

SYLLABUS

Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care
The John Stoeckle Center for Primary Care Innovation
Massachusetts General Hospital
2016

Session 1, January 5: Humans and Machines (Clinicians and Computers)

Robert Wachter, *The Digital Doctor* (nonfiction book)

Lisa Rosenbaum, “Transitional Chaos or Enduring Harm: The EHR and the Disruption of Medicine” (essay)*

“Modern Times” dir. Charlie Chaplin, 1936 (film)

“Brazil” dir. Terry Gilliam, 1985 (film)

Session 2, February 2: Other Cultures, Other Times

Lily King, *Euphoria* (novel)

Session 3, March 1: Vaccine Phobia Through the Ages

Eula Bliss, *On Immunity: An Inoculation* (nonfiction book)

Session 4, March 29: In and Out of the Hospital

Edith Pearlman, “Castle 4” (short story in *Honeydew*)*

Donald Hall, “A Ship Pounding” (poem)*

Kevin Young, “Ode to the Hotel Near the Children’s Hospital” (poem)*

John Updike, “Hospital” (poem)*

Session 5, May 2: A Classic

Somerset Maugham, *Of Human Bondage* (novel)

Session 6, June 7: Funny Stuff

David Rakoff, “The Invisible Made Visible” (film clip from “This American Life”)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldqjM7x6NhE>

Tina Fey, “Remembrances of Being Very, Very Skinny” and “Remembrances of Being a Little Bit Fat” (from memoir, *Bossypants*) (excerpt)*

David Sedaris, “The Happy Place” (from *Let’s Explore Diabetes With Owls*) (essay)*

Maria Bamford, “Crazy Meds” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6fKarmaphY> (short film)

Suzanne Koven, “Using Humor in the Doctor’s Office” (essay)*

SYLLABUS

Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care®
Northampton VA Medical Center
2016

Facilitator: Robert E. Meagher

Hospital Liaison: Cathy Tenerowicz

SESSION 1, JANUARY 12

Suzan-Lori Parks, *Father Comes Home from the Wars*

SESSION 2, FEBRUARY 9

Sebastian Junger, *War*

SESSION 3, MARCH 8

Robert Meagher, *Killing from the Inside Out: Moral Injury and Just War*

SESSION 4, APRIL 12

Margaret Edson, *Wit: A Play*

SESSION 5, MAY 10

Lawrence Anthony, *Babylon's Ark: The Incredible Wartime Rescue of the Baghdad Zoo*

SESSION 6, JUNE 14

Brian Turner, *My Life as a Foreign Country: A Memoir*

SYLLABUS

Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care[®]
Literature, Medicine and the Experience of War
Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital
2015 - 2016

Session 1, September 15: The Things They Carried

Tim O'Brien, "The Things They Carried" (essay)

Cynthia Ozick, "The Shawl" (story)

Session 2, October 13: War and Youth

Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*

Session 3, November 17: "Shell Shock" and early treatment of PTSD

Pat Barker, *Regeneration*

Selected works by Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon (poems)

W.H. R. Rivers, *The Repression of War Experience* (paper) optional

Session 4, December 15: When War Comes Home

Bruce Weigel, "Song of Napalm" (poem)

Brian Turner, "The Hurt Locker" and AB Negative (The Surgeon's Poem) (poems)

Margaret Rozga, selected works from *Though I haven't been to Baghdad* (poems)

Marilyn McMahan, "Wounds of War" (poem)

Carolyn Forché, "The Colonel" (poem)

Lily Burana, "The Quiet Side of Being a Soldier's Other Half" (essay)

Bui Dinh Kinh, "Late Moon" (short story)

Phil Klays, "Redeployment" (short story)

Kevin Bowen, "Playing Basketball with the Vietcong" (poem)

Session 5, January 12, 2016: Moral Injury and Just War Theory

Robert Emmet Meagher, *Killing from the Inside Out*, (excerpt)

Bao Ninh, *The Shadow of War: A Novel of North Vietnam* (excerpt)

David Finkel, "The Return" (article)

Session 5, February 9: The Transgenerational Impact of War

Art Spiegelman, *Maus II: A Survivor's Tale and Here My Trouble Began* (graphic memoir)

