

**SYLLABUS**  
**Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care®**  
**Brigham and Women's Hospital**  
**2009**

**Facilitator:** Alyce Getler

**Hospital Liaisons:** Anne Fladger

**Session 1, September 15: The Patient's Experience**

Marjorie Williams, "Hit by Lightning" (essay)

Nancy Mairs, "On Being a Cripple" (essay)

Anatole Broyard, from *Intoxicated by My Illness*: "Prologue," "Intoxicated by My Illness," "The Patient Examines the Doctor," "Epilogue" (essays)

Jane Kenyon, "The Sick Wife" (poem)

**Session 2, October 20: Social Issues in Medicine**

Veneta Masson, from *Rehab at the Florida Avenue Grill*: "Boutique," "The Screamer in Room 4," "Admission," "Home Remedies for the Blues," "Rehab at the Florida Avenue Grill," "Litany of Dolores," "Another Case of Chronic Pelvic Pain" (poems)

Jeanne Bryner, "This Red Oozing" (poem)

Jay Baruch, "A Little Heart" (story)

David Hifiker, "Taking Sides" (nonfiction)

**Session 3, November 17: Patients' Families: Advocates, Comforters, Secondary Sufferers**

Judy Schaefer, "Who Owns the Libretto?" (poem)

Jane Kenyon, "Chrysanthemums" (poem)

Donald Hall, "Her Long Illness" and "Air Shatters in the Car's Small Room" (poems)

Lorrie Moore, "People Like That Are the Only People Here" (story)

Alice Elliott Dark, "In the Gloaming" (story)

**Session 4, December 15: Difficult Encounters**

Dannie Abse, "Case History" (poem)

Danielle Ofri, "Torment" (essay)

William Carlos Williams, "The Use of Force" (Readers' Theatre version)

Veneta Masson, "The Promise" (poem, in *Rehab at the Florida Avenue Grill*, p. 18)

**Session 5, January 12: Confronting Mortality**

Leo Tolstoy, "The Death of Ivan Ilych"

Joan Didion, "After Life" (from *The New York Times Magazine*; excerpt from *The Year of Magical Thinking*) (nonfiction)

Mark Doty, "Brilliance" (poem)

Jessica L. Israel, "At the End, a Duty to Bear Witness" (essay)

**Session 6, February 9: Moments of Grace**

Richard Weinberg, "The Laying on of Hands" (essay)

Raymond Carver, "A Small, Good Thing" (story)

Leslie Nyman, "Wisteria" (sketch)

Marjorie Williams, "The Halloween of My Dreams" (essay)

Jane Kenyon, "Let Evening Come" (poem)