

Eastern Oregon University
College of Education
Division of Physical Activity and Health

HWS 314: Health and Humanities

Course Description: The Health and Humanities course will foster opportunities for students to identify and clarify humanistic and ethical values in medical care and technology, health education, health related jurisprudence, and health related research. Studies in bioethics, communication, history, literature, religious studies, and philosophy provide opportunities for students to consider the cultural, social, and interpersonal dimensions in the planning and implementation of care and activities of the health professions. The course will utilize several reading selections a discussion points for the course.

Class Format: Assignments and Discussions through Distance Education (Web Based) using Blackboard.

Credit Hours: Two Credit Hours

Text Materials:

1. Fadiman, Anne The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down, Farrar, Straus, and Girous, 1997
2. My Own Country: A Doctor's Story by Abraham Verghese - ISBN 0679752927, Vintage Books
3. Savitt, Todd L. (ed) Medical Readers Theater: A guide and scripts. University of Iowa Press, 2002
4. Tracy Kidder; Mountains Beyond Mountains, ISBN 0812973011, Random House

Course Requirements:

- a. Weekly Discussion and Assignments through Blackboard = 100 points
- b. Synthesis Essay - 100 points
- c. Final Project (Reader's Theater) – 100 points

Grading Procedures: A = 100% to 90%; B = 89% to 80 %; C = 79% to 70%; D = 69 % to 60%; F = 59% or below

Statement on Academic Misconduct: Eastern Oregon University places a high value upon the integrity of its student scholars. Any student found guilty of an act of academic misconduct (including, but not limited to cheating; plagiarism; or theft of an examination or supplies) may be subject to having his or her grade reduced in the course in question, being placed on probation or suspended from the university, or being expelled from the university - or a combination of these.

See Section II of the Student Handbook and Planning Calendar for clarification.

Statement on Americans with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability or suspect that you have a learning problem and need reasonable accommodations, please contact the Disability Services Program in Loso Hall 234. Telephone: 962-3081.

Course Outcomes and Objectives:

- a. This course is intended to ask the students to read and examine literature related to the health sciences and determine, through critical thinking and engagement, the humanistic and ethical values needed in the field of study.
- b. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:
 - a. Read critically
 - b. Differentiate how the study of health and humanities may relate to other traditional content of aesthetics and humanities.
 - c. Integrate knowledge of health through humanistic inquiry; and
 - d. Express ideas effectively through written and oral presentations.
 - e. Show awareness of cultures other than the student's own,
 - f. Analyze common communication barriers,
 - g. Analyze language as a reflection of culture and history, and
 - h. Employ language effectively and fluently to explore differences among points of view.
- c. Course Objectives:
 - a. Apply an understanding of ethical issues and values related to the health professions through written presentations.
 - b. Describe the essentials of bioethics as it relates to your personal career ambitions within class discussions.
 - c. Examine various philosophical and historical principles of health and humanities through critical reading and writing.
 - d. Prepare and discuss topics as presented such as: Literature and Health, AIDS and Its Literature, Law and Health, Health Ethics, Death and Dying, and other local and global health concepts.

Readers Theater Project:

All students will read the complete text: Savitt, Todd L. (ed) Medical Readers Theater: A guide and scripts. University of Iowa Press, 2002.

Following completion of the reading, the students will choose three of the plays and respond to the question prompts at the end of each chapter. Students will place these into the appropriate discussion section of class (DDE students in Blackboard; on campus students will discuss this in an assigned class meeting). Read and respond to others thoughts about the plays. You are welcome to address other issues that you feel may have been overlooked or that you saw as a part of this presentation.

The final Readers Theater project will require you to join a group of other students and perform one of the plays in a live readers theater. For on campus students, this will be scheduled during the Final Exam time.

For DDE students, we are going to be a bit more creative. Here are some suggestions that might help you complete this project:

*If you are able to physically join with some other class members, perform the play (with an

audience) and record the performance (audio or video). Your instructor is willing to also schedule a time when you could be called and listen to the performance live.

*If you are not geographically close to any class members, find some willing family members or friends that would perform the play with you.

*Gather your distant class mates together (with the instructor) and join a live chat on the internet while you each perform the play. (I know this sounds a bit tedious, but it has some potential promise for a new medium of entertainment – Electronic synchronous thespians.

- There are other ways to do this – be creative and let's discuss some options.

Synthesis Essay

A “synthesis” involves combining two or more summaries in a meaningful way and the final essay must generally be thesis-driven. A “synthesis” commonly refers to writing about printed texts, drawing together particular themes or traits that you observe in those texts and organizing the material from each text according to those themes or traits. Sometimes you may be asked to synthesize your own ideas, theory, or research with those of the texts you have been assigned. The following website may serve as a guide to writing your synthesis papers:

<http://users.drew.edu/~sjamieso/Synthesis.htm>

In the Synthesis paper you will construct your ideas through references from the class readings. For example, you might use the readings in section 2 of “Medical Reader’s Theatre” about Being a Physician and tie these together with “My Own Country” from the Verghese book. If these were the only written sources that informed about a certain condition, illness or behavior; how might you describe it based upon this understanding?

The synthesis essay is equivalent to your final exam.