exploration of how body language and tone influence the ways in which people enact their roles as doctor and patient.
5. Examination of the patient role as portrayed on stage.
6. Integration of artistic engagement with community service.

Learning Resources: (required, recommended or other useful sources)

Edson, M. (1999). *Wit*. Dramatists Play Service, New York.

Moore, L. (1998). *Birds of America* Vintage, New York.

On-line materials: As assigned by individual instructors.

Department generated materials: N/A

Course Expectations: (preparation, punctuality, absentee policy, University Honor Code)
The expectation is that students will interact with the course faculty, staff and students in a respectful and professional manner. Students will turn in all assignments on time, actively seek help when needed, and communicate any course related concerns to the course directors as soon as possible. Engaged and enthusiastic participation in all activities is essential to the success of this course, and students will arrive on time for all sessions and actively participate in discussions and other exercises.

Course Requirements: (attendance, participation, assignments, deadlines)

Students are expected to attend all course activities and to arrive ready to participate. Attendance is not optional. Additionally, timely completion of all out-of-class preparation and required assignments is expected. Specific assignments and deadlines as follows:

1. Selected readings.
2. Complete reflections, interpretations based on readings.
3. Participate in group museum curatorial exercises
4. Participate in Rush Generations Art activities or other approved, arts-related community service as possible.

Tutoring: N/A

Contacting Instructors: Email (from Rush email addresses), as listed above, is preferred method of communicating with instructors.

Testing and Grading (Approved by the Committee on Student Evaluation and Performance)

The following will be evaluated to determine students' grades. Grade options are Pass and Fail only.

Attendance and active participation at all sessions is required to pass
Submission of written assignments or alternatives
Submission and discussion of journal entries

Absence from an Examination: Not applicable

Correcting for a Failure: No routine remediation process. Extraordinary circumstances will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Deferred Examinations: Not applicable

Rush policy for Students with Disabilities and Request for an Accommodation

In keeping with its goal to promote diversity among its student population, Rush University is committed to attracting and educating students who will help to make the population of health care professionals representative of the national population, including students with disabilities. In addition, Rush University wishes to insure that

access to its facilities, programs and services are available to students with disabilities. The University provides reasonable accommodations to all students on a nondiscriminatory basis consistent with legal requirements as outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. A reasonable accommodation is a modification or adjustment to an instructional activity, facility, program or service that enables a qualified student with a disability to have an equal opportunity to participate in all Rush University student activities. To be eligible for accommodations, a student must have a documented disability as defined by the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Both the ADA and Section 504 define disability as (a) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual; (b) a record of such impairment; or (c) being regarded as having such a condition.

For information or to request an accommodation, please contact your college representative listed below.

Please do not make requests for accommodation to individual faculty members, lecturers or course directors or block administrators.

Rush Medical College – Paul Severin, M.D.
(312) 942-6194
Paul_j_severin@rush.edu

Further information can be found at:
<http://www.rushu.rush.edu/catalog/aboutrush/disabilityrights.html>

Request an Accommodation: Any request for an accommodation for reasons other than a documented disability should be directed to Dr. Robert Leven, Assistant Dean of Basic Science Education.

Schedule/Room Assignments: Sessions will appear on M1 Fall and Spring Timetables. Location(s) will be communicated by Course Director.