Marian MacCurdy, *Sacred Justice* – Introduction (excerpt)*

Marian MacCurdy, *Sacred Justice* – Chapter 5 (excerpt)* optional

SYLLABUS

Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care®

Baystate Medical Center

2015

September 29: Imagining the Patient

W. H. Auden, "Musee Des Beaux Arts" (poem)

Randall Jarrell, "The X-Ray Waiting Room in the Hospital" (poem)

Richard Selzer, "The Discus Thrower" (memoir)

October 20: Empathy

Chester F. Phillips, "Charging Lions" (memoir)

John T. Price, "Night Rhythms" (memoir)

Andrew Lam, "Show and Tell" (short story)

November 10: Imagining the Poor

Philip Levine, "Listen Carefully" (poem)

Dorothy Allison, "A Question of Class" (memoir)

William Carlos Williams, "The Girl with a Pimple Face" (short story)

December 1: Imagining the Obese

Wally Lamb, She's Come Undone (excerpt)

Victor LaValle, "Long Distance" (memoir)

Irvin Yalom, "Fat Lady" (memoir)

SYLLABUS

Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care
The John Stoeckle Center for Primary Care Innovation
Massachusetts General Hospital
2015

Session 1, January 6: Mental Illness Through the Years

Amy Bloom, "Silver Water" (short story)

Sylvia Plath, "Lady Lazarus" (poem)

George Scialabba, "The Endlessly Examined Life" (essay)

Session 2, February 3: Love and Art in the Time of AIDS

Patti Smith, *Just Kids* (memoir)

Session 3, March 3: Rethinking Gender

Jeffrey Eugenides, *Middlesex* (novel)

Session 4, April 14: Revelations Toward the End

Roger Angell, "This Old Man" (essay)

Robert Frost, "After Apple-Picking" (poem)

Ernest Hemingway, "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" (short story)

Session 5: May 5, An Unraveling

J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace* (novel)

Session 6: June 2, Caring for Our Parents

Roz Chast, *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* (graphic memoir)

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Northampton VA Medical Center
2015

Facilitator: Robert E. Meagher
Hospital Liaison: Cathy Tenerowicz

SESSION 1, JANUARY 13

Pat Barker, *Regeneration*

SESSION 2, FEBRUARY 10

Selected works by Wilfred Owens and Siegfried Sassoon (poems)*

SESSION 3, MARCH 10

Tom Keneally, *The Daughters of Mars*

SESSION 4, APRIL 14

William Shakespeare, *Henry V*

SESSION 5, MAY 12

Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*

SESSION 6, JUNE 9

Malala Yousafzai, *I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban*

SYLLABUS

Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care

The John Stoeckle Center for Primary Care Innovation

Massachusetts General Hospital

Fall 2014

Facilitator: Suzanne J. Koven

Hospital Liaison: Emma Jeffries

Session 1, September 4: *Rethinking Empathy*

Leslie Jamison, "The Empathy Exams" (essay)

Suzanne Koven, "Empathy Examined" (essay)

Anatole Broyard, "The Patient Examines the Doctor" (memoir excerpt)

Session 2, October 2: *An Invalid in the Family*

Edith Wharton, *Ethan Frome* (novel)

Session 3, November 6: *On Aging*

William Shakespeare, *King Lear*

Session 4, December 4: *Other Places, Other Voices*

Ann Patchett, *Truth and Beauty* (memoir)

Lucy Grealy, *Autobiography of a Face* (memoir)

SYLLABUS
Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care[®]
Baystate Health Systems
2014

Facilitator: Jan Freeman
Hospital Liaison: Loretta Grikis

Session 1, February 18: Symptoms and Diagnosis

Suzy Becker, *I Had Brain Surgery, What's Your Excuse?* (excerpt from graphic memoir, (pp. 1-39)

Christopher Hitchens, "The Topic of Cancer" (essay)

Redman, Arnold, "On Breaking One's Neck" (essay)

Session 2, March 18: Treatment

Suzanne Strempeck Shae, *Songs from a Lead-Lined Room* (excerpt from memoir, (pp. 46-57)

Audre Lorde, *The Cancer Journals* (memoir)

Margaret Edson, *Wit* (one act play)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0PPvYlGqL8>

Session 3, April 15: Living with Illness

Nancy Mairs, "On Being Cripple" (essay)

Josephine Miles, "Doll" (poem)

Muriel Rukeyser, "Resurrection of the Right Side" (poem)

Donald Hall, "Afterword" (in *Otherwise*)

Jane Kenyon, "The Sick Wife" (poem)

Virginia Woolf, "On Being Ill" (essay in *On Being Ill with Notes from Sick Rooms*)

Session 4, May 20: Caregiving and Dying

Julia Stephen, "Notes from the Sick Room" (essay in *On Being Ill with Notes from Sick Rooms*)

Jane Kenyon, "Pharaoh" (poem)

Jane Kenyon, "Otherwise" (poem)

May Swenson, "Question" (Body my house...) (poem)

Nora Ephron, "What I Won't Miss" and "What I Will Miss" (essays in *I Remember Nothing: And Other Reflections*)

Audre Lorde, "Today is Not the Day" (poem)

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The John Stoeckle Center for Primary Care Innovation
Massachusetts General Hospital
2014

Facilitator: Suzanne J. Koven
Hospital Liaison: Emma Jeffries

Session 1, January 14: When a Child is Ill

Miah Arnold, "You Owe Me" (essay)
Alice Munro, "Night" (in *Dear Life*) (essay)
Cynthia Zarin, "An Enlarged Heart" (in *An Enlarged Heart*) (essay)

Session 2, February 4: From Atrocity to Healing

Tracey Kidder, *Strength in What Remains* (nonfiction)

Session 3, March 4: The Family Drama

Arthur Miller, *Death of A Salesman* (play)
David Sedaris, "Now We Are Five" (essay)

Session 4, April 1: Disability and Identity

Nancy Mairs, "On Being A Cripple" (essay)
Andrew Solomon "Deaf" (book chapter in *Far From the Tree*)

Session 5, May 13: Healing the Healer

Graham Greene, *A Burnt Out Case* (novel)

Session 6, June 3: Madness and Genius

Sylvia Nasar, *A Beautiful Mind* (biography)
Sylvia Plath, "Lady Lazarus" (poem)

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Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care[®]
Northampton VA Medical Center
2014

Facilitator: Robert E. Meagher
Hospital Liaison: Cathy Tenerowicz

SESSION 1, JANUARY 14
Kevin Powers, *The Yellow Birds*

SESSION 2, FEBRUARY 11
Linda Hogan, *People of the Whale*

SESSION 3, MARCH 11
Euripides, *Iphigenia at Aulis*

SESSION 4, APRIL 8
Dexter Filkins, *The Forever War*

SESSION 5, MAY 13
John Hersey, *Hiroshima*

SESSION 6, JUNE 10
Drew Gilpin Faust, *This Republic of Suffering*

SYLLABUS
Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care®
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
2012-2013

Facilitator: Amy Ship
Hospital Liaison: Jane Matlaw

Session 1, September 24: The Patient's Experience

Nancy Mairs, "On Being a Cripple" (essay)
Marjorie Williams, "Hit by Lightning" (essay)
Randall Jarrell, "The X-ray Waiting Room in the Hospital" (poem)

Session 2, October 22: Caregiving across Lines of Class and Culture

Ernest Hemingway, "Indian Camp" (story)
Danielle Ofri, "Torment" (essay)
Theodore Deppe, "Admission, Children's Unit" (poem)
Venetta Mason, "Another case of Chronic Pelvic Pain" (poem)

Session 3, November 19: Patients' Families: Advocates, Comforters, Secondary Sufferers

Lorrie Moore, "People Like That Are the Only People Here" (story)
Anne Harleman, "Thoreau's Laundry" (story)
Donald Hall, "Her Long Illness" and "Air Shatters in the Car's Small Room" (poems)

Session 4, December 17: Clinicians under Stress

Dannie Abse, "Case History" (poem)
Mikhail Bulgakov, "The Steel Windpipe" (story)
Constance Studer, "Mercy" (story)

Session 5, January 14: Wounded Healer/Healing the Healer

Atul Gawande, "When Doctors Make Mistakes" (essay)
William Carlos Williams, "The Use of Force" (short story)

Session 6, February 18: Confronting Mortality

Louisa May Alcott, "A Night" from Hospital Sketches (excerpt)
Joan Didion, "After Life" (essay)
Marjorie Williams, "The Halloween of My Dreams" (essay)
Jane Kenyon, "Let Evening Come" (poem)